

**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION**



**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure and Recreation Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** October 13, 2009  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR 09 054  
**SUBJECT:** Heathcote Parkette Master Plan  
**PREPARED BY:** Shawn Everitt  
Director of Recreation

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 09 054 "Heathcote Parkette Master Plan"

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves the Conceptual Master Plan for the Heathcote Parkette.

**B. Background**

In August 2008 the Town acquired Lot 23, Concession 12 in Partnership with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy. Consistent with the justification of the purchase of this property, town staff has developed a conceptual design for the future improvements to the land.

It is the intent of the Park Master Plan development to allow for appropriate and safe access for users of the Beaver River corridor. The Plan also highlights the use of the existing roadway created by the past owners to make an easy loading and unloading area separate from the parking lot area with minimum impact to the natural environment.

The Parking Lot area placement has been identified off of Grey Road 13 utilizing one of the two existing access points. The placement of the parking lot allows for the best use of lands and utilizes the lands within the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority development limits. Staff has received the required permits to begin the construction of the 1500 Square Meter parking lot and tendering for parking lot construction is to close in October 2009 with construction completion by December 2009.

The proposed Master Plan reflects the natural and environmental aspects of the original Parkland acquisition justification. The development of Arboretums, natural base trails through a wooded area on the southern portion of the property will encourage wildlife and bird watching opportunities. The Plan also incorporates the inclusion of the Heathcote Pioneer Cemetery and will allow for the educational interpretation of the Cemetery.

Staff has had numerous discussions with Free Spirit Tours that operate natural experiences out of the Village of Heathcote to help develop a stewardship program with planting of trees for Arboretum areas as well as some operational aspects of the Park.

A request was received for naming of the Park after George C. South. The Naming of Parks, Open Space, Trails and Facilities Policy was adhered to, correspondence from the Family in support of this request was received and Staff has completed the public notice process to

receive Public input with no concerns or issues being received. A report will be presented to Finance and Administration in the future with a recommendation regarding the naming of the Park.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

- Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community
- Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community

### **D. Environmental Impacts**

The development of the property will provide interpretive and educational aspects of the environmental significance of the watershed, species of trees, flora/fauna, hazard lands and wildlife habitat.

### **E. Budget Impact**

#### **2009 Budget**

Parking Lot and Entrance

#### **2010 Proposed**

Trail Construction

Interpretive Signage

Tree Planting

Washrooms (privy rentals May to October)

Gateway Feature

#### **2011 Proposed**

Potential dock implementation

Gazebo/Pavilion Structure

### **F. Attachments**

Attachment #1 – Location map

Attachment # 2 – Draft Master Plan

Respectfully submitted,

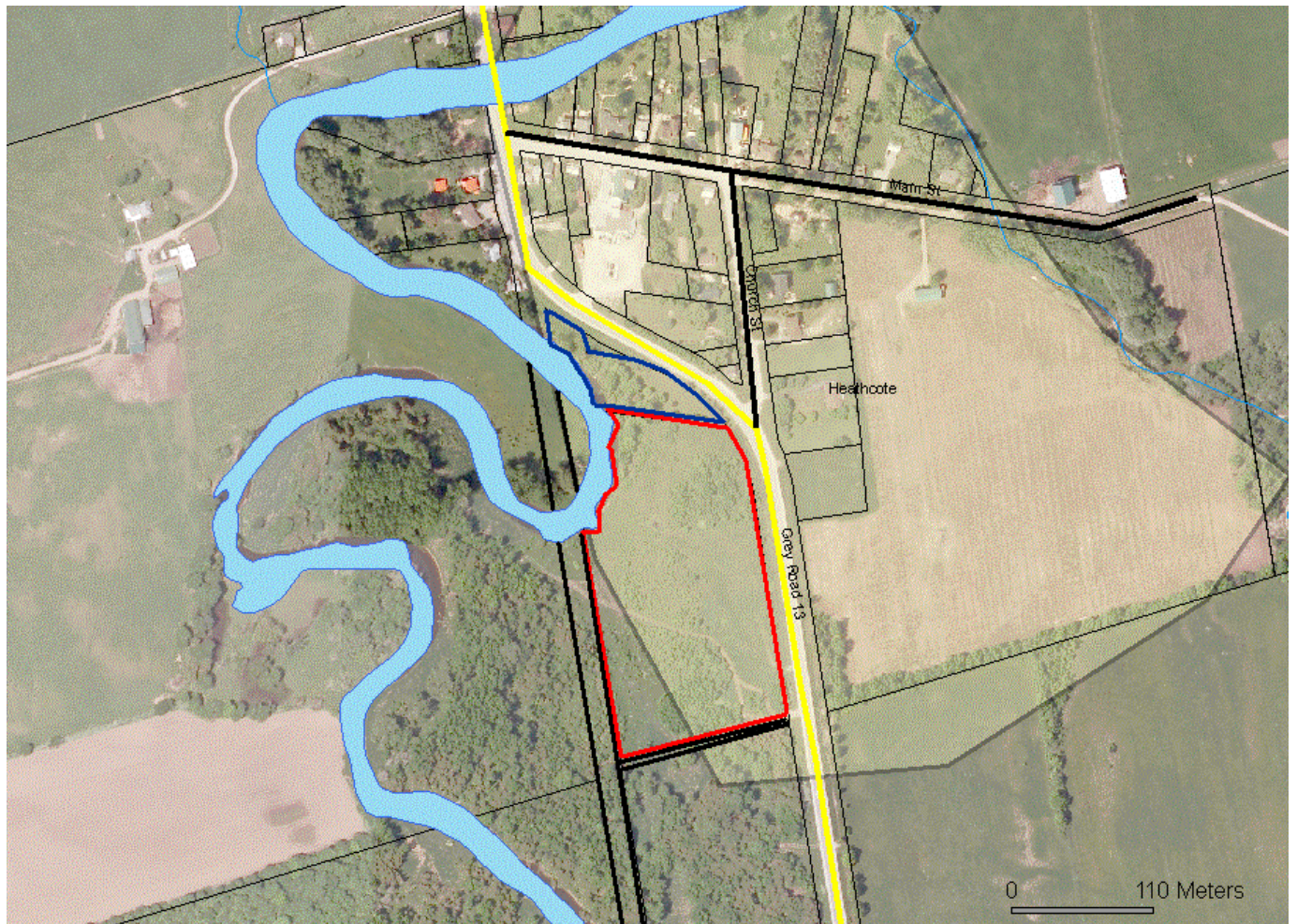
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Attachment 1



Attachment #2

