

**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure & Recreation  
**MEETING DATE:** November 22, 2011  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR .11.72  
**SUBJECT:** Waterfront Access Public Engagement Strategy  
**PREPARED BY:** Shawn Everitt  
 Director of Recreation

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.11.72 “Waterfront Access Public Engagement Strategy” and direct staff to proceed with implementing a Public Engagement Strategy as detailed in this Report

**B. Background**

Staff report DOR.11.058 was presented on September 27, 2011 to the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee in regards to waterfront access points along Cameron Street and Plan 723. At that time Council provided direction to staff to develop a community engagement plan that provides residents detailed information of existing land use regulations and agreements through the development processes in the past for the Towns overall Waterfront.

Staff has developed detailed mapping as well as identified specific Plans of Subdivisions that outline types of ownership, dedications, and user common lands relating to waterfront access. The mapping also details property within Public ownership including Town, Conservation, and Ministry of Natural Resources and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Interdepartmental discussions have allowed staff to gather additional information that details very specific dedication of lands along the waterfront.

With Council approval, Public Engagement Sessions are suggested to begin in Early March. The use of the Towns existing mail outs could be utilized to publicize the Public Engagement Process as well as strong social marketing through the towns Website and other creative marketing means.

The Public Engagement process would include 2 Public information sessions, one proposed in the Thornbury area and one at the Craigleith area. The sessions would provide an opportunity for residents to gain a better understanding and provide clarity of ownership of all existing access points. It is suggested that Staff from Recreation as well as Public Works and Planning be present at these sessions to provide additional information. A further report detailing the results of the Public Information Centers would be delivered to Council.

Acceptance of this future report identifying clear details of each access point could be provided to Staff by Council and accepted as information. If Council desired, direction could be provided to Staff to continue with the process that would include potential

identification of access points for development of public access where appropriate, potential identification of access points that could be potentially declared as surplus lands, as well as potentially provided limited and or exclusive use of access points.

The overall goal of this strategy process is to gain clarity of all ownership and potential uses of waterfront access points throughout the Town and also provide guidance and a better understanding for the Public as it relates to the many waterfront access points throughout the Town.

### **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**

Sustainable and appropriate use of waterfront

### **E. Financial Impact**

Staff time to complete the Community Engagement sessions as well as facility rental costs.

Approximately \$2641.60 "40 hours" of Staff time

Approximately \$600.00 in Facility Space for Public information sessions.

Total costs approximately \$3,200.00 for staff time & facilitation

### **F. In Consultation With (**

John Metras, Town Solicitor  
David Finbow, Director of Planning & Building Services  
Frank Cowan Insurance

### **G. Attached**

None at this time

Respectfully submitted,

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Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

**For more information, please contact:**

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