

STAFF REPORT: Recreation Department



**REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation
Committee**
MEETING DATE: July 12th, 2011
REPORT NO.: DOR.11.049
SUBJECT: Waterfront Access Strategy
**PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation**

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.11.049 entitled “Waterfront Access Strategy” for information purposes.

B. Background

In the past two to three years many departments within the Town have fielded numerous questions in regards to waterfront access along the Georgian Bay and Nottawasaga Bay shoreline.

Staff recently received correspondence from a resident on Cameron Street in Thornbury, with regard to a waterfront access that has been identified by signage as an exclusive waterfront access. Staff has investigated the waterfront access points along Cameron Street and has confirmed that the lands identified by signage as an exclusive waterfront use is in fact deeded as an exclusive use to the landowners of Plan 381.

During the process, Staff also identified that 5 other waterfront access points are within Plan 723 the neighbouring Plan. These access points have been identified as Public Roadways. Therefore, development of these Public access points to waterfront could be reviewed and assessed for potential future use. It has also been identified that these access points could provide additional drainage. Town staff has performed on site inspections in this area and have identified each of these access points. Through the onsite inspections staff has identified a number of these access points have been either developed into adjacent property extensions for parking lots, basketball courts, and others that have mature vegetation making it hard to distinguish these pieces of property.

In addition to the Public Roadways within the Cameron Street area, the Town does have a number of similar access points along the shoreline. Recreation Staff suggests that an overall Waterfront Strategy be developed identifying each of the Town owned waterfront access points and determine the best and most appropriate use of each individual property. Staff also suggests that the situation of deeded access for exclusive

use be identified and where appropriate Town staff develop consistent signage for these properties to ensure a consistent message throughout the town.

Staff suggests that these access points are candidates for the recently submitted stewardship program. These access points have not been placed within the historical maintained properties and therefore would be an addition to the Town's service delivery. These properties have not been included in any proposed operating budgets.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community.

D. Environmental Impacts

Ensure appropriate and sustainable use of Waterfront Access

E. Financial Impact

Staff time to review and prepare a Waterfront Strategy

F. Attached

None at this time

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Everitt

Signature

For more information, please contact:

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation
severitt@thebluemountians.ca
519-599-3131 ext 281