

STAFF REPORT: Recreation Department



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: March 13, 2008
REPORT NO.: DOR.08. 09
**SUBJECT: 2008 Leisure Activities Plan
Update & Review**
**PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation**

A. Recommendation

THAT Council receives report DOR.08.09 "Leisure Activities Plan Update & Review" for information purposes.

B. Background

The Leisure Activities Plan has allowed staff to reflect and refer on direction provided by the Public. Since its development staff has insisted that this document be utilized and is to be reviewed on an ongoing basis, and also that it will be a "living" document. Within its two short years, recommendations and findings within the document have shown varying results. In particular the Plan recommends that curling and golf facilities are not high priorities, however recently public interest in curling opportunities as well as land acquisition opportunities have presented themselves. In both instances strong public consultation and communication have allowed this process to work effectively to provide a justifiable direction. Again a key issue for the entire town is to create a system to accurately determine seasonal and permanent populations for the current and future population projections. This information is essential for many facets of the Town including future infrastructure requirements as well as generating funding. In 2007 and 2008 the Parks and Trails Master Plan was developed using in house staff. The process however took longer than expected, but has provided staff with a better understanding of the usage, as well as real recommendations from residents and visitors. The process once again allowed for a strong public consultation component and opened new lines of communication with agencies and ministries as well as the public. The completion of the Delphi Point Parks Management Plan along with the Parks Use By-Law has provided a solid strategic direction for the future.

The Recreation Department continues to move forward in many positive directions and benefits from a strong and versatile staff. From the Full Time staff to seasonal staff members, 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 have provided Management with what I believe is our strongest and most productive year. This could not have been achieved without the strong and positive support of the

Recreation Committee Members, Senior Management Team and Town Council and for that I say Thank you.

Provided below is the current status of each of the Leisure Activities Plan Recommendations:

Guiding Principle #1 - Building Healthy Communities

ACTION

- 1.1 Continued review of existing facilities. Review of appropriate space allotment on future building including visioning of future administration building design - **actively pursuing and a high priority**
- 1.2 Proactively working with stakeholders, public and private sector organizations on potential lands. - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 1.3 The 2008 budget is allowing for \$25,000.00 for funding for Youth initiative. Final funding will be determined through a report to Council. - **work has or will begin in the future.**
- 1.4 This initiative will be highlighted in future budgets, however, monitoring of future needs will provide future recommendations. - **project is in the longer range.**
- 1.5 This Action Item continues to be achieved through an open line of Communication with local stakeholders and special interest groups. The proposed 2008 feasibility study will again be completed with a significant amount of public consultation. - **work has or will begin in the future.**

Guiding Principle #2 - Natural Amenities

ACTION

- 2.1 A Parks classification system will be adopted through the Parks and Trails Master Plan approval process - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**
- 2.2 The Recreation Department continues to review and recommend where lands are acquired and received through Development processes. 2007 saw the acquisition of Tomahawk Recreation Complex - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 2.3 The development of Waterfront Trails as well as access points was moved forward with a report to council approving the development of waterfront access points as vistas. The Parks Management Plan was also completed and is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Resources and the Niagara

Escarpment Commission - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

Guiding Principle #3 - Accessibility and Affordability

ACTION

3.1 The Recreation Department continues to review and recommend where lands are acquired and received through Development processes. The Recreation Department reviews all consideration of proposed parkland, open space and hazard land dedications as well as Cash in lieu of Parkland – **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

3.2 Recreation staff has inventoried all sidewalks and have provided input on all requests for subdivision comments to ensure that appropriate staging as well as rest areas and amenities are included in development plans - **work has or will begin in the future.**

3.3 Playground apparatus was installed in 2007 in Ravenna, and Craigleith Northwinds Beach - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

Future apparatus will be considered to ensure appropriate and themed additions or replacements - **work has or will begin in the future.**

3.4 With the acquisition of Tomahawk golf course, the need to develop Partnerships with potential golf programmes to ensure affordability and accessibility - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

Guiding Principle #4 – Connectivity

ACTION

4.1 The Parks and Trails Master Plan Development Committee was established to determine the current inventory of Parks and Trails and provide recommendations of future Parks and Trails Strategic Planning. The Recreation Committee has provided staff with a Liaison to continue to Plan and implement future projects and initiatives - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

4.2 The Parks and Trails Master Plan is currently in a final draft state. The Recreation Committee and Senior Management Team will review the document and future recommendations to Council is expected by April 2008 for Council review and approval - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

4.3 Recreation Department continues to review and recommend where trails and walkways are located through Development processes. - **actively pursuing and a high priority**

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4.5 Continue to promote paved bike lanes along arterial roads and provide and identify optimum routes - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

4.6 Recreation Department continues to review and recommend where trails and walkways are located through Development processes. - **actively pursuing and a high priority**

4.7 This initiative will be highlighted in future budgets, however, monitoring of future needs will provide future recommendations. Input will be provided during future highway 26 studies - **project is in the longer range.**

Guiding Principle #5 – Partnerships

ACTION

5.1 Potential partnerships are proposed through the Recreation Committee. Staff ensures that all proposals are submitted in writing, staff meets with potential partnerships to ensure a complete understanding of proposal. Upon Staff satisfaction potential partner make a presentation to the appropriate committee - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

5.2 Continue to actively communicate with local groups and stakeholders – **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

5.3 Potential partnerships are proposed through the Recreation Committee. Staff ensures that all proposals are submitted in writing, staff meets with potential partnerships to ensure a complete understanding of proposal. Upon Staff satisfaction potential partner make a presentation to the appropriate Committee - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

5.4 Continue to actively communicate with local groups and stakeholders. Staff has also requested that representation on the Georgian Trail Board of Management be approved to ensure maximum understanding of the Georgian Trails operations and strategic planning - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

5.5 Continue to actively communicate with local groups and stakeholders – **actively pursuing and a high priority**

5.6 The Nottawasaga Services Board has been established for the Town of

Collingwood and Town of The Blue Mountains to provide a linkage for the two Towns. A strong line of communication exists between the Town and the Municipality of Meaford - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is Required.**

5.7 Continue to actively communicate with local groups and stakeholders. Potential partnerships are proposed through the Recreation Committee. Staff ensures that all proposals are submitted in writing, staff meets with potential partnerships to ensure a complete understanding of proposal. Upon Staff satisfaction potential partner make a presentation to the appropriate committee – **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

5.8 Developed a line of Communication between Local School Principal as well as Board of Education to determine status of existing BVAA agreement for property use as well as ability to revise and renew agreements when required - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

Guiding Principle # 6 - Delivery System

ACTION

6.1 Organization and departmental structures in place allow for decision making and operating functions to be very clear and concise - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

6.2 As part of responsibilities, inventory of the department and being an active participant in the planning, development and delivery process allows for the appropriate and strategic planning for the Town - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

6.3 The use of the Towns Website for meeting minutes viewing as well as direct reports to Council allow for more public information sharing - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

6.4 Development of the Parks and Trails map with completion expected by May 2008 will include Geo Referenced marking of trail heads, facilities, points of interest, etc - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

6.5 5 year capital project proposals to include update of the 2006 Leisure Activities Plan in 2015 - **work has or will begin in the future.**

6.6 Continue to report on Leisure Activities Plan review to Recreation Committee and Council in March of each year - **actively pursuing and a high Priority.**

Guiding Principle #7 – Infrastructure

ACTION

Indoor Facilities

- 7.1 Continue to monitor uses - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 7.2 Ravenna Hall is in its final phase of Grant acceptance from the Trillium Foundation. Staff applied for funding to construct an addition for Hall and public washrooms as well as the installation of appropriate septic system and water purification system. Craigleith Community Centre is projecting capital projects that will include upgrade to hydro outlets, and installation of horseshoe pits - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 7.3 The Heathcote Community Hall was denied funding from Trillium in 2007. The demolition of the Hall is expected in 2008 and determination of future works is expected in late 2008 - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 7.4 Through the Multi Use Facility feasibility study as well as the upcoming Development Charge study this project will be reviewed to determine its status as a viable project - **work has or will begin in the future**
- 7.5 A strong committed group of individuals have come forward to recommend the feasibility of construction of a curling facility. The Leisure Activities plan did not recommend this type of facility however it will be a key aspect that will be detailed in the 2008 feasibility study - **actively pursuing and a high priority**
- 7.6 A strong committed group of individuals have come forward to recommend the feasibility of construction of a curling facility. The Leisure Activities plan did not recommend this type of facility however it will be a key aspect that will be detailed in the 2008 feasibility study - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 7.7 Capital planning allows for the upgrades to the Beaver Valley Community Centre - **work has or will begin in the future.**
- 7.8 Marketing of swimming programs for the Georgian Health Club as well as Plunge allows for advertising of swimming programs in local newspapers as well as the Towns website - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**
- 7.9 To be completed in 2008 - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 7.10 Potential partnerships will be investigated with final recommendations of the 2008 feasibility study - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**
- 7.11 To be investigated with final recommendations of the 2008 feasibility study – **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.12 To be investigated with final recommendations of the 2008 feasibility study – **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.13 To be investigated with final recommendations of the 2008 feasibility study – **work has or will begin in the future.**

Outdoor Facilities

7.14 Ongoing enhancements as well as a strong 25 year financial strategy allows for appropriate budgeting to allow for beatification projects - **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.15 Acquisition of Tomahawk Lands as well as construction of three full sized soccer fields in 2007, as well as future construction of two mini fields provides adequate soccer pitch inventory for the Town - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

7.16 Infield of the Blues hardball diamond is scheduled to be replaced in 2008 with works to include a limestone surface to replace existing grass infield and poor baseline materials. In 2007 the construction of updated dugouts allowed for the removal dangerous below grade cement dugouts - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.17 Justification of needs at Heritage Corners Park will determine future needs – **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.18 Basketball court construction will be included in future capital budgets – **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.19 Additional tennis courts as well as existing tennis court repairs will be included in annual budget processes. The inclusion of refrigeration components during replacement and construction will be examined for each project - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.20 Ongoing monitoring of the current operations will be critical to ensure efficient operations and management is achieved – **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.21 2008 capital project allows for the completion of the 3 year skateboard equipment acquisition project. Future design of bike park is projected by mid summer - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

7.22 Future design of bike park is projected by mid summer for the Thornbury area. Location and justification of similar projects in the Craighleith area will be investigated by staff - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.23 Parks and Trails Management will continue to monitor the needs for each

Individual area - **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.24 Future waterplay facilities will be determined with proposed feasibility study in 2010 and potential construction in 2012 - **work has or will begin in the future.**

7.25 The adoption by staff through the LAP approval process – **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

7.26 The safety and inspection of all playground equipment remains a priority of staff. The department currently has 3 certified inspectors - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.27 Ongoing discussion with engineering and public works staff to look at potential of snow storage area to provide adequate snow - **work has or will begin in the future.**

Parks & Open Space

7.28 The adoption by staff through the LAP approval process - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

7.29 The Recreation Department continues to review and recommend where lands are acquired and received through Development processes. The Recreation Department reviews all consideration of proposed parkland, open space and hazard land dedications as well as Cash in lieu of Parkland - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.30 Management continues to review and ensures that all parkland that is dedicated to the town is acceptable and useable as parkland within the classification system - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required**

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7.32 Potential partnerships with Ministry of Transportation could provide the Town with an additional 1400 ft of waterfront at the Craigeith Shale Beach. A Parks Use Plan would provide guidance as to possible upgrades to parking as well as ensuring environmentally friendly practices are considered and implemented - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.33 Ongoing enhancements to waterfront such as Playground apparatus and boat launch upgrades at Northwinds, Washroom and beautification at Little River. The continuation of the Blue Flag Program through Environmental Services will help provide positive marketing as well as safe

waterfront for all users - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

7.34 A report authored by senior management has begun the process of determining surplus lands that could be sold through the appropriate process. Funds from the sale of surplus lands could provide funding for more appropriate land acquisitions in the future - **major task is complete and ongoing monitoring is required.**

Guiding Principle #8 - Marketing & Promotion

ACTION

8.1 Signage has become a major initiative for the Recreation Department. Trail signage, directional aids, highway 26 and Bruce Street signage have all been successful in providing additional wayfinding. Interpretive signage allows for cultural and historical information to be presented in an easy to access method. Proposed interpretive signs for 2008 are Sir Sanford Fleming, Sinking of the Mary Ward, Petun Indian Villages, Craigleith Depot History, Clifford Claverly, Industrial Heritage of Clarksburg, Beaver River Rat races, History of Moreau Park, Beaver River Hydro Generation History and pumphouse structure, and Tressle Bridge history. Additional initiatives for 2008 will have creative wayfinding aids on sidewalks and hard surfaces to direct users from core areas to the Trail network - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

8.2 A first edition of the Town of The Blue Mountains Parks and Trails Map is expected to be completed by early to mid May. The map will include all Parks and Trails as well as provide key information such as staging points, trail heads and GPS coordinates - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

8.3 Appropriate signage to indicate waterfront vistas will indicate public access to these areas - **actively pursuing and a high priority.**

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Addressing the Town's infrastructure needs

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community

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

Ensuring long-term financial sustainability

D. Budget Impact

2008 Budget outlines 3 year proposed operational budgets and 5 year proposed capital budgets.

E. Attachment

Excerpts from the Leisure Activities Plan – Action Plans.

Respectfully submitted;

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation