



Toronto and Region **Conservation** Authority

Regional Watershed Alliance Agenda

#3/20

September 16, 2020

6:30 P.M.

The meeting will be conducted via a video conference
Members of the public may view the livestream at the following link:

<https://video.isilive.ca/trca/live.html>

Pages

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORY
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #2/20, HELD ON MAY 20, 2020
[Minutes Link](#)
4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
5. PRESENTATIONS
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE ACTION

7.1	ETOBICOKE CREEK WATERSHED PLAN AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY	3
	Report and presentation by Tony Morris, Project Manager, Watershed Planning and Reporting, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	
	To provide information to and seek guidance from the Regional Watershed Alliance on the Engagement Strategy in support of updating the Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan (ECWP) as part of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) next generation of watershed planning.	
8.	ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE INFORMATION	
8.1	UPDATE ON FLOOD RISK OUTREACH PROGRAM AND REMEDIATION PROJECTS	20
	Report and presentation by Rehana Rajabali, Associate Director, Engineering Services, Development and Engineering Services, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	
	Summary of the outreach activities undertaken in flood vulnerable neighbourhoods as part of the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) funded Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program, and overview of flood remediation activities in select flood vulnerable clusters.	
8.2	COVID-19 UPDATE	30
	Report by Victoria Kramkowski, Government and Community Relations Specialist, Peel-York Watersheds, Government and Community Relations, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	
	To provide an update to the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding the ongoing strategic and tactical response to COVID-19 and the mitigation of risks to employees and members of the public.	
9.	NEW BUSINESS AND GOOD NEWS STORIES	
10.	ADJOURNMENT	
	NEXT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE #4/20, TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M. LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED.	
	Victoria Kramkowski, Government and Community Relations Specialist, Peel-York Watersheds, Government and Community Relations	
	/dr	

Item for the Action of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #3/20, Wednesday, September 16, 2020

FROM: Sameer Dhalla, Director, Development and Engineering Services

RE: **ETOBICOKE CREEK WATERSHED PLAN AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

KEY ISSUE

To provide information to and seek guidance from the Regional Watershed Alliance on the Engagement Strategy in support of updating the Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan (ECWP) as part of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) next generation of watershed planning.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS TRCA is undertaking an update to the ECWP to provide updated scientific information in support of integrated municipal planning;

AND WHEREAS TRCA has developed a draft Engagement Strategy to guide partner and stakeholder engagement throughout this process;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance provide recommendations to update the Engagement Strategy, as needed, to ensure effective community engagement as the watershed plan is developed;

AND THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance advise how it wishes to be kept informed about progress made on the ECWP.

BACKGROUND

The previous watershed plan for Etobicoke Creek was completed in 2002, with a Technical Update completed in 2010. This watershed plan combined the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks into one watershed plan. Since then, watershed science and provincial policies have evolved to necessitate a renewed approach to watershed planning at TRCA.

The provincial planning framework emphasizes the importance of watershed planning for integrated and long-term planning by municipalities. Policy direction in the *Provincial Policy Statement*, encourages a coordinated approach to planning to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning. The *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* and the *Greenbelt Plan* require municipalities, partnering with conservation authorities as appropriate, to undertake watershed planning to inform the identification of water resource systems, the protection, enhancement or restoration of the quality and quantity of water, decisions on allocation of growth and planning for water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Due to these provincial policy priorities, watershed planning is intended to inform various aspects of municipal land use and infrastructure planning.

RATIONALE

This report is intended to explain the process Watershed Planning & Reporting (WPR) intends to follow for the development of the ECWP, as part of TRCA's next generation of watershed

Item 7.1

planning. It will also explain the Engagement Strategy developed as part of this planning process.

To develop the ECWP, TRCA will be adhering to a staged process as outlined in Figure 1.

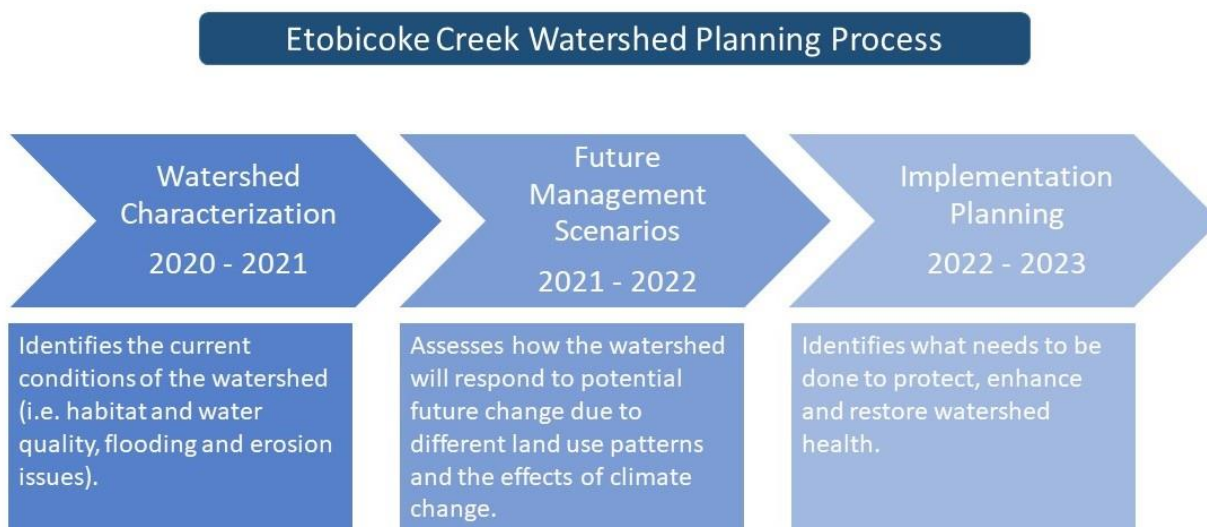


Figure 1 - Watershed Planning Process

To carry out this work, TRCA has established an internal Technical Committee with expert staff from across the organization to compile data and provide analysis on the following technical components in support of watershed characterization and the evaluation of potential management scenarios:

- Water Resource System – delineates the features and areas of the system as per provincial policies (e.g. permanent and intermittent streams, seepage areas and springs, ecologically significant groundwater recharge areas), and assess the hydrology and hydrogeology of the watershed
- Natural Heritage System (NHS) – delineates the features and areas of the system as per provincial policies and compare existing municipal NHS's to TRCA's recommended NHS
- Ecosystem Quality/Quantity – assesses terrestrial and aquatic habitat quality and quantity
- Water Quality – identifies parameters of concern (i.e. chlorides, metals, *E. coli*, etc.)
- Natural Hazards – assesses flooding and erosion issues
- Stormwater Management – assesses the existing state of stormwater management infrastructure
- Restoration Planning – assesses existing identified restoration opportunities and restoration projects that have been completed

TRCA has also established a Steering Committee, made up of key watershed partners to support and guide the development of this watershed plan. The Steering Committee for the ECWP consists of:

- City of Toronto
- Region of Peel
- City of Mississauga

Item 7.1

- City of Brampton
- Town of Caledon
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Greater Toronto Airport Authority

The Steering Committee will play a key role in reviewing the technical reports and will collaboratively develop a management framework to determine actions to protect, enhance and restore the watershed.

Throughout the watershed planning process, TRCA with its Steering Committee partners, will be engaging Indigenous groups, stakeholders and the public to identify issues of concern, receive feedback and develop support for the recommended actions of the watershed plan. Engagement will be guided by the draft Engagement Strategy (attached).

The Engagement Strategy will be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure a comprehensive stakeholder list. Records of all engagement activities and correspondence will be maintained by TRCA.

Additional details will be provided in the presentation accompanying this report.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funds to support the development of this watershed plan are from 120-40.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff from WPR will work with internal TRCA technical staff and Steering Committee partners to follow the staged watershed planning process and associated Engagement Strategy with the intent of having a finalized ECWP by 2023.

TRCA staff will incorporate feedback and suggestions from RWA members on the Engagement Strategy for the ECWP.

If desired by RWA members, TRCA staff would be pleased to share regular updates on the status of the watershed plan at the appropriate stages in the process (e.g. watershed characterization report, scenario analysis report, draft watershed plan).

Report prepared by: Tony Morris, extension 5651

Emails: tony.morris@trca.ca

For Information contact: Tony Morris, extension 5651; Laura Del Giudice, 416-278-8344

Emails: laura.delgiudice@trca.ca

Date: August 12, 2020

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Engagement Strategy: Etobicoke Creek



Engagement Strategy Etobicoke Creek

Prepared by:

Watershed Planning and Reporting

August 2020

Purpose:

This Engagement Strategy is designed to:

- Identify engagement methods that will be used throughout the watershed planning process
- Identify key periods within the process for engagement
- Identify stakeholders

Effective and meaningful engagement can lead to improved watershed planning outcomes by ensuring community buy-in, support from key landowners and stakeholders, political support and facilitate effective implementation by relevant partners.

Engagement Objectives:

To build partnerships with key stakeholders and landowners within the watershed to maximize opportunities to improve watershed conditions through strategic resource-sharing.

To build community awareness on the importance of watersheds and identify opportunities for improved community stewardship of the Etobicoke Creek Watershed.

Achieve broad based endorsement of watershed plan goals, objectives and management actions to increase the likelihood of effective implementation.

Engagement Methods:

Engagement will occur on a spectrum (see **Figure 1**), which will influence the methods used depending on the stage of the process and interest level of different audiences. Engagement methods will comply with the guidance of public health authorities.

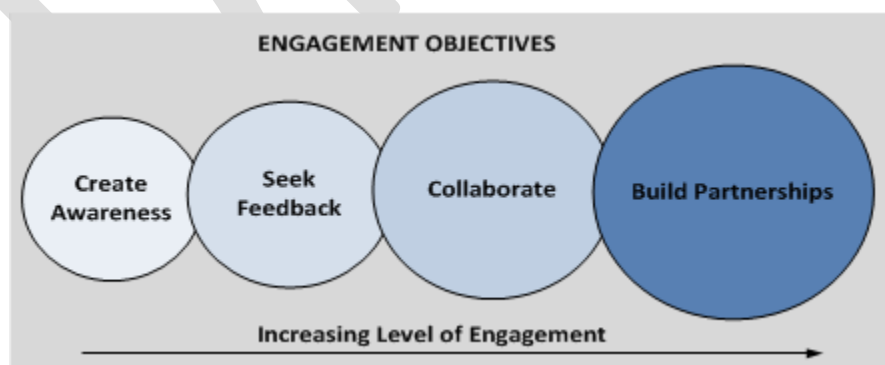


Figure 1 - Engagement Spectrum

Below is a selection of methods that may be used at different stages of the watershed planning process based on the engagement spectrum. Engagement activities will be decided in collaboration with the Steering

Committee. The collaborate and partnership end of the spectrum is achieved through the Steering Committee, as represented by key watershed management partners.

Awareness	Feedback	Collaborate	Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Letter / Email / Social Media notifications • Newsletters, bulletins • Website updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment periods • Open houses • Focus groups • Surveys • Meetings • Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus-building forums • Working groups • Pilot projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint project planning (e.g. restoration activities) • Co-drafting of management actions • Shared governance (e.g. joint implementation agreements)

TRCA will produce engagement materials/notifications and distribute through its website and social media channels. Other Steering Committee members should also distribute notifications through their appropriate distribution processes to ensure maximum public exposure of information related to this watershed planning process (i.e. relevant Municipal Councillors).

Engagement Process:

The list of stakeholders and interested individuals will be regularly updated as the watershed planning process progresses. A subscribers list will be maintained by TRCA through a project website where individuals can subscribe to be kept notified about this process. A generic email address, etobicoke@trca.ca will be available for questions, comments and information requests. Any correspondence sent about this process will also identify a mechanism for individuals / organizations to be added to this subscribers list by responding to etobicoke@trca.ca. The subscriber list will be maintained as a MailChimp list within TRCA's databases and not be available for public release. Notifications or correspondence will be distributed by project management staff within Watershed Planning and Reporting (WPR), except where otherwise noted (e.g. Board members and municipal Councillors). The frequency of correspondence will vary throughout the watershed planning process, but follow these general guidelines:

- Notification of engagement events at least one month ahead of time, with a reminder the week of.
- Notification of public comment periods on technical reports and draft plans, including at least one reminder of comment deadline

At any meetings or open houses, attendees will be asked to sign in and whether they wish to receive correspondence from TRCA on this project. Personal information will be kept confidential and made only available to members of the Steering Committee. As part of engagement reporting, general information will be made publicly available, such as number of attendees/comments received, summaries of comments received, and responses provided (not attributed to any particular party) and engagement methods utilized.

Engagement by Watershed Planning Stage

Some of these activities may overlap as the stages of the watershed planning process shift from one stage to the next.

Stage / Activities	Engagement Methods
Stage 1: Preparation and Scoping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of Engagement Strategy by Steering Committee Establishment of project webpage (and subscriber form) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website updates (project webpage, subscriber submission function)
Stage 2: Watershed Characterization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify issues of concern to stakeholders and members of the public within the watershed Engage on draft Vision for the watershed Engage on the outcomes of watershed characterization (i.e. draft Characterization Report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey about issues and key components of a watershed vision to subscribers list and social media channels Open house on outcomes of watershed characterization and draft management scenarios
Stage 3: Future Management Scenarios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek feedback on draft management scenarios (in conjunction with review of draft Characterization Report) Engage on results of stage 3 (Scenario Analysis Report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Above noted open house Notifications to stakeholders list, social media channels on draft management scenarios
Stage 4: Implementation Planning & Stage 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage on draft management framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open house on draft management framework and results of scenario analysis
Draft Watershed Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage on draft Watershed Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public comment period of draft plan with associated notifications

Engagement Record

TRCA will maintain a detailed engagement record throughout the watershed planning process that catalogues all correspondence distributed / received.

Indigenous Engagement

TRCA has included the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as partners on the Steering Committee as the treaty holding First Nation within the Etobicoke Creek watershed. As part of project engagement, TRCA will also engage directly with Indigenous groups that have traditional territories within the watershed. This includes Williams Treaties First Nations, the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Six Nations and the Métis Nation of Ontario. Notifications and correspondence to Indigenous groups to be sent out by project management staff within WPR.

Indigenous Group	Contact Information
Williams Treaties First Nations	
Beausoleil First Nation	Mike Smith, Environmental Specialist msmith@chimnissing.ca Dana Monague, Lands Compliance Officer danamonague@chimnissing.ca
Rama First Nation	General Consultation Email – consultation@ramafirstnation.ca Sharday James, Community Consultation Worker shardayj@ramafirstnation.ca
Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation	Natasha Charles, Project Consultant Natasha.charles@georginaisland.com
Curve Lake First Nation	Julie Kapyrka, Lands Resource Consultation Liaison juliek@curvelake.ca Kaitlin Hill, Lands Resource Consultation Liaison kaitlinh@curvelake.ca
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation	Monica Sanford, Community Consultation Administrative Assistant msanford@scugogfirstnation.com
Hiawatha First Nation	Tom Cowie, Lands Resource Consultation Liaison tcowie@hiawathafn.ca
Alderville First Nation	Dave Simpson, Councillor consultation@alderville.ca
Huron-Wendat Nation	Maxime Picard, Project Coordinator, Ontario Maxime.picard@cnhw.qc.ca
Six Nations of the Grand River	Lonny Bomberly, Lands and Resources Director lonnybomberly@sixnations.ca
Métis Nation of Ontario	consultations@metisnation.org

Municipal Councillors and TRCA Board Members

Engagement notifications and status updates on the development of the ECWP will be sent to relevant municipal Councillors and TRCA Board members via TRCA's clerks office. Project management staff within WPR will prepare the relevant correspondence for approval and distribution. The list below reflects the relevant elected members within the boundaries of the Etobicoke Creek watershed:

Representative	Contact Information
TRCA Board Members	
Toronto: Paul Ainslie, Jennifer Drake, Maria Kelleher, Basudeb Mukherjee, Connie Tang, Shelley Carroll, Paula Fletcher, Cynthia Lai, James Pasternak, Estair Van Wagner, Ronald Chopowick, Xiao Han, Mike Layton, Anthony Perruzza Region of Peel: Dipika Damerla, Michael Palleschi, Chris Fonseca, Rowena Santos, Jennifer Innis	To be sent out via TRCA's clerk office as prepared by Watershed Planning and Reporting project management staff.
City of Toronto Councillors	
Mark Grimes – Etobicoke Lakeshore (Ward 3) Stephen Holyday – Etobicoke Centre (Ward 2)	councillor_grimes@toronto.ca councillor_holyday@toronto.ca To be sent out via TRCA's clerk office as prepared by Watershed Planning and Reporting project management staff.
Region of Peel Councillors	
Johanna Downey – Town of Caledon (Ward 2) Paul Vicente – City of Brampton (Wards 1 and 5) Rowena Santos – City of Brampton (Wards 1 and 5) Martin Medeiros – City of Brampton (Wards 3 and 4) Michael Palleschi – City of Brampton (Wards 2 and 6) Pat Fortini – City of Brampton (Wards 7 and 8) Gurpreet Dhillon – City of Brampton (Wards 9 and 10) Stephen Dasko – City of Mississauga (Ward 1) Chris Fonesca – City of Mississauga (Ward 3)	johanna.downey@caledon.ca – most of Ward 2 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed paul.vicente@brampton.ca – most of Ward 1 is within the Etobicoke Creek Watershed rowena.santos@brampton.ca – most of Ward 1 is within the Etobicoke Creek Watershed martin.medeiros@brampton.ca – Ward 3 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed michael.palleschi@brampton.ca – Ward 2 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed pat.fortini@brampton.ca – Ward 7 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed gurpreet.dhillon@brampton.ca – Ward 9 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed stephen.dasko@mississauga.ca – Ward 1 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed chris.fonseca@mississauga.ca – Ward 3 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed

Carolyn Parrish – City of Mississauga (Ward 5)	carolyn.parrish@mississauga.ca – Ward 5 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed To be sent out via TRCA's clerk office as prepared by Watershed Planning and Reporting project management staff.
City of Mississauga Councillors (Only relevant Councillors that aren't also Regional Councillors)	
<i>Wards 1, 3 and 5 are all represented by Regional Councillors</i>	See above
City of Brampton Councillors (Only relevant Councillors that aren't also Regional Councillors)	
Doug Whillans – Wards 2 and 6 Jeff Bowman – Wards 3 and 4 Charmaine Williams – Wards 7 and 8 Harkirat Singh – Wards 9 and 10	Doug.whillans@brampton.ca – Ward 2 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed Jeff.bowman@brampton.ca – Ward 3 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed Charmaine.williams@brampton.ca – Ward 7 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed Harkirat.singh@brampton.ca – Ward 9 is within the Etobicoke Creek watershed To be sent out via TRCA's clerk office as prepared by Watershed Planning and Reporting project management staff.
Town of Caledon (Only relevant Councillors that aren't also Regional Councillors)	
Christina Early – Town of Caledon Area Councillor (Ward 2)	christina.early@caledon.ca To be sent out via TRCA's clerk office as prepared by Watershed Planning and Reporting project management staff.

Stakeholder List

This list will be routinely updated as new parties or individuals are identified. Notifications and correspondence will be sent out by project management staff within WPR.

Note: for stakeholders that are members of [Partners in Project Green](#), TRCA will coordinate internally to engage with these stakeholders for this watershed planning process with other research related to initiatives through Partners in Project Green.

Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
Community Groups / Resident Associations		
Arsenal Lands area	Jim Judge – jjudge@sprayca.com	Arsenal lands are former industrial lands just west of Marie Curtis Park in Mississauga now owned by TRCA with the intent of turning into a waterfront park.

Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)	Barbara Keaveney – Barbara.keaveney@sympatico.ca	http://www.ccfew.org/
Dayle and David Laing / Bike Brampton	david@daylelaing.com	David is a Regional Watershed Alliance member
Friends of Marie Curtis Park	Ariadne Angulo – marie.curtis.park@gmail.com	https://parkpeople.ca/listings/groups/?n=friend-s-of-marie-curtis-park&id=943&tdgrant=true
Heart Lake residents group	Leo O'Brien – friendsofheartlake@rogers.com	Very large residential group via Facebook
Ontario Khalsa Darbar	7080 Dixie Rd, Mississauga 905-670-3311 ontariokhalsadarbar7@gmail.com	Derry Rd and Dixie Rd, abuts the creek, with lots of surface parking and underutilized lands http://ontariokhalsadarbar.org/ Major Sikh event facility
Residents Associations (TBD) (from south to north, just along main branch of creek): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Branch • Orchard Heights • Alderwood • Markland Wood • Rockwood Village • Peel Village • Armbro Heights • Snelgrove 	Long Branch - info@lbna.com https://www.lbna.ca/ Markland Wood Homeowners Association - MWHAPresident@Marklandwood.org https://www.marklandwood.org/ Rockwood Village – contact form on website, http://www.rockwoodvillage.ca/ Facebook Groups: -Orchard Heights Homeowners Association (270 members) -Alderwood Residents Association (274 members) -Peel Village, Brampton - - Nearly Anything Goes! (1.4k members)	<i>Could not find information for Armbro Heights or Snelgrove.</i> <i>Are there other neighbourhoods within the watershed that are missing?</i>

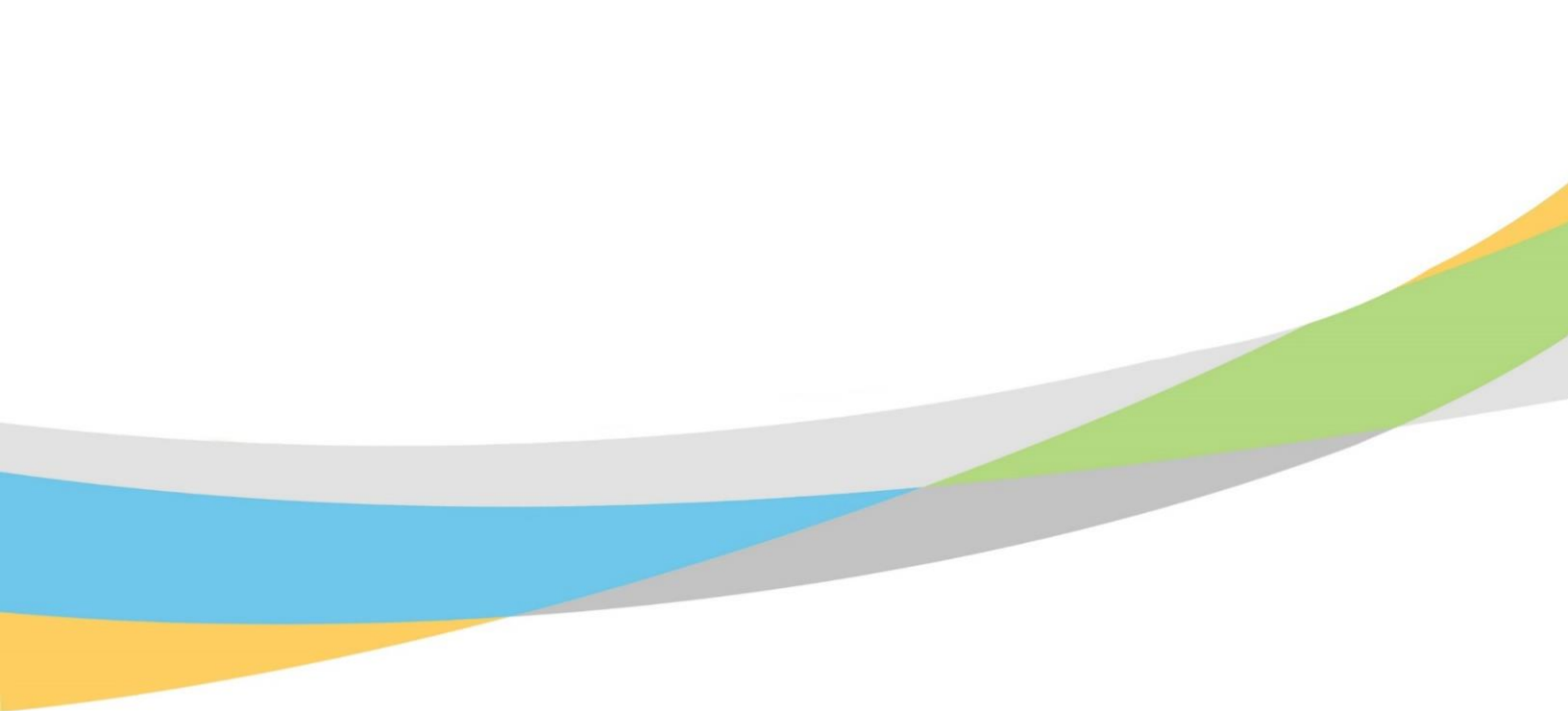
Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
Michael Harrison	mjharrison@teksavvy.com	Concerned individual involved in Lost Creeks of Etobicoke research
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians	samya@cassa.on.ca	Suggested addition by City of Toronto
Hispanic Development Council	Duberlisramos.hdc@gmail.com	Suggested addition by City of Toronto
Chinese Canadian National Council – Toronto Chapter	Executivedirector@ccnctoronto.ca	Suggested addition by City of Toronto
Golf Courses		
Brampton Golf Club	7700 Kennedy Road, Brampton info@bramptongolf.com Martin Kopp, Golf Course Superintendent 905-457-5700 x.233 mkopp@bramptongolf.com	North end of course abuts creek https://www.bramptongolf.com/
Centennial Park Golf Centre	550 Centennial Park Blvd., Toronto 416-620-1392 info@golfcpgc.com	https://www.golfcpgc.com/ On the east side of the creek just south of Eglinton
Markland Wood Golf Club	245 Markland Drive, Toronto Owen Russell – Master Superintendent 905-625-2062 Markland_owen@rogers.com Alfredo Colalillo – General Manager 416-621-2260 x 232 acolalillo@marklandwood.com	https://marklandwood.com/ Runs on both sides of creek between Dundas and Burnhamthorpe. Also certified as part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.
Peel Village Golf Course (Managed by City of Brampton)	TBD – with City of Brampton	https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Community-Centres/Pages/Peel-Village.aspx Beside the Brampton Golf Club
Toronto Golf Club	1305 Dixie Road, Mississauga Administration Contact: 905-278-5255	https://www.torontogolfclub.com/Home Abuts the Creek on the west side just north of Lakeshore Blvd.

Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
	kdaniels@torontogolfclub.com Grounds contact: 905-274-1767 greens@torontogolfclub.com	Certification from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses Practices Integrated Pest Management
Major Private Landowners		
Bell (Corporate Office)	TBD	5115 Creekbank Rd, Mississauga Large corporate campus on west side of creek just north of Eglinton
CAA Centre – Sports and Entertainment Complex	Mike Hardcastle General Manager mhardcastle@caacentre.com 905-459-9340 ext. 106	7575 Kennedy Rd. S, Brampton Caacentre.com, large fields and sports complex bordered by creek, 407, 410 and Kennedy Rd.
Canada Bread	Member of Partners in Project Green	10 Four Seasons Place, Burnhamthorpe and East Mall
Coca-Cola Bottling Limited	Kathy Murphy kmurphy@cokecanada.com Members of Partners in Project Green	15 Westcreek Blvd, Brampton Major facility between 410 and 407, just north of creek.
Federal Express Canada Corporate Headquarters	TBD	5985 Explorer Drive and Matheson Blvd E, Mississauga East side of creek between 401 and Matheson Blvd. E
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Frances Edmonds Frances.edmonds@hp.com Members of Partners in Project Green	5150 Spectrum Way, Mississauga Campus on east side of creek north of Eglinton.
Kingspoint Plaza	Marc Halbach, Leasing Manager mhalbach@smartcentres.com 905-760-6200 ext. 7824	370 Main St. N, Brampton https://www.smartcentres.com/property/brampton-kingspoint-plaza-on/ Abuts the creek, north of Vodden St and along Main St. N.
Menkes	Johanne Jacob Johanne.jacob@menkes.com Member of Partners in Project Green	5580 Explorer Drive, Mississauga. Just south of the 401 and east of the creek.
Metro Distribution Centre	TBD	170 The West Mall and Dundas Street. Large facility on east side of creek.

Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
Pratt and Whitney	Scott Hendershot Scott.hendershot@pwc.ca Member of Partners in Project Green	1801 Courtneypark Drive E. Just south of the creek and runway at Pearson, east of Dixie Road
Sherway Gardens	Patrick Murray, Property Manager Patrick.murray@cadillacfairview.com 416-621-1071 ext. 127022	Beside the Queensway Health Centre – large amount of surface parking
Shoppers World Brampton	Penny Karas, General Manager pkaras@riocan.com 905-459-1337 ext. 53820	499 Main Street S., Brampton West side of creek along Main St S and Steeles Ave, lots of surface parking https://shopswb.com/ Note: site is slated to be redeveloped into a dense urban neighbourhood. Currently in the zoning plan submission phase of the planning process. Leverage creek revitalization opportunities in collaboration with City of Brampton.
Sobeys Ontario (Corporate Office)	Neela Mistry Neela.mistry@sobeys.com Members of Partners in Project Green	4980 Tahoe Blvd. Beside the TD campus
Soda Stream	Jessica Musselwhite jmusselwhite@sodastream.com Member of Partners in Project Green	5450 Explorer Drive, Mississauga. Just south of 401 and east of creek.
TD Corporate Campus (Creekside Office)	TBD	1855 Buckhorn Gate, Mississauga Large corporate campus on west side of creek between Eglinton and hydro corridor. Underutilized land between Tahoe Blvd and creek.
Unilever	John Coyne John.coyne@unilever.com Member of Partners in Project Green	307 Orenda Drive, Brampton (<i>Eric said in Mississauga, need to confirm right address</i>). East side of Dixie, just north of 407.
Velcro Canada	Andrew Todd atodd@velcro.com	114 East Drive, Brampton

Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
	Member of Partners in Project Green	
Weston Forest Products	Steve Rhone srhone@westonforest.com Member of Partners in Project Green	7600 Torbram Road, Mississauga. North of Pearson and south of the 407.
NGO's		
Greenbelt Foundation	661 Yonge Street, Suite 500, Toronto 416-960-0001 ashortly@greenbelt.ca Research and Policy	https://www.greenbelt.ca/
Sierra Club Peel (Rosemary Keenan)	prmkeen@gmail.com	
Toronto Field Naturalists	action@torontofieldnaturalists.org	https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/about-tfn/contact-us/
Toronto Green Community	Contact form on website	http://www.torontogreen.ca/contact/
David Suzuki Foundation	msandu@davidsuzuki.org	Added in response to comments from Brampton
Miscellaneous		
Hydro One	Agnes.reid@hydroone.com Senior Real Estate Coordinator	Several hydro corridors cross the creek: 1. one just south of Eglinton that also runs through Centennial Park Golf Centre 2. another follows along the south side of the 407 3. Just south of the Queensway Contact suggested by Corey Wells in PMO.
Mayfield West development	Jason Afonso – jasona@gsai.ca	GSAI Planning is the main liaison for the developer's group. Mike Hensel from Croziers is the lead environmental project manager.
Other Developers: Fieldgate Homes Mattamy Homes Brookvalley Project Management The Conservatory Group	Mara Samardzic – mara@fieldgatedevelopments.com or Rich Mangotich – rickm@fieldgatedevelopments.com David.albanese@mattamycorp.com Frank Filippo – ffilippo@brookvalley.ca	Other major developers in the watershed.

Stakeholder / Individual	Contact Information	Notes (If applicable)
	Steve Gutfreund – s.gutfreund@conservatorygroup.com	
Peel Federation of Agriculture	peelfederationofagriculture@gmail.com	https://ofa.on.ca/federations/peel/ An affiliate of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Region of Peel also has a Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) , which acts at the approvals committee for funding applications under the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) – TRCA is involved in this – Nadine Abrams is staff contact at TRCA



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Item for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #3/20, Wednesday, September 16, 2020

FROM: Sameer Dhalla, Director, Development and Engineering Services

RE: **UPDATE ON FLOOD RISK OUTREACH PROGRAM AND REMEDIATION PROJECTS**

KEY ISSUE

Summary of the outreach activities undertaken in flood vulnerable neighbourhoods as part of the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) funded Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program, and overview of flood remediation activities in select flood vulnerable clusters.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance members receive this report, which includes content from the *FLOOD RISK PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM* report originally presented to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Board of Directors on June 26, 2020;

AND FURTHER THAT Regional Watershed Alliance members continue to participate in the various studies outlined in this report and work with their networks to advocate for funding to support implementation of flood remediation and restoration projects for flood vulnerable communities.

BACKGROUND

Areas in the jurisdiction which contain a high concentration of buildings within the regulatory floodplain are termed Flood Vulnerable Clusters (FVCs). Many of these areas correspond to communities that were developed prior to land-use planning practices for natural hazard management. Through the Flood Risk Assessment and Ranking (FRAR) study, TRCA quantified and ranked the risk in the 41 FVCs within the jurisdiction. In keeping with the strategic plan objectives to reduce flood risks and protect communities, TRCA continues to pursue both structural and non-structural risk reduction opportunities in Flood Vulnerable Clusters. This report provides an update on the implementation of the Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education program, one of the non-structural measures applied in high-risk areas, as well as provides an overview of structural flood remediation projects that are in various stages of planning in FVCs across TRCA's jurisdiction.

At Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting #3/19, held on September 11, 2019, TRCA staff prepared a report on Flood Risk Management initiatives, together with a presentation specific to the upcoming outreach project, which were received as part of resolution #R15/19. The Regional Watershed Alliance provided feedback on frequently asked questions, which was incorporated into subsequently developed communications materials utilized in the Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program.

RATIONALE

Outreach Program Update

Pro-actively communicating risks to flood-vulnerable communities can lessen the impact of flooding to these areas, as residents can take preparatory steps to protect themselves and their homes. The comprehensive and sensitive delivery of risk communication, in advance of a flood emergency, can support effective crisis communications during a flood emergency. In this context, risk communication is meant to enable audiences to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information that will be valuable in the face of a potential emergency. Crisis communication, by contrast, is meant to trigger audiences to remember known information, understand simple directions, and apply key actions to lessen the impact of the crisis. The flood messages issued by conservation authorities are an example of crisis communications. Pro-actively providing information to increase awareness in flood prone neighbourhoods is an example of risk communications, which can prime these audiences to follow the protective actions outlined in the flood messages.

While the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has historically made flood risk information available to the public via general website content and partnerships with municipal emergency management activities, the inclusion of flood outreach activities as a method of non-structural flood risk reduction under the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) presented a unique opportunity for more targeted communication with residents and businesses in FVCs. TRCA successfully secured funding in 2018 through Intake 4 of the NDMP to actively reach out to flood vulnerable communities in TRCA's jurisdiction. Thus, the Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program was launched, which included two broad program objectives. First, to disseminate information on flood risk and current initiatives in risk reduction to municipal partners, and second, to jointly deliver (together with municipal partners) risk information to flood vulnerable neighbourhoods via a combination of digital, print, and in-person campaigns.

Prior to undertaking public outreach, the Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program involved a municipal outreach component, in order to share the results of the FRAR study with municipal partner staff, and set the stage for collaboration on public outreach initiatives in the target neighbourhoods. Internal groups, such as the Government and Community Relations and Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program teams, were also consulted to help identify target neighbourhood characteristics, and the Regional Watershed Alliance was consulted to identify possible FAQs and information topic areas. TRCA's Communications, Marketing and Events business unit was also a key partner in executing the program.

Municipal Partner Engagement

In June of 2019, Flood Risk Management staff undertook four full-day workshops with over 100 municipal partner staff, from diverse departments amongst TRCA's municipal partners, including Durham Region, the City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, York Region, City of Markham, City of Richmond Hill, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, City of Vaughan, City of Toronto, Peel Region, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, and City of Mississauga. These workshops provided an opportunity for TRCA to share location specific information on Flood Vulnerable Clusters, review roles and responsibilities, and establish the working groups, and workplans, for the delivery of the public outreach component. Where the planned public outreach events were organized by TRCA, staff liaised with the local and regional councillors in the target areas either through direct meetings or through presentations to council or committee meetings. Local elected officials were often in attendance and highly supportive of the events held.

Item 8.1

Internal and Industry Partner Engagement

In addition to municipal partners, other agencies with active program areas in flood risk outreach were invited to participate in applicable open houses. Attendees included the Electrical Safety Authority to provide information on post-flood recovery practices, the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation to provide information on lot-level flood protection measures, and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to field questions on insurance coverage options. Each municipal partner's respective Emergency Management staff also attended, thus providing a 'one-stop-shop' for residents to inform themselves about various elements of flood risk. Including information about lot-level impacts and homeowner actions was among the suggestions received by the Regional Watershed Alliance

Public Outreach Events and Materials

Where existing public engagement events were already planned in the area by municipal partners or other TRCA departments, Flood Risk Management staff leveraged the existing event opportunity and attended the related event, providing panels, takeaway materials, and the opportunity to answer questions. Where no public engagement opportunity already existed in the highest priority clusters, TRCA pursued active outreach, with methods that were jointly developed with municipal partners over the course of six months. These tactics included direct mail campaigns, geo-targeted social media advertising, tailored websites for each cluster with more detailed flood risk information, and finally hosting dedicated open houses for the public to provide information and answer questions. Key messages were established to outline risk information, clarify roles and responsibilities, and provide targeted tips for enhancing flood preparedness. Cluster-specific flood risk webpages were developed with this content, with a goal to drive residents and business towards this information. Given the diversity of municipal partner approaches, as well as the unique demographics of each cluster, the engagement methods were tailored for each cluster, and are summarized in the table below.

Table 1 – Target cluster and strategy summary

Cluster Name (rank)	Municipality	Outreach strategy-in-person	Date of in-person event	Digital Content developed	Advertising strategy
Rockcliffe (1)	Toronto	Attendance at existing event organized by local councillor	June 11, 2019	Directed to existing project page	N/A
Oak Ridges/Lake Wilcox (8)	Richmond Hill	Attendance at existing event organized by Fire and Emergency Services	October 5, 2019	Dedicated flood risk webpage	
Woodbridge (21)	Vaughan	Attendance at existing community event – Woodbridge Fall Fair	October 12, 2019	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Community centre posters; geo-targeted social media campaign
Pickering Village (4)	Pickering/Ajax	Attendance at existing Public Information Centre (PIC) related to flood infrastructure improvements	October 30, 2019	Directed to existing project page	N/A – note that the PIC itself was advertised per Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements

Item 8.1

Cluster Name (rank)	Municipality	Outreach strategy-in-person	Date of in-person event	Digital Content developed	Advertising strategy
Jane-Wilson (2)	Toronto	Attendance at existing PIC for Basement Flooding Area 45 Master Plan and Black Creek Trunk Sewer Improvement Study	December 11, 2019	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Geotargeted social-media campaign (PIC itself was advertised by the City of Toronto)
Bolton Core (5)	Caledon	Dedicated flood risk public open house	January 7, 2020	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Hand-delivered invitation letters
Stouffville Centre (27)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	Dedicated flood risk public open house	January 20, 2020	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Town recreation guide; geo-targeted social media campaign
Avondale /Spring Creek (6)	Brampton	Dedicated flood risk public open house	January 30, 2020	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Hand-delivered lenticular postcards; geotargeted social media campaign
Vellore Woods (29)	Vaughan	Attendance at existing community event – Vaughan Winterfest	February 9, 2020		Community centre posters
Dixie-Dundas (3)	Mississauga	Dedicated flood risk public open house	March 2, 2020	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Mailed letter invites; geotargeted social media campaign
Markham Industrial / Don Mills Channel (10)	Markham	Dedicated door-to-door information campaign	March 5 & 6, 2020	Dedicated flood risk webpage	Door-to-door delivery of employee safety poster

Where Flood Risk Management staff hosted dedicated public open houses, the format included informational panel displays with staff on-hand to answer questions, followed by a short presentation, and question and answer session. A professional facilitator was engaged as a neutral point of contact, to guide the question and answer sessions, and to collect qualitative feedback. Event summaries, panels, and presentation slides were posted online to ensure continued access to the information for members who were not able to attend in-person. A variety of methods were used to advertise the open houses, including geo-targeted social media campaigns, community centre posters, and print invitations whose format varied from formal letters to visually arresting postcards. Each of the print materials were equipped with links and QR codes to direct readers towards the online information; this also allowed for the collection on the effectiveness of the campaigns, as it was possible to determine how many website visits originated from these print campaigns. Overall traffic to the Flood Risk Management sections of TRCA's website was also tracked.

Item 8.1

Summary of Program Reach

Over the course of a 10-month period; Flood Risk Management staff hosted or attended events with an attendance of over 2,400 people combined, and created campaigns that reached 50,000 people digitally, and 1,949 people by mail. From these, 3,100 people accessed the flood risk specific webpages to learn more about their risk, and there were over 200 meaningful in-person conversations with residents and business owners living in TRCA's flood vulnerable clusters. Furthermore, the number of new public signups to receive flood forecasting and warning messages between January and March 2020 (the most active period of the campaign) was more than four times the average of new self-subscriptions in a given quarter. Attendance at open houses can be influenced by a variety of factors, ranging from the weather on the day to the demographics of the audience, to whether or not the community was already 'over-engaged'. Of the public open houses that were organized specifically for this campaign, the two that were the most well-attended were where:

- There had recently been a major flood event (Bolton Core)
- The direct mail campaign was the most visually arresting (Avondale/Spring Creek)

While the attendance at open houses on average corresponded to only 10% of the target audiences, the continued presence of the key information on the cluster specific webpages will allow for growth, over time, in the proportion of residents and businesses that are aware of their flood risk.

Key Themes

Attendees at the dedicated open houses hosted by Flood Risk Management staff were given a simple survey to determine their prior risk knowledge as well as the degree to which the information presented was useful. Although approximately only 25% of attendees completed surveys, the facilitator hired by TRCA for these events also captured qualitative information on key themes.

From the survey, it was possible to glean that:

- Most respondents heard about the open house through TRCA's direct mail efforts
- Most respondents (75%) now know what to do during a flood
- Almost all attendees found the information presented to be useful

From the qualitative observations provided by the facilitator, several themes emerged with respect to public perception around flood risk, as well as roles and responsibilities. Key themes included that:

- Residents wanted to share their anecdotal experience of flood risks and have a desire to supplement the data gathered during real flood events with their 'eyes on the ground' information.
- Residents sought clarity on whom to call (TRCA, the municipality, or first responders) for flooding situations; residents did not see a distinction between urban or riverine flooding
- Many residents expressed concerns around debris removal and channel cleanups
- Residents and business owners sought information on specific measures they could take on their own properties
- Attendees were appreciative of the information being shared

As this program represented the first opportunity of its kind, the lessons learned from each outreach event were applied to subsequent events where possible and will continue to be applied towards future flood risk communications initiatives. Content to directly address the key themes above is already being generated.

Next Steps - Outreach

The Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program was in its final stages when the new Ontario Flooding Strategy was released, which underscored the importance of increasing awareness as a method to reduce flood risk. Ensuring Ontarians are aware of flood risks is one of five overarching objectives within the strategy, and TRCA has exhibited leadership in this realm through the delivery of the Flood Risk Awareness and Education Program. While the ability to undertake dedicated public open houses and door-to-door in-person campaigns will be limited in the absence of follow-up funding to the National Disaster Mitigation Program, education and outreach remains a key program area within the Flood Risk Management group. Broad-range activities in this realm that are expected to continue in collaboration with municipal partners. Key activities for this year include the continued development of tailored web content for high-risk flood vulnerable clusters, with expanded information on remediation and infrastructure projects, as well as an overhaul of the main Flood Risk Management website to incorporate the key areas in which residents and business owners seek information. Objectives also include the development of informational videos explaining concepts like the '100-year storm', flashy watersheds, and the process of creating floodplain maps, as well as factsheets on seasonal flood risks, such as ice-jams and thunderstorms. Social media campaigns will continue to be developed to address the key theme areas identified from the public open houses, such as clarity on roles and responsibilities during flood events. Additional engagement with flood vulnerable cluster residents will continue to occur as opportunities arise. A key target audience for the coming years includes the real estate and insurance industry, whose touchpoints with homeowners can be leveraged in order to increase awareness of flood risks, a tactic that is explicitly identified within Ontario's Flooding Strategy. Although this year's Emergency Preparedness Week events were cancelled due to COVID-19, Flood Risk Management staff will continue to work with municipal partners to identify unique opportunities to increase awareness amongst residents and business owners living in flood vulnerable neighbourhoods.

Ongoing Flood Remediation Projects

While education and outreach efforts represent a non-structural approach to flood risk reduction, TRCA undertakes flood risk management efforts throughout the full spectrum of the emergency management cycle. In the realm of flood mitigation, TRCA and partner municipalities are pursuing flood remediation capital projects in several flood vulnerable clusters. The following section provides an overview of select projects that are at various stages of planning across TRCA's jurisdiction.

Rockcliffe (City of Toronto)

The Rockcliffe neighbourhood is located in Ward 5 (York South-Weston) of the City of Toronto and within the regulatory floodplain of Black Creek. Historical development in the floodplain and alterations to the river channel prior to modern floodplain management practices has resulted in significant risk. It is an area with a high concentration of structures in the floodplain, and is the highest ranked Flood Vulnerable Cluster in TRCA's jurisdiction in terms of flood risk and consequence, according to the 2018 FRAR study.

TRCA and the City of Toronto have been coordinating efforts to reduce flooding risks in the Rockcliffe area. In 2014, the TRCA and the City completed two separate Environmental Assessment (EA) studies that examined options to reduce riverine and sewer system related flooding, respectively.

Leveraging NDMP funding, the Black Creek at Rockcliffe Special Policy Area Flood Remediation and Transportation Feasibility study in partnership with the City of Toronto was

Item 8.1

recently completed. The objective of the Feasibility Study was a thorough re-assessment of the flood remediation alternatives developed in TRCA's 2014 riverine flooding EA, in light of model refinements, infrastructure considerations and flood observations. The study examined the performance of the recommended flood remediation solutions using a new MIKE FLOOD 2D hydraulic model, which explicitly considers the influence of the Lavender Creek tributary, as well as the updated watershed flows from the 2018 "Humber River Hydrology Update Addendum". The Feasibility Study also comprehensively assessed traffic impacts (using Synchro and SimTraffic Models) and included site investigations (Boreholes and Sub-Surface Engineering). Through the Feasibility Study, an improved flood remediation solution was identified, which significantly reduces the number of properties in the floodplain under all storm events.

The feasibility study identified the following flood protection works, which will be further fleshed out through the EA process, which is slated to begin in the fall:

- Conveyance improvements through increased water crossing sizes at Jane Street, Rockcliffe Boulevard, and Symes Road,
- Channel conveyance improvements through channel lowering and widening of Black Creek from Jane Street to Alliance Boulevard, and Lavender Creek from Symes Road to the confluence with Black Creek, and,
- A flood wall at Weston Road.

Details from the feasibility study were outlined in the report adopted as Resolution #A77/20 at TRCA Board of Directors Meeting #5/20 held on June 26, 2020.

Pickering-Ajax Dyke (Pickering/Ajax – Region of Durham)

The Pickering Village Flood Vulnerable Cluster spans the Pickering/Ajax border in the Region of Durham, and is ranked #4 in terms of riverine flood risk in TRCA's jurisdiction. Studies completed in 2018 revealed that the Pickering and Ajax Dykes, which were constructed in the 1980s to provide functional flood protection to these areas, do not meet current engineering design standards for stability, and that infrastructure upgrades would be required to bring them to a level of service that would provide 100-year flood protection. The ensuing Pickering and Ajax Dyke Restoration Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment was undertaken to identify the preferred alternative for the rehabilitation of the existing Pickering and Ajax Dykes to meet current engineering standards and factors of safety while maintaining the existing level of flood protection.

The preferred solution consists of a 'hard engineering solution', which includes a structural component such as sheet piles (corrugated metal plates) driven through the dyke and rock embankments to ensure the required stability factors are met. This type of solution was selected for areas of the Pickering Dyke where space limitations provide little room for rehabilitation works between the creek and private properties. For areas along Pickering Dyke where space was available, and for the Ajax Dyke, a 'soft engineering solution' was preferred, utilizing earthen embankment slopes that are stable and more gradual than those of the existing dyke.

The EA also included the preparation of 30% design level drawings, supporting calculations/modelling and a capital construction cost estimate reflecting a feasible design of the preferred alternative. The ESR has been posted for public review and commenting. Details from the EA process were outlined in the report adopted as Resolution #A89/20 at TRCA Board of Directors Meeting #5/20 held on June 26, 2020.

Item 8.1

Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Environmental Assessment

The City of Brampton's downtown is subject to flooding during extreme storm events (the Regulatory Flood event). It is, therefore, subject to land use development restrictions under a Special Policy Area designation. The City of Brampton and TRCA have considered alternative ways to protect downtown Brampton from future flood events and unlock potential for revitalization through the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Environmental Assessment (DBFP EA). The purpose of the DBFP EA was to identify a preferred alternative for providing flood protection for the City of Brampton's downtown while considering urban design and land use opportunities for the City of Brampton.

The flood risk is caused by two distinct spills, an upstream spill into the historic creek valley north of Church Street, and a downstream spill south of the CN rail bridge. While alternative solutions to the downstream spill did not provide a level of benefit to warrant implementation, several elements of a preferred alternative for the upstream spill were identified to improve conveyance, which has a positive impact on both the upstream and downstream spill areas. The preferred alternative consists of the following components:

- Widening and deepening the by-pass channel
- Re-aligning Ken Whillans Drive and re-grading Church Street and the valley north of Church Street
- Bridge replacements at Church Street, Scott Street, and Queen Street along with modifications to the CN rail bridge
- Relocation or replacement of the pedestrian bridge in Centennial Park

With the implementation of the DBFP EA project, partial or full removal of the downtown SPA north of Wellington Street can be achieved. The removal of the downtown SPA is paramount to attaining the goals of Vision 2040 and Riverwalk plans and will allow for the revitalization of the downtown core by lifting the restrictions to development.

Details from the EA process were outlined in the report adopted as Resolution #A78/20 at TRCA Board of Directors Meeting #5/20 held on June 26, 2020.

Bolton Berm Major Maintenance Project

As a low-lying area developed in the floodplain prior to land-use planning practices to limit the risk from natural hazards, the Bolton Core area in the Town of Caledon has historically been susceptible to flooding – with open water flooding events impacting the area prior to the construction of flood infrastructure in the area in the 1980s. Bolton Core is currently ranked #5 in terms of riverine flood risk in TRCA's jurisdiction. In 2016, TRCA undertook an engineering study to investigate the berm's current condition and level of service. The recommendations from this study identified several upgrades required to bring the berm to current safety standards and provide the design flood protection against the 500-year storm.

The major maintenance project involves increasing the height of the berm by removing the topsoil and adding compacted, engineered fill. Stone will be added to the river side of the berm to protect it from erosion. The berm will be raised 20 to 70 centimetres, depending on the location along the crest. Restoration will include seeding the berm with grasses and planting riparian shrubs along the riverbank.

Due to the length of the berm, TRCA will be conducting this work in phases:

Item 8.1

- Phase I, between 181 King Street East and 211 King Street East, beginning September 2020
- Phase II, between Queen Street and Humber Lea Road, expected to begin in 2021

Dixie-Dundas Special Policy Area Flood Remediation Environmental Assessment

The lands south of Little Etobicoke Creek surrounding Dixie Road, also known as the Dixie-Dundas Flood Vulnerable Cluster, are subject to flooding as a result of spilling from the creek during high flow conditions. This area is ranked #3 in terms of riverine flood risk within TRCA's jurisdiction, and the area consists of a variety of commercial, industrial, residential, and park land uses. The City of Mississauga has commenced the Dixie-Dundas Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study and subsequent Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process to seek solutions to mitigate flooding risks from Little Etobicoke Creek at the project area. TRCA staff continue to support this endeavour, providing funding as well as technical input in the following areas:

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Steering Committee members,
- Hydraulic modelling support and review
- Technical review and provision of comments on technical submissions
- Public consultation support

Highland Creek (Markham Branch) Corporate Drive Flood Remediation Assessment

In co-ordination with various divisions of the City of Toronto, including City Planning, Toronto Water, Transportation Services, and Engineering and Construction Services, TRCA is undertaking the Highland Creek (Markham Branch) Corporate Drive Flood Remediation Assessment, following a two-stage process whereby the technical study mirroring Phases I and II of the Municipal Class EA process is completed, with a second stage to complete the formal Municipal Class EA if directed to proceed. The feasibility study, which is nearing completion, aims to more accurately characterize existing riverine flood risk and develop appropriate flood remediation alternatives that eliminate the risk of flooding within the study area, allowing for potential redevelopment opportunities. The study will also identify design considerations, implementation constraints, and approximate costs to minimize uncertainty for future design phases, as well as identify opportunities to undertake stream restoration within the study limits, while supporting the primary goal of flood risk reduction.

With many of the capacity constraints stemming from crossings, the following remediation options are being investigated:

- Relief Culverts at all crossings
- Relief Culverts at Progress and Bellamy
- Arch Culverts at Progress and Bellamy
- New Bridges at all crossings
- New Bridges at Progress and Bellamy

The technical report is expected to be completed in the fall of 2020, which will inform the City of Toronto decision on whether to proceed with the EA.

Summary

In summary, TRCA continues to work towards reducing flood risk, utilizing both structural approaches such as remedial capital works, and non-structural approaches such as enhanced

Item 8.1

public awareness and outreach. The members of the RWA are encouraged to participate in the ongoing flood remediation projects discussed in this report and to support TRCA and partner efforts to advocate for funding from senior levels of government to advance these projects which will benefit flood vulnerable communities.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

FINANCIAL DETAILS

General flood risk awareness and communications activities are funded through the Flood Risk and Communications operating account 115-62. The specific Flood Risk Public Awareness and Education Program was completed using funds provided by the National Disaster Mitigation Program, City of Toronto, and the regional municipalities of Peel, York and Durham. Funding was allocated in account 107-54.

The various flood remediation projects are funded through TRCA's Flood Protection and Remedial Studies programs, as well as the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

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Date: August 21, 2020

Section III – Items for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #3/20, Wednesday, September 16, 2020

FROM: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

RE: COVID-19 UPDATE

KEY ISSUE

To provide an update to the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding the ongoing strategic and tactical response to COVID-19 and the mitigation of risks to employees and members of the public.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT this COVID-19 Update report be received.

BACKGROUND

Since the commencement of COVID-19's impact on TRCA operations in March 2020, staff have provided updates to the Board of Directors regarding the ongoing response to the pandemic in the form of reports, memos, and presentations. Staff have also provided updates to the Regional Watershed Alliance, as an advisory committee to the Board, through information reports. These updates provide an overview of the changing circumstances around the work environment, financial implications, and operational restrictions that TRCA continues to face. These updates outlined TRCA's response through prevention, control, and recovery to manage the uncertain and constantly changing circumstances as part of the pandemic response. Below is a list of previous reports that have contained information regarding COVID-19 impacts and response:

- April 24, 2020 Presentation: *Board of Directors COVID-19 Briefing* – N. Blake
- April 24, 2020 Board Report: *2020 Budget* – M. Tolensky
- April 24, 2020 Board Report: *2020 Budgetary Update COVID19 Impact* – M. Tolensky
- April 24, 2020 Board Report: *TRCA Administrative Office Building Project* – M. Tolensky
- May 1, 2020 Executive Report: *2020 Three Month Financial Report* – M. Tolensky
- May 20, 2020 Regional Watershed Alliance: *TRCA Response to COVID-19* – V. Kramkowski
- May 22, 2020 Board Report: *TRCA Administrative Office Building Project* - M. Tolensky
- May 22, 2020 Board Report: *TRCA Enforcement and Compliance During COVID-19* - S. Dhalla
- June 26, 2020 Board Report: *COVID-19 Update* – M. Tolensky

Bill 195 received Royal Assent on July 21, 2020, ending the State of Emergency in Ontario, while continuing certain orders made under the Province's COVID-19 emergency legislation. All partner municipalities within TRCA's jurisdiction have now entered Stage 3 of the Framework for Reopening our Province. The health and safety of employees and the public continue to be TRCA's top priority. The Senior Leadership Team established TRCA's COVID-19 Recovery Playbook which lays the foundation for TRCA's staged approach to reopening, which directly aligns with the Provincial direction and their *Framework for Reopening our Province*. The Senior Leadership Team will continue to review Provincial directions to determine the course of action

on how to safely reopen elements of operations and move through our Recovery Playbook.

RATIONALE

The COVID-19 pandemic and Provincially declared emergency has resulted in closures of TRCA facilities as well as the cancellation of TRCA events and regularly scheduled programming. Continued restrictions have dramatically impacted TRCA's business models and associated revenues, primarily in the Education and Training and Parks and Culture Divisions. With the safety and wellbeing of employees and members of the public being the top priority for TRCA, procedures to mitigate risks for all staff. This includes alternative working arrangements for all staff with the ability to perform their duties from home. At this time, minimal impacts to business continuity related to working from home are anticipated.

TRCA will continue to follow provincial and municipal guidelines for public health and safe re-opening procedures. Across TRCA's vast service offerings, adjustments have been made to conventional operations – everything from sanitary protocols, health and safety protocols, social distancing protocols and fee adjustments – to allow for the gradual re-opening in accordance with the recovery playbook and government direction. The following addresses the major COVID-19 impacts on select TRCA service areas and employees:

Employee Redeployment

To mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on displaced employees, the Senior Leadership Team with Human Resources rolled out a robust Redeployment Program on April 8, 2020 to lessen the financial impact on employees resulting from COVID-19. All displaced employees were offered an opportunity to participate in TRCA's Redeployment Program. Human Resources received approximately 14% uptake in participating in the program with twelve displaced employees successfully being temporarily redeployed to other TRCA positions. A second call out to displaced employees for redeployment opportunities was issued May 26, 2020 which resulted in a much smaller interest rate of approximately 2%. Human Resources reviewed redeployment displacement opportunities and 2 to 3 individuals were placed in these second round redeployment roles.

Employee Reskilling

Employees have been organically participating in reskilling through the support of their supervisors to address skills gaps and meet ongoing operational needs. This exercise has increased the transferrable skills of our workforce, while mitigating impacts resulting from COVID-19. Organic reskilling has enabled the Senior Leadership Team to keep displacement at a level having the least impact on staff and operations, while remaining fiscally prudent in workforce budgeting.

Water Risk Management and Regional Biodiversity

For those staff performing field work, additional protocols have been put in place including additional required communication, awareness and required training; personal hygiene and illness monitoring; general safety procedures, vehicle usage and fueling protocols; safety standards for working around the general public and all contractors and deliveries; as well as additional safety meetings and document Management.

Greenspace Securement and Management

TRCA originally closed all parking lots at trail head locations on March 30, 2020 to minimize the opportunity for social gatherings and transmission of the virus. All green spaces in parks, trails, ravines, and conservation areas remained open for walkthrough access only with instructions to users to maintain the safe physical distance of at least two meters from others as per the

Provincial directives. Additional signage was installed at all parking lot entrances, and trail access points which included standard information regarding ways to reduce exposure and transmission of the virus. TRCA began to reopen parking lots at trail head locations on May 22, 2020. Protocols will continue to be updated in alignment with Provincial directives and partner municipality guidelines.

Tourism and Recreation

Effective Saturday, May 30, 2020 TRCA opened Conservation Areas and parking lots for passive use, walking, and hiking without access to any additional facilities. Glen Haffy, Albion Hills, Heart Lake, Boyd, Bruce's Mill and Petticoat Creek Conservation Areas are open to members of the public, for paid access. Senior Leadership Team made the decision to open these facilities without full media recognition to limit the number of visitors to these facilities. Health and safety protocols and procedures have been established for staff working in the conservation areas including personal hygiene and illness monitoring; general safety procedures and required personal protective equipment, vehicle usage and fueling protocols; safety standards for working around the general public; as well as additional safety meetings and document Management. Protocols have also been established around the management and cleanliness of washroom facilities within Conservation Parks. These protocols are aligned to partner municipality guidelines. TRCA suspended the opening of water recreational facilities, such as outdoor splash pads, wading pools, and swimming pools, for the 2020 season. TRCA will continue to work with partner municipalities to develop potential protocols that will be required to ensure the safety of staff and public.

All third-party agreements, partnerships, and events including filming contracts and Tree Top Trekking, were on hold with operations being limited due to the Provincial directives. This has had a significant impact on revenues which is forecasted to continue throughout the remainder of 2020 while restrictions are still in place. As of September, under Phase three Provincial regulations, film and television production activities have once again begun to pick up. Partners such as Tree Top Trekking also were able to open in Heart Lake and Bruce's Mill Conservation Areas Limited YMCA camps were also able to begin. All of these partnerships have been operating successfully although at far lower than normal capacity due to distancing requirements.

It is clear that the general public greatly appreciates all the services which are open in Conservation Parks.

Camping

Initiated in early May, in accordance with Provincial criteria being met, seasonal camping was opened for those users that do not have alternative residence in Canada and could provide their own access to utilities. Once the protocols surrounding the management and cleanliness of facilities was established, TRCA campgrounds for short-term users reopened on August 7, 2020. This included re-opening washrooms, but not showers, pools or laundry facilities which remain closed.

Golf Course

On May 23, 2020 following a Provincial announcement regarding the opening of golf courses, Bathurst Glen Golf Course and Driving Range, along with Bruce's Mill Driving Range were opened in a phased manner with reduced hours and staffing. Following this successful reopening and utilizing the additional training and health and safety protocols that were put in place, both facilities have since been open with full seasonal hours. As with Parks, the demand for golf has reached record numbers this year as the public have sought healthy recreational

activities outdoors.

Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV) - Public Use

BCPV opened to the public on August 8th for 5 days/week (Wednesday-Sunday) from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in August and on fall weekends, and for pre-booked tours on fall weekdays. Moving forward, staff are continuing to explore ways to maintain the health and safety of staff and visitors while increasing offerings such as picnics, where all visitors will be required to sign-in for tracking purposes; and byPeterandPauls.com which is exploring a gradual reopening with restrictions for events and weddings to ensure alignment with provincial and corporate guidelines.

Planning and Development Review

Development and Engineering Services staff quickly adapted to the COVID-19 environment to maintain business continuity by requiring and receiving applications and supporting documents in an electronic format. The Division along with Policy Planning Division working with Human Resources staff also adopted modified site visit protocols with strict safety measures to allow work including field stakings to continue. Based on current workload, revenue targets for Planning and Development are anticipated to meet 2020 targets.

Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach staff have developed flexible reopening plans designed to meet varying visitation levels, in addition to COVID-19 Mitigation Plans and revised Health and Safety procedures. Staff have prepared for all scenarios to ensure the safety of visitors and are prepared to adapt to low visitation at the facilities. In order to adapt programming and visitation, Kortright re-opened for visitors August 8, 2020 for reserved self-guided Day Use and reserved guided programs, with enrollment for early years programs and The Nature School at Kortright seeing significant interest. Plans are underway to accommodate the safe delivery of a number of fall and winter events at Kortright, including Kreepy Kortright and Magical Christmas Forest, along with other smaller nature-based events, to continue to engage the community in the programs and activities at the Kortright Centre.

To adapt to current levels of uncertainty, particularly within the formal education system, over the past several months TRCA has initiated alternative programming and delivery methods as a means of adapting business operations to the changing circumstances while continuing to stay relevant. This includes inviting participants to take part in TRCA's #AtHomeWithNature and #VillageAtHome series on Facebook, along with several other home-based family activities, live interactive workshops, learning modules for students, and online exhibits.

The following are representative examples of these adapted programs:

Virtual Aquatic Plants Program

The Aquatic Plants Program (APP) is being adapted to a curriculum-linked, hands-on educational experience offered at no charge to teachers and students. Participating teachers will receive e-learning resources to share with their students through online classroom platforms like Google Classroom. Teachers will also have opportunity to receive native plant seeds for them to grow or share with their students. Once mature, participants are invited to transplant their plants into their backyard, balcony, or windowsill.

Pre-Booked Public Programs (You Come To Us)

TRCA is offering guided, pre-booked nature and cultural heritage experiences for small

Item 8.2

groups within the same social or family bubble. Highlighting the unique ecological and heritage assets of TRCA, these programs will be delivered at TRCA sites in compliance with provincial health directives. Opportunities (examples) include:

- Guided nature hike of the Kortright Centre
- Guided tour of Black Creek Pioneer Village
- Personalized canoe tour of Lake St. George
- Mountain bike excursion at Albion Hills CA
- Campfire at Claremont Field Centre

Virtual At Home Camps

TRCA has provided daily pre-booked virtual camp experiences covering a range of topics. Camp sessions will provide programming from unique natural and cultural heritage learning centres (Kortright, Black Creek, Tommy Thompson Park, Field Centres) that engages children and families in interactive activities. Participating families will receive tailored resources for home activities. This model is being adapted for use with classes upon the safe return to school.

BCPV also adapted their education programming through the creation of several well received home-based alternative activities and offerings including:

- Virtual camps and activities created in partnership with environmental educators at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority creating a unique way to explore the cultural and natural heritage of the region;
- Workshops and activities for participants to complete at home, including 19th century recipes;
- Online exhibits featuring rarely seen items from the collection of artifacts showcasing the history of the Toronto region; and
- Virtual “field trips” for classes with grade-specific educational activities launching in fall 2020.

Sustainable Communities

With physical distancing requirements in place, all regularly scheduled events and in-person meetings have either been cancelled or adapted for a virtual audience. This includes Partner in Project Green, SNAP, and the TRIECA conference (March) which is being adapted to online events (31 in total) that feature webinars and online resources rather than an in-person conference. Many of the community and industry focused programs have adapted to allow for an online presence and learning opportunities, minimizing the impacts to business continuity.

Corporate Services

With the safety and wellbeing of employees and members of the public being the top priority for TRCA, procedures to mitigate risks have been developed for all Corporate Services staff. This includes alternative working arrangements for all staff with the ability to perform their duties from home. TRCA’s Health and Safety Specialist is facilitating the bulk purchasing of COVID-19 related personal protective equipment (PPE) on behalf of the organization. Health and Safety is continuing to work in partnership with Procurement Services and key representatives from each division to identify needs and distribute supplies appropriately to ensure that all safety protocols can be followed using the required resources.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models **Strategy 10 – Accelerate innovation**

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Since March 2020, staff have continued to track the year to date impacts of the COVID-19 restrictions on TRCA's revenues to adjust and appropriately scale ongoing operations. This is inclusive of generating and revising the financial forecasts for the remainder of 2020 to facilitate related operational decisions. As previously reported 169 staff were placed on emergency leave in April with 12 staff being redeployed and nine (9) returning to their base position to date. As of September 1, 2020, 68 staff were on emergency leave and it is expected that these numbers will remain fluid for some time.

Moving forward, staff will continue to prepare these reports and forecasts as the restrictions are adjusted and operations begin to reopen. As noted in the April 24, 2020 Board Report entitled '2020 Budgetary Update COVID-19 Impact', TRCA's 2020 budgeted operating revenues were anticipated to drop more than \$20 million due to prolonged COVID-19 restrictions. In this worst-case scenario, TRCA staff anticipated that the organization's non-core undertakings would be severely impacted, due to their inability to generate revenue from non-governmental sources. TRCA will also maintain ongoing communications with partner municipalities to ensure that the impacts continue to be reported accordingly.

ONGOING WORK

The Human Resources team established TRCA's COVID-19 Recovery Playbook that the Senior Leadership Team has developed and is in the process of implementing. The Playbook lays the foundation for TRCA's staged approach to reopening its offices and facilities, which directly aligns with the Provincial direction and their Framework for Reopening the Province. The Playbook details the criteria that TRCA will utilize on this staged recovery approach and highlights the agility of the Recovery Playbook to be able to adapt to changing legislative and public health recommendations and requirements during this period of transition. The Playbook also provides flexibility to address any future COVID-19 outbreaks which may necessitate TRCA reverting to previous stages to manage.

As outlined in the COVID-19 Recovery Playbook, each corporate division is required to implement a staggered return plan, aligned to each of the facilities plan to ensure employees are adhering to physical distancing requirements. This plan is required to ensure adherence to recommendations, requirements and as a means of risk reduction. The divisional plans will need to determine which employees are required to return to work immediately and those who may gradually be brought back. Consideration around the reopening of schools, daycare centers and other priority services will influence the timelines around reopening and the return of staff to the office.

TRCA's Human Resources team will continue to lead the monitoring of public health, legislative changes, and partner municipality practices to ensure TRCA is legislatively compliant, and has adopted the most current public health requirements and recommendations, and is aligned to our partners. Environmental scanning and best practice reviews will continue with our peer conservation authorities, municipalities, not-for-profits, and related associations. This will ensure the sharing of information and alignment of practices with peers and partners. Additionally, TRCA will continue to review and update TRCA's Pandemic Flu and Infectious Illness Policy as required.

Additionally, a report on the financial implications of COVID-19 on the organization will be

Item 8.2

included in the Six-Month Financial Report which is scheduled to be provided to the Executive Committee in September 2020. Over the final six months of the year and looking out to a modified operating landscape, which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, TRCA's Senior Leadership Team is actively working to mitigate the continued financial impacts of COVID-19 and adapt the organization's programming and facilities. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, the health and safety of our staff and stakeholders remains at the forefront of our operational decision-making. Additional work is being undertaken, primarily through Education and Outreach, with support of the Education Task Force, to strengthen the relationships that may result in fee for service agreements with agencies, professional organizations and School Boards. Staff will continue to monitor the financial health of the organization and report to the Board of Directors and TRCA's partner municipalities on the impacts of COVID-19.

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