

Items for the Action of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #1/20, Wednesday, March 04, 2020

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **BOLTON CAMP REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

Update to the Regional Watershed Alliance on activities related to the redevelopment of Bolton Camp in Caledon, Ontario.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff continue to engage the Regional Watershed Alliance in the redevelopment of Bolton Camp in order to share information through member networks and solicit input on relevant Bolton Camp projects and program activities;

AND FURTHER THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff be directed to incorporate Regional Watershed Alliance input into informing Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, stakeholder and partner planning and programming at Bolton Camp, including the Town of Caledon, Region of Peel and other community partners.

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #5/10, held on June 25, 2010, Resolution #A102/10 was approved, in part, as follows:

THAT a partial taking containing 105.6 hectares (260.91 acres), more or less, consisting of an irregular shaped parcel of land improved with in excess of 30 buildings and a private water system and sewage system including two sewage lagoons, said lands being Part of Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Concession 8, Albion, Town of Caledon, in the Regional Municipality of Peel, municipally known as 13540-13650 Caledon-King Townline South, be purchased from the Hi-Lands of Bolton Corp.;...

Opened in 1922 as a Fresh Air Camp, Bolton Camp provided experiences for mothers with small children, along with boys and girls from low income families in the City of Toronto for over 75 years. While the Camp in 1999, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) acquired the property in 2011 and undertook a process for developing a community-led vision for a renewed Bolton Camp. As developed by the community activities proposed for Bolton Camp include sports fields, a recreation hall/community hub, pool, green fitness equipment, yoga classes, running clinics, an outdoor community kitchen, tree-top tours/canopy tours, ropes courses, theatre and art spaces, retail or market space and outdoor classrooms/collaboration and innovation spaces, amongst others.

In order to facilitate the ongoing development of Bolton Camp, significant infrastructure upgrades have been required. This phase one work includes operational requirements such as site servicing (water, sewer, hydro), a new entrance and internal roadways, parking lots and bridge replacement. This work commenced in 2017 with anticipated completion in 2020.

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Following completion of the site infrastructure, social and community infrastructure restoration will commence, including retrofitting the former recreation hall building and outdoor pool into an accessible and inclusive community recreation complex. TRCA has completed detailed design for the redevelopment and revitalization of the former gymnasium and swimming pool, with a goal of establishing a community hub and accessible swimming facility that meets the needs of local and regional residents.

The following is a summary of 2019 and 2020 construction activities at Bolton Camp:

2019 Construction Activities

- Finalized design for the Recreational Hall and Swimming Pool
- Obtained building permits for Recreational Hall and Swimming Pool
- Tendered and commencement of construction of the water/wastewater municipal servicing (completion in February 2020)

2020 Construction Deliverables

- Obtain Amendment to Site Plan Approval for Recreational Hall and Swimming Pool major renovations.
- Complete the construction of the water/wastewater municipal servicing
- Tender and commence with King-Caledon Townline road widening and new entrance
- Tender and commence with Recreational Hall and Swimming Pool construction
- Tender installation of internal roadways and parking lots

The following is a summary of 2019 and planned 2020 program and community learning activities at Bolton Camp:

2019 Program Activities

- Hosted and engaged stakeholders or community members in on-site events and programs related to baseball diamond, education initiatives and recreational opportunities
 - Haunted Hill Run event held October 2019
 - Phase 1 of the Discovery Garden implementation was held in October 2019
 - Cedar “tickle” maze completed – installation of 80 trees
 - Planting of 1000 pollinator plants in garden boxes and surrounding area
 - Placing of four cardinal direction stones for gathering area
- Training and employment opportunities for Indigenous Youth as part of Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag program
 - Hired 7 Indigenous Youth as part of the program
- Education and training opportunities for volunteers participating in Girls Can Too program
 - 46 participants – 1380 learner hours completed
- Training and employment opportunities for post-secondary students interested in green infrastructure and ecological conservation
 - Hired three crew leads to assist exclusively with Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag program and one additional crew lead to work with Indigenous Youth program as well as Girls Can Too

2020 Planned Program Activities

- Provide mentorship, training, and hands-on or experiential learning opportunities for youth (i.e. Girls Can Too program)

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- Host and engage stakeholders or community members in various events related to Bolton Camp redevelopment including site tours, information sessions, open houses and movie nights
- Host and engage schools and program partners (i.e. Caledon Challenger Program) to utilize the Bolton Camp site to deliver on-site programming
- Work with various internal staff and external stakeholders to facilitate the redevelopment plans for Bolton Camp
- Provide training, education, and employment opportunities for Indigenous Youth

RATIONALE

To realize the Bolton Camp vision, TRCA is developing partnerships with various like-minded community groups and organizations, including that developed in 2018 with the Town of Caledon and Bolton Braves for the purpose of establishing a Challenger Baseball program in Caledon. This partnership has resulted in improved access to baseball programs for people of all abilities through the creation of an accessible baseball diamond at Bolton Camp. Discussions are advancing with local organizations regarding potential service delivery partnerships that will support the operations of the recreation complex and swimming pool that supports capacity building within the partner organizations while also meeting the needs of local residents.

A key, and unique, aspect of the Bolton Camp plan is to allow and support a wide range of business models, including social enterprises, co-operatives, not-for profits, and others, that provide youth, community members, service club and local entrepreneurs the opportunity to take an active role in creating, developing and implementing programs, services and activities, while improving employment and economic outcomes in the region.

Additionally, TRCA continues to seek input and feedback from all segments of the community to ensure that Bolton Camp facilities and programs are reflective of the needs of watershed residents. As such, the Regional Watershed Alliance is an important venue to seek input on the proposed uses and activities for Bolton Camp, in addition to exploring new opportunities and ideas for animating this important community space.

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 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

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