

### Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Board of Directors  
Meeting #6/20, Friday, September 25, 2020

**FROM:** Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

**RE:** **ETOBICOKE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE**  
Update on Expression of Interest for Alternative Uses

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#### KEY ISSUE

Update on the results of the Expression of Interest undertaken to explore alternative uses for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre, located in Claireville Conservation Area.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) completed a Request for Expressions of Interest to explore alternative uses for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre, located in Claireville Conservation Area, Brampton;

**AND WHEREAS** the Request for Expressions of Interest that was circulated did not receive any proposals from potential interested parties;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** TRCA continue to explore additional avenues to secure an alternative use for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre;

**AND FURTHER THAT** TRCA staff report back to the Board of Directors in 2021 on any potential uses being considered for the site;

#### BACKGROUND

At Board of Directors Meeting #8/19, held on September 27, 2019, Resolution #A160/19 was approved, in part, as follows:

*WHEREAS TRCA provides greenspace for the purposes of out-of-classroom natural science learning experiences to school boards, as enabled under Section 197 of the Education Act (R.S.O 1990), through formal lease agreements;*

*WHEREAS Toronto District School Board provided written notice on July 3, 2019 to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority of the closure of the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre, effective August 31, 2019;*

*THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT a Request for Expressions of Interest be undertaken to explore alternative uses for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre;*

*THAT TRCA staff provide a report to the January 24, 2020 Board of Directors meeting on the results of the Request for Expressions of Interest;*

Effective August 31, 2019, the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre building and environs previously under lease to Toronto District School Board (TDSB) reverted to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

## Item 8.9

This two-story facility is in good condition and offers much to potential proponents given its location, and layout itself including classrooms and offices on the main and second floor with an additional classroom and storage in the basement level. TRCA utilizes a separate portion of the lower level of the facility for program equipment and file storage.

A Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for future use of the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre was prepared by TRCA staff. The EOI was first circulated to internal TRCA business units to determine if there was any TRCA use of the building for the delivery of education/park programming. The internal distribution did not solicit any interest.

During the latter part of 2019 and early 2020 TRCA Government and Community Relations staff had several discussions with the City of Brampton staff regarding the vacant Etobicoke Field Studies Centre and Claireville Conservation Area as a whole, and any potential uses that the City of Brampton would be interested in undertaking or partnering on with TRCA. Accordingly, as a second step in the EOI process the EOI was circulated to City of Brampton staff for their review and internal discussion.

The City of Brampton met with TRCA to discuss the Claireville Conservation Area partnership opportunity. The City of Brampton staff shared the EOI with the City of Brampton Leadership Team in Recreation. Unfortunately due to the great deal of uncertainty around how the City of Brampton Recreation Team would be able to program their own operated facilities due to the COVID-19 impact, they were not able to bid for a new program site at the Claireville Conservation Area and therefor did not respond to the EOI.

Finally, TRCA posted the EOI on Biddingo.com, a government contract portal. On September 4, 2020, the submission opportunity closed on Biddingo.com, without any proposals received.

### **RATIONALE**

To ensure future use of the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre, TRCA staff are proposing to explore additional avenues, and revisit partnership opportunities, to secure a user for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre.

### **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**

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

Until a new tenant is secured, TRCA is responsible for building maintenance, security and alarm expenses, utility expenses (heating, hydro and water), snow removal expenses and other state-of-good-repair costs, estimated at \$25,000 annually.

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**Date: September 10, 2020**