



RIVER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Held Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
In the Classroom, Town Hall

PRESENT:	C. Dali	
	B. Wills	
	M. Lewis	
	E. Holley	
	D. Arsenault	
	J. Ruttan	
	A. Barcham	O.P.P. Marine Unit Rep.
	K. Lalonde	Director of Public Works
ABSENT:	David Wilde	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Committee declared no Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest.

Mr. Wills initiated discussion related to the recent river bank erosion at Woodland Drive. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Lalonde informed Committee that information relative to the infrastructure works completed in July 2013 was provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for their information. It was noted that the MNR continue to investigate and have since fenced the area due to safety concerns and placed a notice on-line and in the local newspaper.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Committee was asked if they had any questions regarding the November 26, 2015 River Resources Committee report. Committee had no comments and report was accepted.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS – N/A

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Co-ordination of a Depth Sounding/River Cruise with Committee Members – *RR-August 12, 2015.*

Committee confirmed that the spring depth sounding will take place on May 11th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Members will meet at Sturgeon Point Marina.

Mr. Holley informed Committee that a pontoon boat will be made available for the river inspection.

b) Status Report from O.P.P.-RR-August 12, 2015. (Andrew Barcham, O.P.P. Marine Unit Representative will be present for questions)

Mr. Barcham provided a map including coordinates depicting limits whereby the maximum speed of 50 km/hr applies to the river per Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations. It was noted that the limits extend from the bay at the mouth of the river to a point adjacent to Jack's Lake.

Mr. Barcham briefly outlined an example of a Boat Safety Brochure (Rideau Canal) for information, noting the reference to contacting the area OPP Marine Unit.

Mr. Barcham reviewed the OPP Marine Plan and last year's statistics, which were subsequently received.

It was confirmed that the established schedule for the Marine Unit will include every Saturday and Sunday during summer weekends, as well as Mondays on Long Weekends. It was also noted that events scheduled for mid-week could also be accommodated as well, together with emergency situations.

Statistics show that most complaints/accidents occur on Saturdays and Sundays during peak times between noon and 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Barcham stated that 300 Marine hours are anticipated for 2016.

It was also noted that Constable Mark Kinney from the O.P.P. will be responsible for issuing media releases and promoting Marine and ATV Safety messages.

Additional speed signs were requested adjacent to the boat launches to help remind boaters of the 50 km/hr speed limit. K. Lalonde indicated that surplus signs are available in stock and will be installed this spring. Coordination will be required with the MNR to have one installed at the boat launch on the point.

Discussion ensued with respect to licensing requirements for commercial business operators along the river. It was suggested that Doug Vincent, Senior Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer be asked to speak at a future meeting as it relates to the issuance of Town Business Licenses along the river. K. Lalonde to follow up with D. Vincent.

Any Marine incidents or Police Assistance required, are to be called into the O.P.P. Police Boat cell number is 705-790-0841. VHF-Sarnia (No longer Thunder Bay). It was then;

MOVED BY MIKE LEWIS
SECONDED BY DAVE ARSENAULT

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01-01

RESOLVED THAT the River Resources Advisory Committee does hereby receive the 2015 Status Report from the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) dated January 5th, 2016, for information.

CARRIED

c) Nottawasaga River/Watercourse Protection By-law to be communicated to the public to increase awareness with a notice in the newspaper by the Town's Communications Officer *RR-November 26, 2015.*

It was confirmed that upwards of 10,000 copies of the Watercourse Protection By-law and Brochure were issued in residents' tax bill last fall.

It was recommended that the Town establish a link on the Town's website specific to the Nottawasaga River. K. Lalonde will follow up with IT Department to confirm what opportunities exist.

d) 'Smart and Safe Boating on the Nottawasaga River' Brochure – *RR-November 26, 2015.*

J. Ruttan prepared and presented a draft of the proposed 'Safe & Smart Boating Guide On the Nottawasaga River', including review of the old brochure that used to be circulated several years ago.

Committee Members commended J. Ruttan on the preparation of this excellent document and resource.

Members will review and provide comments within the next two (2) weeks, such that the final Brochure can be issued this spring/summer.

Locations and businesses where the brochure will be available is to be confirmed in advance of circulation.

A. Barcham noted that the OPP can assist with circulation and public education.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Kevin Lalonde, Director of Public Works will present a brief summary of the Town of Wasaga Beach proposed work plan of items pertaining to the Nottawasaga River in 2016.

K. Lalonde provided an update to Committee with respect to the proposed barge operations this season, noting that the barge was recently launched on Tuesday. Discussion ensued.

K. Lalonde also provided an update respect to the status of the Nottawasaga River Dredging Environmental Assessment.

- b) Review the Township of Georgian Bay's recent MOTION C-83-2016, adopted by their Council on Monday, March 14, 2016 for the proposed Enforcement of "No Wake" Zones and their written request for all municipalities to endorse a proposed amendment to the Canada Shipping Act, 2001.**

Committee members noted that this has been a topic of discussion for many years. Discussion ensued with respect to the posted speed limit of the Nottawasaga River.

It was;

MOVED BY CHUCK DALI
SECONDED BY BOB WILLIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01-02

RESOLVED THAT the River Resources Advisory Committee does hereby receive the correspondence from the Township of Georgian Bay regarding enforcement of "No Wake" Zones, dated April 7, 2016, for information.

CARRIED

- c) Water level at the Nottawasaga River mouth was reported to measure less than 4ft or 1.2m in April 2016. River Resources Committee to discuss the safety of marine navigation and recommendation thereof to the municipal installation of red/green channel markers/buoys OR the installation of "DANGER – Shallow Waters – No Marked Channel" signage in this area.**

J. Ruttan presented the results from his recent paddle-boarding experience at the mouth of the river and shared satellite imagery, together with GPS tracking of the mouth, including existing shoreline and point formation. Depths were also recorded and noted that depths at the mouth of the river exceeded four (4) feet.

Discussion ensued with respect to the placement of signage and channel markers. It was confirmed that DANGER signage is not warranted when channel depths exceed four (4) feet.

K. Lalonde noted that Members are encouraged to share any comments or concerns with the placement of the markers during the season as adjustments can certainly be made accordingly. Last season, depths were marginal, but the width of the channel was narrower than year's past. It was noted that Public Works presence on the river on a weekly basis is dependent on the conditions and depths, as the river is dynamic and adjustments may be required with channel alignment.

- d) Town of Wasaga Beach event staff, Angela Webster confirmed the wakeboarding component of the Monster Energy Center of Gravity (MECOG) event August 19th – 21st 2016 will NOT be operating within the Nottawasaga River. Therefore there is no concern for River Resources Advisory Committee to request a review of proposed event operations on the Nottawasaga River related to marine navigation and safe passage.**

J. Ruttan confirmed that the MECOG event planned for August 19th to 21st is not proposed to take place on the river. It was confirmed that a winch-type system and a man-made track on

the beach will be constructed as part of the event. Discussion ensued with respect to the challenges faced during past river-related events, including wakeboarding, that were held.

It was recommended that any future river-related events be circulated to the River Resources Committee for comment, as experience gained and lessons learned from previous events could be communicated to the event organizers. K. Lalonde will provide notice to the Special Events Coordinator.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- a) Review of the River Resources Advisory Committees depth soundings from spring 2016. Water depths as recorded within the primary boating section of the Nottawasaga River.**

A date has been scheduled with available Committee Members for next Thursday, May 11th, 2016 at 10:00am, weather permitting. Members will meet at Sturgeon Point Marina.

- b) Potential creation of sub-committees for members of the River Resources Advisory Committee. Sub-committees will include voluntary positions to research and report for further discussion on items pertaining to safety, preservation and improvement of the Nottawasaga River.**

J. Ruttan noted that this item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

- c) Review final draft of ‘Smart and Safe Boating on the Nottawasaga River’ Brochure – RR-November 26, 2015. (If resolution is completed by River Resources Advisory Committee, brochure will be provided to municipality for municipal approval).**

J. Ruttan circulated copies of the draft Brochure to all in attendance, requesting comments within the next two (2) weeks, such that the Brochure can be finalized and issued this spring/summer.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be May 19th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.