



**TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**REMOTE MEETING**

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Call to Order by the Mayor	6:45p.m. Pages
Roll Call by the Municipal Clerk	
1. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest (if any) in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act	
2. Delegations	
Tim Cronin, President, Mark Koenig, First Vice President and Brian Cunningham, Secretary, The Paradise and District Lions Club re: Lions Park St. Clements <i>Recommendation:</i> That the Council of the Township of Wellesley accept Tim Cronin, Mark Koenig and Brian Cunningham as delegations.	
3. Recreation Committee	
Chair: Herb Neher	
I. Minutes from the previous meeting	
<a href="#">Rec. 6/21</a> – Minutes of the Previous Meeting – March 16, 2021	1 - 4
<i>Recommendation:</i> The minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 16, 2021 be approved as presented.	
II. Service Board Reports	
III. Staff Reports	
IV. Director Update	
I. <a href="#">Accounts/Financial Statement</a>	5
4. Planning & Development Committee	
Chair: Peter van der Maas	
5. Road & Bridge Committee	
Chair: Shelley Wagner	
6. Property & Fire Committee	
Chair: Carl Smit	
7. Administration/Finance & Personnel Committee	
Chair: Joe Nowak	
<a href="#">A./F.&amp; P. 11/21</a> – Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society – Budget from Koehler Estate Historical Fund – Motion Required	6 - 8
<a href="#">A./F.&amp; P. 12/21</a> – Alternate Voting Method – 2022 Municipal and School Board Election – Motion Required	9 - 11



**TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**REMOTE MEETING**

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[For Information Agenda](#)

12 - 20

8. Unfinished Business

9. Other Business

10. Closed Session

11. Next Meetings:

Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting	May 11, 2021	6:45pm
Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting	June 8, 2021	6:45pm

12. Adjournment

*Recommendation:* That the Committee of the Whole meeting does now adjourn.

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March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
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The meeting was called to order by the Mayor.

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest (if any) in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act:** Declaration of Interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. – None Declared.

Roll Call was conducted by the Municipal Clerk, Grace Kosch with the following members of Council present:

Mayor Nowak; Councillor Neher; Councillor van der Maas; Councillor Wagner  
Councillor Smit

And the following members of staff were present:

Chief Administration Officer, Rik Louwagie; Chief Building Official, Darryl Denny;  
Director of Public Works, Chris Cook; Director of Recreation, Danny Roth; Planner,  
Geoff VanderBaaren; Acting Treasurer, Fiona Gilbert; ~~Fire Chief, Paul Redman~~, and  
Municipal Clerk, Grace Kosch

And the follow Recreation Committee Advisory Chair members present:

Linwood Recreation Committee Chair, Lori Sebben; Heidelberg Recreation Committee  
Chair, Bev Baechler;

## **Delegations**

### **Recreation Committee**

Chair: Herb Neher

#### **I. Minutes from the previous meeting**

Rec. 5/21 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting – February 16, 2021

1 Moved by: Peter van der Maas - Seconded by: Carl Smit

The minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting held February 16, 2021 be approved as presented.

*Carried*

#### **II. Service Board Reports**

##### **Heidelberg**

- Successful ice rink – thank you
- Easter egg hunt – colouring in window – 3 different prizes
- Encouraging to pick up garbage on their route – extra prize

##### **Wellesley**

- No report

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St. Clements

- No report

Linwood

- Nothing to report

Hawkesville

- No report

III. Staff Reports

IV. Director Update

- We are still currently under the Red Control Zone which does not allow for game play to happen in the Wellesley Arena. The minor groups using the arena are working within those guidelines for their programs. The last day of ice will be April 11.
- The 4x4 utility vehicle was purchased and came in under budget.
- The road sign in Linwood has been damaged, and I will have a report coming to the April committee meeting with some ideas for new signage there and at a few other facilities to match the current signage we have at the arena's and Council Chambers.
- The Paradise and District Lions club will be making a presentation to Council next month about a proposed new walking trail through Lions Park in St. Clements.
- The RFP for the Wellesley Township Recreation Complex is being worked on and we are hopeful to have it out to contractors soon.
- We have not heard from the provincial government if the roof project for the St. Clements arena has been approved yet.

V. Accounts/Financial Statement

Planning & Development Committee

Chair: Peter van der Maas

- 2 P. & D. 5/21 – Demolition Agreement for 4540 Lawson Line, RR3 Wallenstein  
Moved by: Shelley Wagner - Seconded by: Herb Neher  
That the Council of the Township of Wellesley authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a demolition agreement as attached for lands being identified as 4540 Lawson Line owned by Edwin and Rebecca Hoover. unanimous

*Carried*

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Road & Bridge Committee

Chair: Shelley Wagner

Property & Fire Committee

Chair: Carl Smit

Administration/Finance & Personnel Committee

Chair: Joe Nowak

- 3 A./F.& P. 8/21 – Property Tax Rebate for Registered Charities – 2020  
Moved by: Peter van der Maas - Seconded by: Carl Smit  
That the Council of the Township of Wellesley approve a charitable rebate of property taxes for the 2020 taxation year in the amount of \$5,287.64 for the Woolwich Community Health Centre. unanimous

*Carried*

- 4 A./F.& P. 9/21 – Kennel Application of Edwin & Tina Bauman, 3972 Ament Line, Wallenstein  
Moved by: Herb Neher - Seconded by: Carl Smit  
That the Council of the Township of Wellesley approve the Kennel Application of Edwin & Tina BAUMAN, 3972 Ament Line, Wallenstein

*Carried*

Councillor Wagner and van der Maas questioned the applicant regarding breeding and veterinary services with Mr. Bauman responding.

Recorded vote requested by: Shelley Wagner

**In Favour**

Joe Nowak

Herb Neher

Carl Smit

**Opposed**

Shelley Wagner

Peter van der Maas

Motion has passed 3 – 2 in favour of the application

- 5 For Information Agenda  
Moved by: - Seconded by:  
That the information items be received as presented.

*Carried*

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Council members extended congratulations to Amy Harron for the successful completion of the Municipal Administration Program (MAP).

Unfinished Business

Other Business

Closed Session

Next Meetings:

Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting	April 13, 2021	6:45pm
Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting	May 11, 2021	6:45pm

- 6 On the motion from Shelley Wagner the Committee of the Whole Meeting does now adjourn at 7:09pm.

**WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMITTEE****April 13, 2021****Financial Information:****5% Fund** –

Balance as of March 31, 2021	<i>1-2-2010-9950</i>	\$339,278.33
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**Recreation Reserve Funds** – *1-2-2000-9700 + 1-2-2000-9705*

Balance as of March 31, 2021		<b>\$ 435,526.77</b>
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Recreation Administration		\$ 22,500.00
Recreation Equipment		\$ 112,500.00
Hawkesville Capital Projects		\$ 10,000.00
Linwood Capital Projects		\$ 50,000.00
St. Clements Capital Projects		\$ 0.00
Wellesley Capital Projects		\$ 0.00

Remaining Balance in Reserve		<b>\$ 240,526.77</b>
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**Fundraising Reserves** –

Balances as of March 31, 2021

Hawkesville Fundraising Reserve	<i>1-2-2015-9780</i>	\$ 22,750.37
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<i>(Minus Potential Commitments \$10,000 for C.C.)</i>	=	<b>\$ 12,750.37</b>
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St. Clements Fundraising Reserve	<i>1-2-2015-9750</i>	<b>\$ 15,355.50</b>
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Wellesley Fundraising Reserve	<i>1-2-2015-9765</i>	<b>\$ 59,272.94</b>
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Linwood Fundraising Reserve	<i>1-2-2015-9775</i>	<b>\$ 23,922.96</b>
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**Administration/Finance & Personnel**  
File No.: 11/2021

# ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT

**To:** Council

**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2021

**Prepared by:** Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk

**Date Prepared:** March 29, 2021

**Subject:** Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society – Budget from Koehler Estate Historical Fund

## **Recommendation:**

That the Council of the Township of Wellesley approve the 2021 Budget for the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society (WTHHS); and further,

That the Council of the Township of Wellesley authorize payment of the curator's wages and benefits of approximately \$5,200.00 to be funded from the Koehler Estate Historical Fund; and further,

That the Council of the Township of Wellesley accept the resignation of Nancy Maitland as the Chair of WTHHS and accept Karolyn Fournier as the new Chair for the remainder of the 2018-2022 term.

## **Summary:**

In July 2007 the Estate of the Late Jack Koehler provided a bequest to the Township of Wellesley to be dealt with for the purposes of the Wellesley Historical Society. Since that time, the funds have been held in trust with the Township of Wellesley in a bank account separate from the Township of Wellesley General Operating account and drawn upon from time to time to fund both the curator's wages and various historical society projects and expenses. The funds are currently held in a GIC and the bank account. The balance of the fund as of March 29, 2021 was \$300,000 in the GIC and \$49,290.30 in the bank account. The proposed budget for the WTHHS is \$1,240.00 plus the curator's wages and benefits.

## **Report:**

The Koehler Estate Historical Fund holds a total of \$349,290.30 in trust to be dealt with for the purposes of the WTHHS. This fund currently earns interest in excess of \$6,300 per annum. The 2020 expenses paid from the Koehler Estate Historical Fund were \$6,023.81 and included the curator's wages and benefits.



File No.: 11/2021

The proposed budget for the WTHHS is \$1,240.00 plus the curator's wages and benefits which will be funded from the balance in the Historical Society Deposit Account and the interest earned from the Koehler Estate Historical Fund. Additional interest earned by the Fund is held in trust for future use.

<b>Budget</b>		<b>2021 Expenses</b>
Historical Society Deposit Account Opening Balance	\$1,737.65	
Office/Admin		\$200.00
Display		\$250.00
Membership (WHS)		\$30.00
Subscriptions		\$0.00
Acquisitions		\$150.00
Acid Free Supplies		\$500.00
Fall Fair Prizes		\$0.00
Public Meeting/Workshop		\$0.00
Web Site Hosting (Bi-Annual)		\$75.00
Domain Name (Bi-Annual)		\$35.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,737.65</b>	<b>\$1,240.00</b>

On December 14, 2020, the Chair of the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society Committee, Nancy Maitland stepped down as Chair and will continue to work as the curator for the Township of Wellesley. By-law /2019 #4 states:

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wellesley may, by resolution, replace voting members or appoint from time to time such new members as it considers desirable.

At that same meeting, Karolyn Fournier was nominated as Chair with the position of Secretary remaining vacant. Ms. Fournier has accepted the position of Chair at the January 18, 2021 meeting. The Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk will fill the position of Secretary until such time as the WTHHS Committee fills the position from their committee membership.

### **Township Strategic Plan:**

This report aligns with the initiative of Customer Service with the strategic goal of ensuring quality and accountability in providing effective and efficient customer services that match or exceed expectations and directly relates to the strategic objective of effectively communicating to our residents on the services provided and their related costs.

**Financial Implications:**

The 2021 Curator’s wages and benefits will be approximately \$5,200 and will be funded from the Koehler Estate Historical Fund. The interest earned in 2020 was \$6,494.11. The proposed budget of \$1,240.00 plus the curator’s wages and benefits will be completely funded by money held in the Historical Society Deposit account and interest earned within the Fund. There will be no impact to the taxpayers of the Township of Wellesley.

**Other Department / Agency Comments:**


N/A

**Legal Considerations:**

N/A

**Attachment(s):**

N/A

Department Head:	_____
Treasurer:	_____
Corporate Management Team (date):	April 7, 2021 _____
<b><u>Approved by:</u></b>	
Chief Administrative Officer:	_____



## Administration/Finance & Personnel

File No.: 12/2021

# ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT

**To:** Council

**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2021

**Prepared by:** Amy Harron  
Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk

**Date Prepared:** March 9, 2021

**Subject:** Alternate Voting Method – 2022 Municipal and School Board Election

### **Recommendation:**

That the Council of the Township of Wellesley approve the alternate voting method of Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election; and further,

That By-law X/2021 being a by-law to provide for alternate voting methods for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections, be given first, second and third reading.

### **Summary:**

This report is to provide Council with information to make an informed decision regarding the use of an alternate voting method for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election.

### **Report:**

Under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA), “The Clerk of a local municipality is responsible for conducting elections within that municipality”. The MEA requires that a by-law be passed regarding the use of alternative voting methods, with the amended timeline made under the Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016 (MEMA). Should Council wish to undertake an alternative voting method, Council must now authorize electors to use such a method by passing a by-law on or before May 1st in the year of the election. This means that a Council decision and passage of a by-law is required by May 1, 2022, to be effective for the 2022 Municipal Election.

The 2022 Municipal Election will take place on Monday, October 24, 2022. The 2018 Municipal Election was completed using the Internet and Telephone voting methods as an alternate to a traditional paper ballot election with hand counting. In 2017 Council supported a recommendation from staff to use an alternate voting method which has been proven successful by several other Ontario municipalities including municipalities within the Region of Waterloo. In the 2018 Municipal Election 194 of the 444 Ontario municipalities used internet and telephone voting as an alternate method of voting to their eligible electors.

## Township of Wellesley Voter Turnout Comparison Chart

Voting Method	Election Year	Voter Turnout
<b>Paper ballot with hand count</b>	2014	29.77%
<b>Internet and telephone voting with automatic tabulation</b>	2018	31.97%

Directly comparing the 2014 Municipal Election voter turnout of 29.77% to the 2018 Municipal Election turnout of 31.97% shows an increase in turnout. This may be a result of the extended advance voting opportunities, convenience of voting anywhere during the open voting period or voting at any time of day accommodating the schedules of all eligible electors.

As was provided in the 2018 Municipal Election an open voting period would be established to allow eligible electors to vote 24 hours a day for a specified voting period. In 2018 the open voting period was available from Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. through to Monday, October 22 at 8:00p.m. Township staff also hosted a Help Centre at the Township Administration Office during regular business hours through the open voting period as well as one Saturday and from 8:30a.m. to 8:00p.m. on voting day. The open voting period and the help centre were an asset to our election as staff were able to assist many voters cast their ballot using the electronic method. If the alternate voting method were approved for 2022 staff would take the same approach to assisting eligible electors by hosting a help centre and providing internet and telephone voting opportunities at the municipal office.

Township staff would take all opportunities to provide eligible electors with training on the internet and telephone voting system. This would be the second time electors in the township would be using internet and telephone voting. With the increased number of services available electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that eligible electors will be more comfortable using the internet or telephone voting system. Some options available for training would be online tutorial videos and written step-by-step procedures both on the Township website and social media channels, open communication between staff and eligible electors to ask questions and seek assistance, as well as our help centre during the open voting period.

Where opportunities are available the Township of Wellesley will be working alongside the other four Townships within the Region of Waterloo on joint service agreement, training sessions and advertising campaigns. Township staff will be communicating with several internet and telephone voting service providers to ensure that an agreement is entered into with the best suited firm. In the 2018 Municipal Election the Township of Wellesley and the Township of Woolwich both utilized the internet and telephone voting methods entering into contracts with the same service provider. Staff found this provided many opportunities for support and collaboration. Township staff also worked with a joint Regional election communication group allowing the Township a wider range of advertising.



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY**

**BY-LAW NUMBER X/2021**

Being a by-law to provide for alternate voting methods for the 2022 municipal and school board election

**WHEREAS** Section 42 of the Municipal Elections Act, S.O. 1996 as amended provides that a municipal council may pass by-laws authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment and electors to use an alternative voting method that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote; and

**WHEREAS** Council deems it expedient and necessary to employ Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2022 school board and municipal election;

**NOWTHEREFORE** the Council of the Township of Wellesley hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the use of electronic voting by Internet and Telephone as alternative voting methods is hereby authorized in respect of the municipal and school board election to be held in 2022.
2. That the Clerk/Returning Officer is authorized to determine the length of the voting period, including advanced voting.
3. That the counting of ballots by electronic methods, in keeping with the voting method, is hereby authorized.
4. The Clerk/Returning Officer is authorized to enter into agreements with selected vendors necessary for the election.
5. That this by-law shall come into full force and effect upon its passing.

Read a first and second time this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Joe Nowak

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Grace Kosch

Read a third and final time and passed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Joe Nowak

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Grace Kosch

## FOR INFORMATION AGENDA

Items on the For Information Agenda can be approved in one motion of Committee. Prior to the motion being voted on, any member of Committee may request that one or more of the items be removed from the For Information Agenda and voted on separately.

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### PAGES

14	<a href="#">For Info. 66/21</a> – Request for Support – Town of Orangeville re: Planning Act
15 - 16	<a href="#">For Info. 67/21</a> – Letter from Debbie France re: Cannabis Consultation
17	<a href="#">For Info. 68/21</a> – Ministry of the Solicitor General re: Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act Compliance
18 - 20	<a href="#">For Info. 69/21</a> – Wellesley Pond Project Update

**For Information**

File No.: 66/2021

Tracy MacDonald <tmacdonald@orangeville.ca>

Please see the resolution below passed by Orangeville Council on March 22, 2021.

2021-116

WHEREAS the purpose of the Planning Act is to promote sustainable economic development in a healthy natural environment and to provide for a land use planning system led by provincial policy; and,  
WHEREAS The requirement for all decision-makers under the Planning Act to make decisions in a manner that is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement is longstanding and necessary for good planning, environmental, societal and health outcomes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Minister of Infrastructure and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to withdraw Schedule 3 from Bill 257;  
and THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier, MPP Sylvia Jones, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Infrastructure, Credit Valley Conservation, and all Ontario municipalities.

Result: Carried



Time Sensitive....Health Canada Cannabis Consultation Open for comment until May 7/21

Attention : Clerks, Kindly share with your Mayor, Councillors and staff and place on your agenda for review and action by all.

Hello Municipalities,

Great news! Health Canada has invited Canadians and Municipalities to share their perspectives on the factors that may be considered for refusal or revocation of a cannabis registration on public health and public safety grounds. Get your municipal comments in before closing on May 7 2021.

Why participate? Health Canada has seen a concerning trend with the size of certain personal and designated cannabis growing sites and issues associated with them.

Over the last year, OPP, York Regional Police and other police forces across Ontario have reported on the abundance of illicit grow ops run by criminal organizations who are exploiting Health Canada's cannabis rules and regulations. The threat to the personal health and safety of residents across Ontario is significant and should not be underestimated.

Here is a link for a great OPP video that explains the significant risks :

[OPP PROVINCIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM TACKLES ILLEGAL CANNABIS MARKET - YouTube](#)

Here are two links for further evidence of the significant risks to public health and safety :

[York police seize roughly \\$150M worth of illegal pot, firearms and exotic animals in drug bust | CTV News](#)

[OPP say police have dismantled 52 illegal cannabis production sites since July - Kingston | Globalnews.ca](#)

**Having completed previous Federal Cannabis consultations, I suggest you choose the email response so that you can express your concerns. The online form really does not allow you to comment to the issues you are each facing. We all have cannabis problems but different problems.**

The link for Health Canada consultation is here:

[Consultation on guidance on personal production of cannabis for medical purposes - Canada.ca](#)

Please also let your residents know about this opportunity.

Thanks kindly,  
Debbie France  
751 Concession 14 Townsend,  
Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 4K3  
[519 426 8626](tel:5194268626)

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

Office of the Fire Marshal and  
Emergency Management

25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
Tel: 647-329-1100  
Fax: 647-329-1143

**Ministère du Solliciteur général**

Bureau du commissaire des incendies  
et de la gestion des situations  
d'urgence

25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
Tél. : 647-329-1100  
Télééc. : 647-329-1143

**For Information**

File No.: 68/2021

March 30, 2021

Your Worship Joe Nowak  
Township of Wellesley  
4639 Lobsinger Line, R.R. #1  
St. Clements, ON N0B2M0

Dear Mayor:

As the Chief of Emergency Management for Ontario, it is incumbent on me to monitor, coordinate and assist municipalities with their respective municipal emergency management programs in accordance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). To confirm municipalities are in compliance with the EMCPA, every municipality in Ontario submits a compliance package to Emergency Management Ontario on a yearly basis.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) has reviewed the documentation submitted by your Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) and have determined that your municipality was compliant with the EMCPA in 2020.

The safety of all our citizens is important, and one way to ensure that safety is to ensure that your municipality is prepared in case of an emergency. We congratulate you on your municipality's efforts in achieving compliance in 2020. I look forward to continuing to work with you to support your continued compliance on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact our Emergency Management Field Officer assigned to your Sector; their contact information is below.

Name: JudeKelly

Email: Jude.Kelly@ontario.ca

Phone: 416-951-1285

Sincerely,

Teepu Khawja  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management

cc: Paul Redman - CEMC  
Jude Kelly - Field Officer - Golden Horseshoe Sector

## Wellesley Pond Project Update

March 2021

### Current Status

The Wellesley Pond Project is currently on hold pending a decision to proceed with the replacement of the Wellesley Arena. In Summer 2019, Wellesley Township received a report indicating that the arena was in need of significant repairs or replacement. For the Township, the arena is a higher priority than the Pond Project because the arena is owned by the township which is responsible for safe operation and the delivery of services to Township residents. The Pond is owned by GRCA with the Township only providing maintenance around the shoreline. Since both projects require significant fundraising, it was felt that two major projects could not secure the level of financial support needed for both to proceed.

Wellesley Friends of the Pond (WFOP) is disappointed with this situation but understands Township position. However, a lot of work has been completed and the Wellesley Pond Project is ready to resume when the time is right. We have a professionally completed project plan that is approved by GRCA and is supported by the community. We have also developed a fundraising plan that is ready to go. The following summarizes the work completed and the process of community engagement to secure support for the plan.

One part of the project is ongoing. WFOP Naturalization Team maintains the Native Plants and Pollinator Garden on Queens Bush Rd beside the bridge. We will continue to nurture the garden and look for other ways we can enhance the shoreline of the pond.

Compiled by Jamie McDermid, Chair- Wellesley Friends of the Pond.

### Background

The Pond was created in the 1840's to power the local mill. Today, the Pond is a centerpiece of the community enjoyed for recreation and its natural features. The Pond is owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA). The lands around the pond are maintained by the Township of Wellesley under a maintenance agreement with GRCA.

Over the years, the community has raised concerns about water quality, shoreline erosion, nuisance carp and waterfowl populations and the overall quality of the pond habitat and health. High nutrient levels and slow-moving warm water have contributed to excessive algae growth and low dissolved oxygen. The pond has experienced significant sediment accumulation over the years. The Pond has been partially excavated to remove sediment twice but these problems persist. In 2006-07 GRCA completed ecological assessments that detail these issues and possible solutions for community consideration. Some meetings in the community occurred at that time but momentum to develop a project was not established.

Concern about the Pond continued and was raised at a Community Forum leading to more informal community meetings. At the request of Township officials, in August 2015 the GRCA reaffirmed a commitment to work with the community to develop alternatives that could be implemented to improve Wellesley Pond. In the fall of 2016, Wellesley Friends of the Pond (WFOP) was created as the organizing committee. Membership included concerned residents, GRCA and Township.

### Pond Project 2017-2020

The following details the work of WFOP to develop a project design and implementation plan with three key goals: Improve water quality; Improve habitat in and around the pond; Ensure continued and enhanced community enjoyment of activities on and around the Pond.

- **Development of Draft Design Concepts:** WFOP with the Lions Club as the administrative sponsor applied to and secured from the Region of Waterloo Community Environmental Fund funding to hire a consultant with appropriate engineering and water resource expertise to design three options that would address the identified issues with the Pond. This funding also covered the tree planting completed in the lower park and the native garden along Queens Bush Rd near the bridge. (Spring and Summer 2017)
- **Initial Review of Draft Design Options:** WFOP had first look at the designs in Sept 2017. One option called for a natural channel, wetlands and elimination of the pond. This was the most ecologically sensitive option. The other two options provided for a natural channel, enhancements to the shoreline and reduced pond size. Feedback and questions were provided to the consultant and responses further informed understanding of the draft designs.
- **Community Drop-In:** The community was invited to the Community Centre in Nov 2017 to view drawings of the draft design. WFOP members were present to answer questions. Residents who attended were asked to provide written comments and indicate their preferred option. Feedback clearly indicated that residents were most concerned about reducing the size of the pond and naturalization of the pond and shoreline. Many people suggested that we should simply dredge the pond and leave as is.
- **Response to Community Feedback:** WFOP met several times to consider concerns expressed. GRCA, in a letter to Mayor Nowak (Nov 2017) indicated that they could support any of the three draft options but could not support a dredge only option because that would not be an adequate long term sustainable solution. At the Jan 2018 WFOP meeting we adopted a workshop approach with discussion groups to consider a number of themes apparent in the feedback including pond size, stabilization of shoreline, naturalization and parkland, wildlife, trails and community activities. Results of discussions were brought forward to the consultant at WFOP meeting March 2018. At this meeting we agreed to revise the option that best met community concerns by increasing the pond width on the north side before the bridge and along the east shore of the south part of the pond. The consultant was tasked with providing a detailed design narrative and drawings of the preferred option.
- **WFOP Adoption of Proposed Plan:** At WFOP meeting in May 2018 the detailed drawings and design narrative were presented and after discussion accepted the revised plan which includes the following key elements.
  - ✓ Excavation of the pond to remove all accumulated sediment. This will increase depth to about average 7 feet, improve water flow and decrease temperature
  - ✓ Creation of some naturalized areas to help improve water quality and shoreline habitat and stability
  - ✓ Preservation of the overall appearance of the pond south of Queen's Bush Rd where the ponds maximum width will be about 350 feet. (equal to length of a soccer field)
  - ✓ A narrowed channel near the bridge and installation of some in water features (log vanes, tree sweepers) will direct and increase water flow velocity

- ✓ An expanded parkland area on the east of the Pond will be created with excavated sediment and will eliminate an area where water sits and algae accumulates.
- **Community Engagement and Education:** Following adoption of the proposed plan, WFOP implemented a number of activities to ensure the community could learn about the plan and have access to supporting information. (Summer and Fall 2018)
  - ✓ Wellesley Pond Restoration Project website was launched. Here we posted the proposed plan drawings, the design narrative, history of the project, updates and photos.
  - ✓ Wellesley Friends of the Pond Facebook page was launched and used to post pictures and items of interest related to the pond proposal. Regular posts led to many questions and comments.
  - ✓ Displays were set up at public events like Community BBQ, Wellesley Market, Fall Fair, Fish Fry. WFOP members were always present to engage residents, share information and answer questions.

Comments and questions were documented. It was apparent that most people we spoke with were supportive of the plan.
- **Public Meeting and Feedback Survey:** WFOP hosted a more formal public meeting Feb 11 2019 where the proposed plan was presented in detail. Presentations were provided by the project consultant, GRCA staff and WFOP members. After the presentations and a question and answer question, everyone present was asked to complete a detailed survey about the proposed plan. Results were very supportive: 97% of people responding agreed that the pond needs some attention, 88% support the proposed plan, large majorities agree with the elements of the plan to address water quality and pond habitats, 88% felt that WFOP had done an adequate job communicating with the community about the project. WFOP concluded we had sufficient support to proceed.
- **GRCA Support for Project Implementation:** GRCA staff working with WFOP compiled and presented a report to GRCA Board recommending that GRCA continue its partnership with Township of Wellesley and WFOP to advance implementation of Wellesley Pond Enhancement Project. Report and recommendation accepted. (June 2019)
- **Project Implementation:** Two task teams were created. The Naturalization team currently maintains the native garden by the bridge on Queens Bush Rd and will help develop the parklands included in the project. The Fundraising team has developed a plan to raise the required funds of about \$1 million and will complete and submit grant applications. As well, GRCA has developed a draft Terms of Reference that details roles and responsibilities of GRCA, The Township and WFOP through the construction phase and beyond. (Completed in 2019)

Since Fall of 2019, the project has been on hold.