

ADDENDUM

**Heritage Guelph Meeting
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
Monday, March 9, 2015
1 Carden St., City Hall**

COMMITTEE ROOM C

Supplementary information related to current business Items

Item 7.2 Niska Road Bridge and Cultural Heritage Landscape

Delegations/presentors:

Philip Rowe (R. J. Burnside & Associates Ltd.)
Owen Scott (CHC Limited)

Laura Murr
Sandy Nicholls
Vince Hanson
Nicole Abouhalka
Marlene Hart
Mary Nairn
Bhaju Tamot
John Hart
Dr. Dorothy Griggs

Correspondance received:

Letter to Heritage Guelph (dated 16 February 2015) from Susan Ratcliffe,
President of the Guelph/Wellington Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of
Ontario.



GUELPH/WELLINGTON

57-295 Water Street,
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2X5
February 16, 2015.

Heritage Guelph,
City of Guelph

RE: Heritage Guelph agenda item Niska Road Bridge

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is an organization that has advocated for heritage preservation in Ontario since 1933. We are concerned to preserve not only remarkable buildings, but also structures, districts and landscapes that have cultural value for our province. The Guelph and Wellington Branch focuses on these goals in our particular area.

In light of this mission, I am writing to express our concern about the future of the Niska Road bridge and its surrounding landscape. ACO is concerned that the inclusion of \$2,000,000 in the Capital Budget for a replacement of the bridge in 2016, and the inclusion of more than \$3,000,000 for development of a "Kortright Sports Complex" in 2020/2021 means that both the present bridge, the potential Cultural Heritage Landscape and the consultation process have been either ignored or lost.

According to the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report prepared by Unterman McPhail Associates for the R.J. Burnsidge Environmental Assessment Study:

It is determined through the application of the "Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value" under Ontario Regulation 9/06 that the Niska Road Bridge is of cultural heritage value or interest for design/physical, historic/associative and contextual reasons (p. 22).

This conclusion is based on assessing that the bridge meets almost all of the evaluation criteria for designation of the heritage resource.

According to the Niska Road Cultural Heritage Landscape Addendum prepared by CHC Limited:

The cultural heritage landscape identified in this report meets the criteria of Ontario Regulation 9/06;

thus it is a significant cultural heritage landscape (p. 29),

This conclusion is based on assessing that the bridge meets almost all of the evaluation criteria for designation as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. We would argue that the boundaries of the CHL should be broadened to include the whole of the Speed River Valley, especially the viewsapes and all the lands of the former Kortright Waterfowl Park, but Scott's basic conclusion is clear on the heritage value of the area.

Given the above conclusions, as well as the extensive community consultation about the bridge and the land around it, ACCO Guelph Wellington requests that Heritage Guelph move forward on the designation of both the Niska Bridge (in situ) and initiate a study to move towards designation of the whole landscape.

In the meantime, we will pursue removing from the Capital Budget the amount budgeted for bridge replacement and sports fields. We will also ask that the Grand River Conservation Authority proceed with the 1982 Master Plan to include the whole area in an expanded Hanlon Creek Conservation area.

ACCO Guelph Wellington fully supports the work of the Kortright Hills Neighbourhood Group, the Community Working Group and the Speed River Heritage Valley Lands Group in their efforts to conserve this irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage area.

Sincerely,



Susan Ratcliffe,

President,
Architectural Conservancy Ontario/Guelph Wellington branch

future

The past. Our present. Your