

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending February 14, 2014

REPORTS

1. Regional Sports Tourism Initiative - Introduction

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Chris West, Save VIA – Requesting support of VIA rail service.
2. Township Of Greater Madawaska – Resolution Regarding the Ontario Provincial Police Proposed New Billing Model for Charging Municipalities for Policing Services Starting in 2015

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. Grand River Conservation Authority – February 2014 Current

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Downtown Guelph Business Association – Resignation from Barbara Turley-McIntyre

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Community and Social Services
Culture and Tourism

DATE February 14, 2014

SUBJECT Regional Sports Tourism Initiative - Introduction

REPORT NUMBER CSS-CT-1408

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Under the governance of Regional Tourism Organization 4, the Sports Tourism Advisory Committee is developing a strategy for attracting sports tourism business to the region. This committee has been created through a funding partnership between Guelph Tourism Services, Waterloo Regional Tourism Marketing Corporation (WRTMC), and Regional Tourism Organization 4 (RTO4). This report provides an introduction to this initiative and the mandate.

KEY FINDINGS

The mission of the Regional Sports Tourism Initiative is to:

- Secure sports tourism business for the region.
- Support and give preference to the funding members of Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.
- Sustain a dedicated staff person to service the regional sports tourism clients.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for Guelph's contribution to this program is being covered from within the existing Council approved tourism budget, and no new funds are required. For 2014, the commitment from the City of Guelph is \$10,000, which is being allocated from within the Tourism promotion budget.

BACKGROUND

Tourism Services has always had a role in sports tourism, primarily through marketing the City as a destination for sporting events. Other activities have included assisting local sports organizations with bid applications, event implementation, funding and membership with the Canadian Sports Tourism Alliance (CSTA) and attending the annual CSTA Congress.

INFORMATION REPORT



In 2011, Regional Tourism Organization 4 commissioned a research report by HLT Advisory to specifically look at the group travel segment for the region. The report identified regional capacity for sports tourism opportunities. Guelph, Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge hotels are all now available through a central booking portal, the RTO4 regional reservation system. The timing seemed appropriate to form an official advisory committee to pursue sports tourism business as a region. The following steps were taken:

- Formation of a Sports Tourism Advisory Committee under the approval of the RTO4 Board of Directors in August 2013. This committee reports to the CEO of RTO4.
- Representation of the committee is comprised of:
 - 2 – Guelph (Stacey Dunnigan, Guelph Tourism Services and Tom Kendall, University of Guelph)
 - 1 – City of Waterloo
 - 1 – City of Kitchener
 - 1 – City of Cambridge
 - 2 – Regional Tourism Organization 4
 - 1 - Ontario Restaurant Hotel Motel Association
 - 1 – Waterloo Regional Tourism Marketing Corp
- Recruitment of the Director of Sports Tourism
- Creation of the Regional Sports Tourism Office

REPORT

The report provides the mandate and strategy of the Sports Tourism Advisory Committee.

Mandate

- Support and advise the Director of Sports Tourism to sell the Region to sporting event organizers.

Strategy

- Build a business plan in preparation for the Director's attendance at the Canadian Sports Tourism Alliance Congress in Edmonton in April.
- Establish the Regional Sports Tourism Office to position Guelph, Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge as a competitive cluster in the province to attract sports tourism events.
- Assess key regional (and competitive) strengths (facilities, resources) in maintaining a regional asset portfolio to apply for use in selling the region to sports organizations.
- Develop, coordinate, and evaluate all Sports Tourism initiatives within the Region.
- Identify and implement necessary supporting infrastructure consistent with the Regional Sports Tourism Strategy.

INFORMATION REPORT



CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Innovation in Local Government

- 2.2 Deliver Public Service better
- 2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement

City Building

- 3.2 Be economically viable, resilient, diverse and attractive for business
- 3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

N/A

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications related to Regional Sports Tourism initiative will be managed by the Director of Sports Tourism, through the Regional Tourism Organization 4.

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From: Chris West
Sent: January 30, 2014 3:55 PM
To: Mayors Office
Subject: VIA blitz and passenger rail service

Good afternoon Your Worship

We would appreciate the support of the City of Guelph by way of a resolution or letter supporting VIA rail service. We have included, in the attached letter, some of the factors Save VIA considers important. We intend to forward resolutions and letters to selected MP's.

Thus far, Mayor John Williams (Quinte West), Mayor John McCharles (Petrolia), Waterloo Region Chair Jim Wideman, Mayor Gilles Forget (Iroquois Falls), Leamington (Kim Siddall, Deputy Clerk) have provided letters or resolutions.

Thanks, Chris West, Save VIA

Please find below a note regarding rail service from Sault to Hearst.

Hello CAPT supporters,

We have some shocking news. On Friday CN called the Mayor of Hearst to say that the Federal government has ended to subsidy that pays for the passenger service from the Sault to Hearst. As a result that service will end on March 31, 2014. Also on the 24th a CN representative flew to the Sault to inform the CN employees at the ACR station and Mayor Debbie Amaroso about this news. This happened in 1995, but the communities, businesses and other users of the passenger train successfully reversed the decision. Since Friday afternoon CAPT board members and supporters have been contacting the municipalities, First Nations, business owners, camp owners and other stakeholders to find out more about this decision and how we can have it reversed. If any of you would like to help with this effort, please reply with your name and contact information. We will keep you up to date on this urgent matter.

Save the ACR Passenger Train!!!!

We suggest that you write a letter or email Bryan Hayes, MP (bryan.hayes@parl.gc.ca) and Carol Hughes MP (carol.hughes@parl.gc.ca), and please copy it to CAPT atinfo@captrains.ca or mail it to CAPT, c/o NORDIK, Algoma University, 1520 Queen St. East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A2G4.

Here is a suggested message:

Dear Bryan Hayes, MP and Carol Hughes, MP:

I am writing to discuss a most serious decision by the federal government that I would like to see reversed—namely, the cancellation of the ACR passenger train effective March 31, 2014. We depend entirely on the train as we are in a remote area with no other transportation access.

Yours truly,

.....

cc info@captrains.ca

Chris West



January 31, 2014

It's time to allocate \$1.3 billion yearly to VIA rail for operating funds. A viable VIA network will generate three times this investment. Funding may be secured from a) allocating \$1.3 billion from other spending (we recommend other spending that does not produce GDP in Canada) or b) adding a 1 per litre tax on gasoline, propane and diesel fuel.

We need the return of a rail network effectively linking Canadians and communities. Linking will provide significant benefits to the Canadian economy and, particularly in urban areas, will provide more constituent support.

Benefits include:

1. Providing economic support for an effective agricultural community and its suppliers.
2. Linking families.
3. Facilitating access to hospitals for enhanced health.
4. Supporting business people with appropriate timetables. Conducting business drives GDP, provides added employment and expands the tax base.
5. Fulfilling needs of visitors to Canada and Canadian tourists. Revenue that visitors and tourists spend increases GDP, employment and drives tax revenue.
6. Attracting workers. Successful businesses require workers. Workers buy homes, autos and other goods and pay income, property and sales taxes.
7. Meeting student needs to attend classes and visit family. Educated Canadians will drive future GDP, ensure a bright future for Canada and through taxes, provide funding for social programs.
8. Mobilizing Canadians. Customers that have mobility issues need trains to provide room for luggage and for easy access and egress.
9. Reduction of congestion in major cities. The benefits are more efficient transportation, improvements in the environment and improvements in health.

How do we get there:

1. We need all levels of government to raise the issue of linking communities and Canadians.
2. We need to recognize government officials that have "stepped up to the plate" or made a commitment to raise the VIA issue. Elected officials must speak on behalf of constituents; today is the time to act! Following is a list of MP's that have chosen to "step up to the plate".
3. Support the "Walker resolution".
4. Support and expansion of car pooling to reduce congestion and improve the environment.

Jean-Francois Fortin
Alexandre Boulerice
Olivia Chow
Tyrone Benskin
Irene Mathyssen
Robert Chisolm
Ted Hsu
Mike Sullivan
Hong Mai
Jean Crowder
John McKay
Isabelle Morin

Christine Moore
Bruce Hyer
Françoise Boivin
Carolyn Bennett
Rathika Sitsabaiesan
Frank Valerioté
Yvon Godin
Elizabeth May
Philip Toone
Robert Aubin
Brad Butt
Sylvain Chicoine

5. The VIA Rail Act creates a Crown Corporation with government responsible to fund VIA properly. Attempts by Minister's staffs have continuously been made to deny this obligation, and mislead Canadians about the control the Privy Council and Cabinet has in funding and operating.

What's next:

We would appreciate a meeting with you to discuss VIA. Please provide times, dates and locations that would be appropriate for you.

Yours sincerely,

Chris West, president

Cc: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
The Honourable Jim Flaherty, MP
The Honourable Lisa Raitt, MP
The Honourable Denis Lebel, MP
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, premier
The Honourable Glen Murray, MLA
Gary Schellenberger, MP, Perth Wellington
Bill Walker, MLA
Randy Pettapiece, MLA, Perth Wellington
Carey Pope, councillor, town of St. Marys
Peter Crosthwaite, PAPM Inc.

February 7, 2014

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Re: OPP proposed new billing model

Dear Premier:

Please be advised that at the regular Council meeting on January 29, 2014, the Township of Greater Madawaska passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 022-14

Moved by Councillor Kierczak, seconded by Councillor Lehnhardt

WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) proposed new billing model for charging municipalities for policing services, starting in 2015;

AND WHEREAS the current billing model is a deployment model, in which cost recovery is based on percentage of detachment workload, actual detachment staffing levels, wages and benefits, and a cost recovery component for other expenditures, a model that has been in place for over 15 years;

AND WHEREAS, the new methodology would charge each municipality a flat \$260.00/household fee for the base costs related to providing police services, plus a variable charge for each call for service in that municipality. The rationale for this is that there is a base fixed cost for providing police services that must be borne by all participating municipalities, regardless of the number of calls for service that the OPP responds to in each municipality. The OPP have advised that 73% of their costs are fixed (i.e. base costs) and 27% are variable; AND WHEREAS, the actual specifics of the cost for the calls for service have not been released or calculated, the OPP has estimated that the average cost per household in Ontario for policing services, including both the base cost and the calls for service, would be approximately \$369;

AND WHEREAS, this model would see the OPP costs for the Municipality of Township of Greater Madawaska increase from \$312,094 in 2013 to \$911,430, an increase of \$599,336 or 192%;

.../2

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the Township of Sequin resolution and agree this model is fundamentally flawed, unfair and inequitable;

AND FURTHERMORE, the Province of Ontario and Premier Wynne abolish the proposed new OPP Billing model in favour of a model that is equitable to all small, rural municipalities;

AND THAT FURTHERMORE this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services; the Hon. John Gerretsen, Attorney General of Ontario; Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General of Ontario; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all rural Ontario municipalities with a permanent population of 10,000 or less.

AND BE IT RUTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario and Premier Wynne cannot allow this type of unfair treatment towards rural Ontario, and this funding model be scrapped immediately.

“Carried”

Trusting you will give this serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Allison Holtzauer
CAO Clerk-Treasurer

cc Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services
Honourable John Gerretsen, Attorney General of Ontario
Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General of Ontario
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Rural Ontario Municipalities with a permanent population of 10,000 or less

GRCA General Membership

Chair Jane Mitchell

Vice-Chair Vic Prendergast

Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley
Tom Nevills

Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North Pat Salter

Township of Centre Wellington
Joanne Ross-Zuj

Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch
John Brennan

City of Guelph
Bob Bell, Maggie Laidlaw

Region of Waterloo
Les Armstrong, Todd Cowan,
Jan d'Ailly, Rob Deutschmann,
Jean Haalboom, Ross Kelterborn,
Geoff Lorentz, Claudette Miller,
Jane Mitchell, Warren Stauch

Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East
George Wicke

Halton Region J. Barry Lee

City of Hamilton Jeanette Jamieson

Oxford County Bruce Banbury

County of Brant
Brian Coleman, Steve Schmitt

City of Brantford
Robert Hillier, Vic Prendergast

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties
Lorne Boyko, Fred Morison

Jane Mitchell to serve fourth term as chair

Jane Mitchell has been acclaimed to a fourth one-year term as chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

The election took place at a GRCA board meeting on Friday, Jan. 24. Mitchell, who represents the Region of Waterloo on the board, was first elected to the position in 2011. Prior to that, she served as first vice-chair from 2007 to 2010.

Also acclaimed as vice-chair was Vic Prendergast, who represents the City of Brantford. He was a vice-chair since 2000.

In a change this year, the board elected only one vice-chair compared to two in the past. One position was eliminated as part of a cost-reduction overhaul approved by the board in September. At the same time, the honorarium paid to the chair was reduced to \$25,000 from \$41,000 a year. The vice-chair receives \$2,500 a year. All board members, including the chair and vice-chair, also receive an additional per diem of \$138 to attend a board meeting.

The GRCA board is made up to 26 members appointed by the municipalities of the Grand River watershed. They elect a chair and vice-chair at the first meeting of each year.

What to expect in 2014

After Jane Mitchell was re-elected as chair, she said that 2013 was a year of significant change and the next year promises to be the same.

The draft version of a new Water Management Plan for the Grand River watershed was completed in 2013, and this year it will be circulated to municipalities, provincial and federal ministries and First Nations for their endorsement.

The GRCA faces millions of dollars in costs over coming years to deal with the emerald ash borer. Climate change will also make the water management process more complex in the future if it leads to more floods, ice storms and other significant weather events.

Internally, the GRCA is faced with a large number of retirements so effort will be put into capturing the knowledge of those who are leaving and reviewing operations to make the organization even more efficient.

\$275,000 ice storm bill expected for GRCA

The GRCA's costs related to the December ice storm are expected to add up to around \$275,000.

Thousands of trees were damaged during the ice storm on the 20,000 hectares of land owned by the GRCA. Dozens of staff, augmented by four private tree firms, have been working steadily since December to clear out hazardous trees and branches. In addition, trained and properly equipped volunteers belonging to snowmobile clubs have been working on some trails. Some GRCA seasonal staff will be recalled early to assist with the clean up.

The forestry costs of the December ice storm could be as high as \$200,000 and the cost to repair hydro is expected to be around \$75,000. The GRCA is looking for ways to cover these costs.

The damage is so heavy that some popular areas and trails have not yet seen work crews. Grand River Parks were late to open for the winter activities and Pinehurst Lake will remain closed until spring.

The GRCA posted "No Trespassing" signs on trails, parks and natural areas to urge people to stay out while crews continue to clean up. The red and white signs read: "No Trespassing — Dangerous conditions exist beyond this point — Area closed."

GRCA Parks staff have authority under provincial law to issue trespassing tickets and will do so to those who ignore requests to leave a property or return after having been asked to leave.

Cold snowy January

A thick blanket of snow covered the watershed at the end of January, despite the mid-January



River Festival
Riverprize 2000
For excellence in river management



Conservation Ontario
Natural Champions



thaw that resulted in high river flows and melting water.

The GRCA issued a Watershed Conditions Statement on Jan. 10 based on the rain and snowmelt that was expected. Most of the rainfall was absorbed into the existing snowpack, although there was some runoff, especially in urban areas. This brief warm period and increase in flows didn't result in much ice movement in the river system.

Precipitation in January was close to the long-term average through most of the watershed, but it was 25 per cent above the long-term average at the Luther Dam climate station.

Temperatures were variable during the month with some days below freezing, however the weather was also extremely cold and will be remembered for its harsh weather with lots of snow shoveling.

Large sections of the river system were ice covered, with open water in the urban areas and locations with high groundwater discharge.

Reservoir levels at the major dams were slightly above normal for January.

New Heritage Awards

The GRCA is seeking nominations for the 2014 Watershed Awards, including special Heritage River awards.

If you know a company, organization or individual who you think could receive an award, please nominate them by the May 1 deadline. The GRCA is giving out three types of awards:

1. An Honour Roll Award for a sustained record of achievement over an extended period of time
2. Watershed Awards for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work.
3. Heritage River Awards to acknowledge work done to enhance the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River in the areas of Human Heritage and Recreational opportunities.

Nominations are due May 1, and full details and nomination forms are available online at www.grandriver.ca/awards.

Elora's Drimmie Dam nearly complete

Work on the Drimmie Dam in Elora has



Photo by Gerd Proeschel

The stop logs were put in place on the new Drimmie Dam in Elora in January on a very cold day. Construction has been underway throughout the winter.

taken place throughout the winter and the new dam is now nearly complete.

The GRCA budgeted nearly \$1.2 million to replace the old dam, which was crumbling. The new dam will allow more water to flow through the town and reduce the potential for flooding during periods of high flow. It replaces a dam constructed in the 19th century to provide power to a nearby mill.

GRCA staff requested that the contract to build the dam be increased by \$150,000 based on additional work and modifications to the design in the final approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources. A two week shut down of the project in the fall was also necessary due to heavy river flows. The construction is being carried out by Xterra Construction Inc.

The dam has been owned by the GRCA since 1984. The GRCA carried out improvements to the dam previously, but it has deteriorated significantly and required replacement.

Scholarships available

The GRCA is accepting applications for three scholarships for students at a watershed institution:

- The Allan Holmes Scholarship for a graduate-level student focused on applied research.

- The SC Johnson Environmental Scholarship for a student in third year or sixth semester.
- The McEwen Clean Water Prize also for an undergrad student.

Scholarship Applications are due in May and can be downloaded from www.grcf.ca or are available by contacting the Foundation in Cambridge at 1-866-900-4722 or 519-621-2763 ext. 2372. The email address is foundation@grandriver.ca.

This issue of GRCA Current was published in February 2014.

It is a summary of the January business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes the photocopying, forwarding and distribution of GRCA Current.

Next board meeting: Friday, Feb. 28 at 9:30 a.m., GRCA Administration Centre.

Reports mentioned in GRCA Current: www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports.

For coming events, please see www.grandriver.ca/Calendar.

The January-February issue of the Grand Actions newsletter available at: www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions