

FURTHER TO BUSINESS EXCELLENCE ADVISORY BOARD #6/05
To be held Friday, November 18, 2005

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7. SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

ITEM 7.6 - LISTED ON AGENDA AS REPORT TO FOLLOW

7.6 OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
Spine Trail Alignment

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NEW ITEM - ITEM 7.7

7.7 HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF MCVEAN BARN SITE

47-48

TO: Chair and Members of the Business Excellence Advisory Board
Meeting #6/05, November 18, 2005

FROM: Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management

RE: OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
Spine Trail Alignment

KEY ISSUE

Endorsement of the spine trail alignment as part of the Phase 1 deliverables for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the spine trail alignment dated September 12, 2005, as illustrated on Attachment 1, be endorsed;

AND FURTHER THAT the appropriate Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) officials be authorized and directed to take whatever action may be required to give effect hereto, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the execution of any documents.

BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2004, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced that the Province of Ontario and certain owners of Oak Ridges Moraine lands in the Town of Richmond Hill had reached an agreement to exchange these owners' lands for provincially-owned lands in the City of Pickering. The purpose of the land exchange was to protect the last remaining natural corridor link between the eastern and western parts of the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill.

Under the agreement, 1,057 acres (423 ha) of land in Richmond Hill will come into public ownership. These lands are currently known as the Oak Ridges Corridor Park (the "Park"). The Park lands are generally located between Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue, north of Jefferson Sideroad, and south of the community of Oak Ridges. Approximately 100 acres (40 ha) of the lands make up the Bathurst Glen Golf Course abutting the westernmost boundary of the Park. The property is outlined in Attachment 2.

At the request of the province, TRCA is leading the development of a management plan for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park. An advisory committee has been established to oversee the work. Members include representatives from TRCA, York Region, Town of Richmond Hill, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Realty Corporation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the Oak Ridges Trail Association, Richmond Hill Naturalists, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine, Jefferson Forest Residents Association and Citizens Environment Watch.

To date, five advisory committee meetings and two public information meetings have been held. Deliverables to date include the preparation of a vision, goals and objectives for the Park, a background report on existing conditions, a confirmed alignment and construction drawings for the spine trail, and a draft financial assessment of the Bathurst Glen Golf Course. It is the objective of Richmond Hill landowners and the province that construction of a portion of the trail begin in 2005 so that it serves as an anchor for the Park and it represents an early, tangible symbol of the Park's creation.

The present landowners are required to contribute \$3.5 million as part of the land exchange. This money is to be used to construct the east-west spine trail and initiate habitat restoration works.

Considerable effort has been made to locate the spine trail in areas that will not impact the sensitive habitats or detract from the ability of the land to function as a wildlife corridor. TRCA is in consultation with the Regional Municipality of York to provide safe pedestrian access across Yonge Street within the boundaries of the subject property.

Because the property is in the middle of Richmond Hill and is soon to be completely surrounded by residential development, staff strongly believe that the spine trail is required and should be designed for multi-use including walkers and bicyclists. The design also accommodates maintenance vehicles and emergency services, when required. Secondary trails will be designed to favour walkers only.

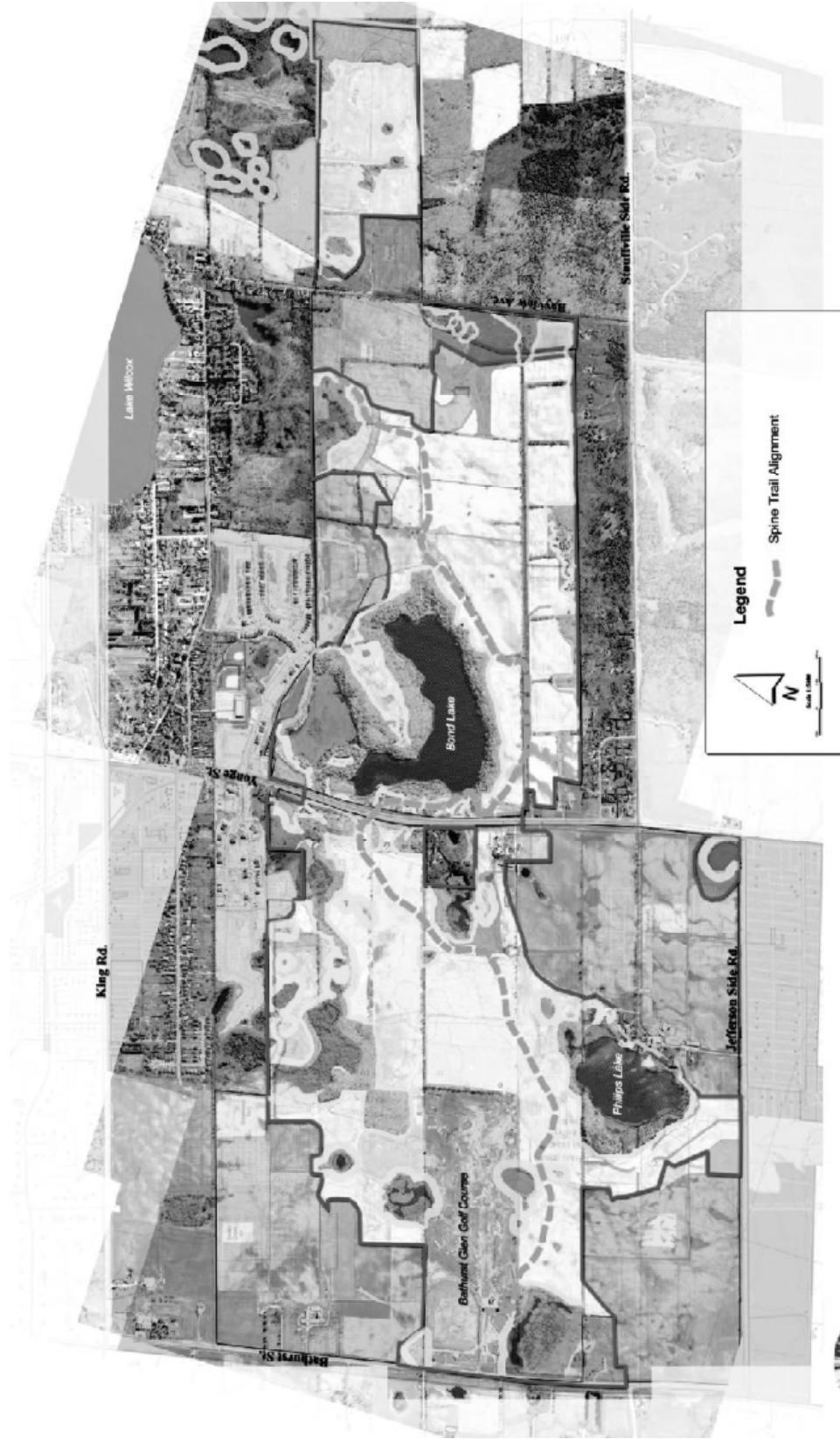
It will be impossible and inappropriate to restrict the public from the property. Providing a well-sited and properly constructed trail for the thousands of people that will visit the area will help prevent management problems. Most people will stay on a trail; thus, reducing unauthorized trail establishment that would be detrimental to sensitive habitats and the restoration of the site.

Staff, the consulting team, and the majority of the advisory committee are satisfied that the spine trail alignment and construction standards are appropriate. However, two advisory committee members and some members of the public still express concerns that there should be no formal trails, that the spine trail is too wide (2.4 m), that the Yonge Street crossing is not in the best location and the trail is over-designed in terms of the subgrade foundation.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Arrange for the landowners to begin the construction of the spine trail. The start date is governed by the execution of the collateral agreement between the province and the current landowners. The agreement facilitates the transfer of funding from the landowners to TRCA to pay for the work.
- Continue to work with the advisory committee and the public to finalize the remainder of the management plan.

Report prepared by: Gary Wilkins, extension 5211
For Information contact: Gary Wilkins, extension 5211
Date: November 10, 2005
Attachments: 2



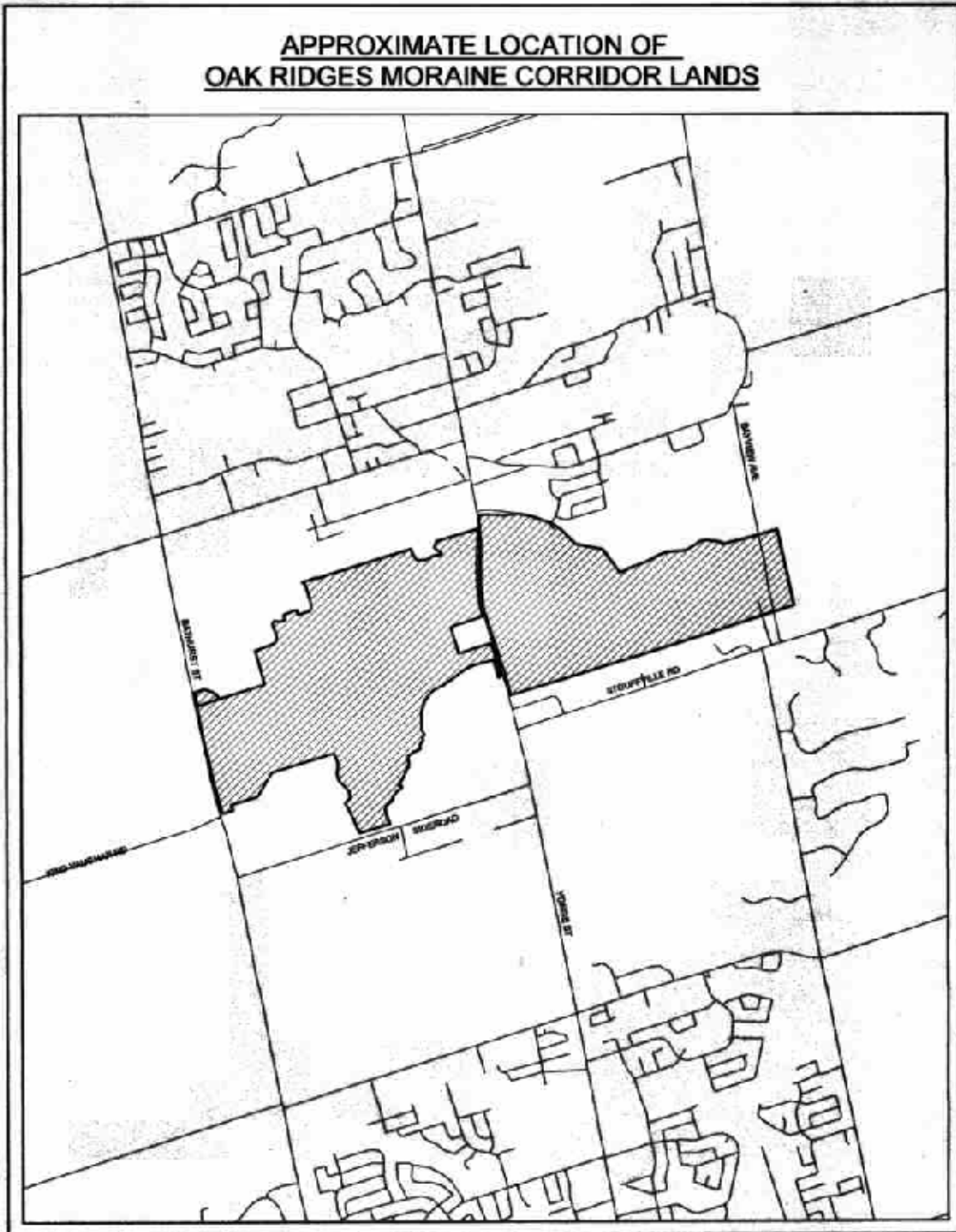
Spine Trail Alignment

Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

MCC Smith & Environmental
Division - The Rough Group
Suzanne Samit

urbanERDC inc.
D.R. Purton & Associates
Archie Scherman Heritage Preservation Services



TO: Chair and Members of the Business Excellence Advisory Board
Meeting #6/05, November 18, 2005

FROM: Derek Edwards, Director, Parks and Culture

RE: HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF MCVEAN BARN SITE

KEY ISSUE

Approval to proceed with Heritage Designation of the McVean Barn site.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the heritage designation of the McVean Barn Site, located in the Claireville Conservation Area, be supported;

AND FURTHER THAT Brampton City Council be requested to pass a municipal by-law for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

The McVean Barn site is an exceptionally significant property, associated with a very prominent early settler, Alexander McVean and his family. The McVean barn, the surrounding vegetation, archaeological potential, cultural landscapes and remains of buildings, in addition to the historical associations with the McVean family, lends this parcel of land considerable cultural heritage value. Heritage designation is warranted and strongly recommended.

Heritage designation bestows formal public recognition on historic sites. It serves as formal, public recognition that a particular property has heritage value and is worthy of on-going care and protection. Designation identifies and describes the specific cultural heritage attributes that give a property its heritage significance.

Heritage designation is a common practice in Ontario. Currently at least 6,000 properties are designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. A heritage designation is enacted by City Council through the passing of a municipal by-law.

Owners of designated heritage properties are eligible to receive a heritage designation plaque. They are also eligible for specific grants.

The McVean barn site is listed on the Brampton Heritage Inventory, and is strongly recommended for heritage designation by city staff.

The McVean barn designation is enthusiastically supported by the West Humber Sub-Committee. A motion of support was passed at their meeting on November 8, 2005. In addition, the Friends of Claireville have demonstrated their solid support for this property through ongoing volunteer efforts including upkeep of the area, repairs, research and other initiatives.

Heritage designation helps to ensure that heritage features are maintained. Any alteration to a designated property that is likely to impact existing heritage attributes requires routine sign off from City Council through the Heritage Coordinator and the local Heritage Board.

At present, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has 5 designated buildings at Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV), plus others listed on heritage inventories. Repairs to these buildings has been done in consultation between BCPV staff and municipal heritage coordinators. BCPV has received grants of up to \$5,000 per building to assist with repairs. BCPV staff will assist the Humber Watershed Specialist and Humber Project Manager with the heritage components of the McVean barn site.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

There are minimal financial implications at this time. A small amount of repair to secure the barn is required. Funding up to \$5,000 is available from the City of Brampton once the building is designated.

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Date: November 10, 2005