EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2012

Item 36, Report No. 39, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 30, 2012.

36 OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE VAUGHAN'S ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HISTORY: WORKING GROUP FINDINGS

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That recommendations 1, 3, and 4, contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated October 16, 2012, be approved;
- 2) That Council supports the opportunity to celebrate Vaughan's Aboriginal cultural history, by approving in principle the following two proposed initiatives:
 - i. The Vaughan Heritage Tourism Trail; and
 - ii. Renaming of Aboriginal Archaeological Sites on TRCA lands in Vaughan; and
- 3) That the establishment of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Vaughan be explored.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends that the following recommendations by the project working group, be approved:

- 1. That the presentation by Gary Wilkins of Watershed Planning at TRCA, be received; and,
- 2. That Council supports the opportunity to celebrate Vaughan's Aboriginal cultural history, by approving in principle the following three proposed initiatives:
 - i. The Vaughan Heritage Tourism Trail
 - ii. Renaming of Aboriginal Archaeological Sites on TRCA lands in Vaughan
 - iii. The establishment of a Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Vaughan; and,
- 3. That staff be directed to meet with Aboriginal groups for the purpose as identified in this report and,
- 4. That a joint City/TRCA grant application under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to provide financial support to conduct a feasibility study for the Vaughan Heritage Tourism Trail initiative, be approved.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, Objective 4.1:

• To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost of meeting with Aboriginal groups to discuss the proposed project is estimated at \$30,000 and the funds have been secured as follows: \$5,000 contribution from York Region; \$5,000 contribution from TRCA; \$20,000 allocated from Community Services Professional Fee approved in the 2012 Operating Budget.

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Any future funds that will be required for secondary phases of the projects identified in this report will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Communications Plan

Any outcome of this report will be communicated to the working group members.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the recommended options to celebrate the Aboriginal cultural history of the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the November 8, 2011, meeting Council directed:

That the City of Vaughan continue to work in conjunction with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and others to explore opportunities to celebrate the rich Aboriginal history of the City of Vaughan; and,

That the City and TRCA staff develops short, medium and long-term options for the consideration of Council.

Working Group Recommended Options

As a result of the November 8, 2011 Council resolution, a working group was established with members of the TRCA and Vaughan City staff from the Economic Development and Recreation and Culture Departments. An invitation was extended to members of Council interested in being part of the working group; Regional Councillor Di Biase and Regional Councillor Schulte both agreed to be part of this working group. Over the course of seven months, the working group met several times and consulted various experts.

A York Region staff member was appointed by the Regional Chair to sit on the working group in the spring of 2012. York Region has recently undertaken an Aboriginal stakeholder process for the York Region Archaeological Master Plan and was invited to sit on the working group to provide best-practice experience.

As directed by Council, short to long-term options were developed by the working group and the recommendations are listed below.

1. Participation in the Proposed Vaughan Heritage Tourism Trail Project to Develop, in Part, Interpretive Signage Commemorating First Nations History

The working group recommends that the City of Vaughan participate in the development of a heritage tourism trail in Vaughan similar to the model of The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé Discovery Walk project launched in the Humber River Valley in Toronto in 2011. This project will be lead by TRCA and Vaughan would be its partner, recognizing that portions of the proposed heritage trail includes Vaughan lands and trail system

The Vaughan project would be an extension of its Toronto trail along the Humber River and would highlight the significant archaeological and Aboriginal history of this river system in Vaughan. The majority of the trail is already developed, or under review for future development.

The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé tells the early history of Toronto and Canada from the perspectives of its founding nations (Aboriginal nations, and early European settlers, the French

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and British) through a series of 13 story circles containing interpretative signage. These story circles are installed along existing pedestrian trails at contextually relevant locations that follow the banks of the Humber River, a designated Canadian Heritage River. The trail connects an ancient Aboriginal portage route (Carrying Place Trail) to modern roads and railways. The trail highlights how the Humber River is an ancient corridor for Aboriginal settlement and trade, a route for the fur trade with Europeans, and a reason for the founding of the modern City of Toronto. The Toronto trail project was developed in partnership with TRCA, the City of Toronto, Heritage Toronto, the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and La Société d'histoire de Toronto. The award-winning project engaged First Nations and Métis groups, local historical societies and citizens. It was paid through grants, sponsorship dollars and municipal funding.

The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk model serves as a successful example for promoting the unique Aboriginal culture history, while enhancing existing municipal trails.

The proposed heritage tourism trail has a number of benefits to Vaughan that includes: the interregional trail in the Humber Valley from the top of Vaughan to the bottom; the connection of Vaughan to Toronto and Bolton along a continuous trail network; links Nashville Resource Management Tract, Kortright Centre and Boyd Conservation Area; links two designated Heritage Conservation Districts i.e. Kleinburg to Woodbridge; promotes the recently protected Skandatut First Nations and other archaeological sites in Vaughan; ties two major tourism anchors such as McMichael Art Gallery and Kortright; and importantly, provides opportunities to promote natural and cultural heritage as well as active living in the valleys.

Gary Wilkins in the Humber Watershed Planning section of TRCA will make a brief presentation at the meeting on The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé Discovery Walk project and the proposed Vaughan Heritage Tourism Trail project.

Should Council approve this project in principle, the next steps will be that the working group, with TRCA as the lead, and the City of Vaughan as a partner, along with local groups and organizations interested in participating in this project, will work towards the planning of the project. A grant under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport will be applied for, that if approved, will provide financial support for a tourism feasibility study grant related to the Heritage Tourism Trail project.

2. Renaming of Aboriginal Archaeological Sites with Contemporary or European Names to the Aboriginal Cultural Context of the Site

The working group recommends that the Aboriginal archaeological sites within the Humber Valley lands owned by TRCA and having contemporary or European names, be renamed to represent the Aboriginal cultural history of the site. This would be done through the re-registration of sites through the Ministry of Culture.

Archaeologist staff at the TRCA would lead in recommending and identifying appropriate names and sites on their lands and move towards renaming these sites as determined appropriate. City of Vaughan will collaborate with TRCA staff on this appropriate.

3. <u>The Establishment of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre</u>

The working group recommends that consideration be given, as a long-term initiative, to establish a cultural heritage centre in Vaughan that commemorates the history of Aboriginal people. The first steps in this initiative will be for the working group to determine an appropriate location for the centre on TRCA lands (as brought forward by TRCA), to determine project costs, identify other levels of government or other partners that will help fund and support the proposed centre and determine which level of government or organization will have the lead responsibility.

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The centre would be dedicated to the interpretation of Aboriginal cultural history that has history along the Humber River, including the Toronto Carrying Place Trail. This area within the Humber Watershed, is an early trade and transportation route for all Indigenous peoples throughout the ages, as well as the location of many archaeological sites dating to the 15th to the 17th century.

The TRCA has policy to conduct archaeological assessments on TRCA lands and to curate the artifacts resulting from investigations of archaeological sites for educational programs related to Aboriginal history such as the Boyd Archaeological Field School (35 years running). This educational program could be easily aligned or expanded with a cultural centre for Aboriginal people.

One possible location for the centre is within the lands owned by the TRCA known as the Boyd Tract, which includes Kortright Centre for Conservation, Boyd North and Glassco Park.

Meeting with Aboriginal Groups in Vaughan to Discuss Celebrating Aboriginal History

The working group met with representatives and experts in Aboriginal affairs and as a result it was determined that it would be appropriate for the working group to meet with Aboriginal groups regarding this project since it involves the interpretation of Aboriginal history and heritage. With this in mind, it was determined that this meeting with Aboriginal groups is one of the first steps in moving forward with the initiatives. An expert facilitator is recommended to be hired to undertake this meeting.

The goal of the meeting would be to ensure that the three options recommended in this report to help celebrate Aboriginal history in Vaughan, be communicated effectively to Aboriginal stakeholders and that an open dialogue be created with these stakeholders. The ideal outcome of this process is to agree on a project plan or protocol that will ensure Aboriginal culture and history is represented accurately in the three initiatives identified above.

The overall cost of meeting with Aboriginal groups is estimated to total \$30,000. The cost of a facilitator is estimated at \$12,000 and the projected expenses cost is \$18,000 for two meetings – including the travel and accommodation costs of Aboriginal stakeholders.

The proposed meeting of Aboriginal groups in Vaughan will be fully developed and finalized with the assistance of the facilitator. Approximately 17 stakeholder groups will be invited to meet at Vaughan City Hall for two sessions to discuss the subject projects and develop a protocol for the future planning of these projects. The information obtained, protocols and work plan will remain the property of the City/Region and TRCA.

Next Steps

The proposed next step in realizing the three options/projects as summarized in this report is to initiate a meeting in Vaughan with Aboriginal groups to discuss the proposed projects.

All projects will require planning and a determination of costs and resources in each phase of their development. Any financial implications for the City will be brought back to Council for review.

To summarize, the proposed <u>first phase</u> in developing these projects include:

1. <u>Heritage Tourism Trail</u>: The working group, with TRCA as the lead, and the City of Vaughan as a partner, along with local groups and organizations interested in participating in this project, will work towards the planning of the project and seek a Provincial grant to fund a feasibility study for the project.

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- 2. <u>Renaming of Sites</u>: Through the working group, archaeologist staff at the TRCA would lead in recommending and identifying appropriate names and sites on their lands and take steps towards officially renaming these sites through the Ministry of Culture.
- 3. <u>First Nations/Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Vaughan</u>: Appropriate first steps include the working group identifying an appropriate location for the cultural centre on TRCA lands (as brought forward by TRCA), and determine project costs. They will also identify other levels of government or other partners that will help fund and support the proposed centre and determine which level of government or organization will have the lead responsibility. Once this is determined, this information will be brought back to Council for further consideration.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
 Service Excellence Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

Regional staff has been recently appointed by the Regional Chair to the City/TRCA working group identified in this report. Although most initiatives identified in this report are on TRCA lands, the full impact, if any, to York Region is unknown at this time.

Conclusion

As requested by Council, options on how to celebrate Vaughan's rich Aboriginal history are outlined in this report as determined by a working group made up of TRCA, City staff and York Region staff. They include three recommendations: developing the Heritage Tourism Trail in Vaughan as proposed by TRCA; renaming Aboriginal archaeological sites to names associated with their Aboriginal cultural origin; and, establishing an Aboriginal cultural heritage centre within the Boyd Tract lands where, for example, the Kortright Centre for Conservation is located.

Attachments

- 1. Copy of Heritage Tourism Trail presentation
- 2. Copy of TRCA correspondence

Report Prepared By

Mary Reali, Director of Recreation and Culture, ext. 8234 Angela Palermo, Manager of Cultural Services, ext. 8139

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - OCTOBER 16, 2012

OPPORTUNTIES TO CELEBRATE VAUGHAN'S ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HISTORY: WORKING GROUP FINDINGS

Recommendation

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Contribution to Sustainability

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Economic Impact

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Communications Plan

Any outcome of this report will be communicated to the working group members.

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Conclusion

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Attachments

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Report Prepared By

Mary Reali, Director of Recreation and Culture, ext. 8234 Angela Palermo, Manager of Cultural Services, ext. 8139

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen Commissioner of Community Services



The Humber River Heritage Trail

Discovering Vaughan along the Humber

Committee of the Whole Meeting, City of Vaughan October 16th, 2012











	ery Walks© Program	Top tourism trail program in Toronto Focus on culture and heritage Trails linking neighbourhoods The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé is a new and updated version of the	program Highlights the unique history of Toronto to the development of Canada	Le Sentier Parade - Hihatter - Donner of	The Shared Path Mada-conditionan Mikaman
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Next Steps: Tourism Development Fund

-apply for a Tourism Feasibility Study Grant through the TDF

-define the project scope, partnership opportunities





Questions?

Gary Wilkins, MCIP, RPP Humber Watershed Specialist Watershed Management Division 416-661-6600 ext. 5211 gwilkins@trca.on.ca





August 14, 2012

Mr. Bill Fisch Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street P.O. Box 147 Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

AUG 3 9 7112

Dear Sir:

At Authority Meeting #6/12 of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), held on July 27, 2012, Resolution #A134/12 in regard to the Heritage Tourism Trail Planning and a First Nations Cultural Centre in the Humber River Watershed, was approved as follows:

WHEREAS the story of Aboriginal habitation of southern Ontario within the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) jurisdiction including both the cities of Vaughan and Brampton in both pre- and post-Contact periods is extraordinary, complex and little understood by the over 5-million inhabitants of the Toronto region;

AND WHEREAS the traditional territories of many Aboriginal nations (Huron-Wendat Nation, Anishnaabe nations, Haudenosaunee nations and the Métis Nation of Ontario) overlap to provide a rich and varied cultural history in the Humber River watershed;

AND WHEREAS the Councillors and staff of the City of Vaughan have over the past 10 years expressed an interest in working with Aboriginal nations, including the Huron-Wendat Nation whose ancestral villages and ancestral burials date from the 15th to the 17th centuries, to recognize and celebrate the heritage of these nations;

AND WHEREAS the sacred Skandatut First Nations archaeological site, located within the City of Vaughan, is now permanently protected through a generous private donation of land and is now in process of being incorporated in public ownership;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vaughan is interested in exploring the potential for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre in partnership with Aboriginal nations as a means of celebrating their ancestral heritage;

AND WHEREAS The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© program offers a successful model for inclusive interpretation reflecting the rich and varied cultural history;

Member of Conservation Ontario

Mr. Bill Fisch

AND WHEREAS both the cities of Vaughan and Brampton have continually over many years invested in trail infrastructure and conservation areas within their municipalities with the goal of promoting major recreation gateways for outdoor recreation and tourism;

AND WHEREAS TRCA has a policy to conduct archaeological assessments on TRCA lands and to curate the artifacts resulting from investigations of archaeological sites, and is able to incorporate the artifacts and teachings about the past peoples at those sites into education programs for students, such as the Boyd Archaeological Field School (35 years running);

AND WHEREAS TRCA led, in partnership with The City of Toronto, Heritage Toronto, the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, and La Société d'histoire de Toronto the nationally award winning The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© program in Toronto in 2011, consisting of 13 story circles with interpretative signage along the pedestrian trails of the lower Humber River;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport may provide financial support to municipalities interested in initiating tourism development plans through a tourism feasibility study grant;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA staff be directed to participate in the preparation and planning for the creation of heritage tourism trails in the cities of Vaughan and Brampton in partnership with municipal staff, regional staff, representatives of Aboriginal nations and other vested stakeholders;

THAT staff be directed to participate in the discussions and preparation of grant application submissions to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for a tourism feasibility study that would assess the tourism economic development potential for the creation of a heritage tourism trail, as well as identify product packages and outline the preliminary economic opportunities for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre in the City of Vaughan;

THAT staff be directed to participate in discussions and subsequent study being led by the City of Vaughan in conjunction with the Region of York to explore the potential for the location of a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre within the City of Vaughan;

THAT a potential location for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre be investigated within the lands known as the Boyd Tract, which includes Kortright Centre for Conservation, and Boyd North and Glassco Park;

THAT TRCA staff be directed to review current opportunities as part of the Kortright Centre building retrofit to house, initially on a temporary basis, displays or other installation developed in collaboration with representatives of Aboriginal nations that would celebrate the unique and vibrant cultural heritage of the area:

AND FURTHER THAT the regions of York and Peel, the cities of Vaughan and Brampton, Friends of Boyd Park and the Humber Watershed Alliance be so advised.

1

Enclosed for your information and any action deemed necessary is the staff report as presented to the Authority. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (416)661-6600, extension 5211 (gwilkins@trca.on.ca) or Susan Robertson at (416)661-6600, extension 5325 (srobertson@trca.on.ca).

Yours truly,

Jary metins

Gary Wilkins, B.Sc.,MCIP, RPP Humber Watershed Specialist Watershed Management Division

/L. Encl.

CC:

Clayton Harris, City Manager, City of Vaughan Angela Palermo, Manager of Cultural Services, City of Vaughan Tim Simmonds, Director of Economic Development, City of Vaughan Dolores Rotondo, Creative Economic Development Officer, City of Vaughan

Requester	Approvers		
SECTION:	SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION		
CÖNFIDENTIAL:	No		
	Item		
TO:	Chair and Members of the Authority Meeting #6/12, July 27, 2012		
FROM:	Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management		
RE:	HERITAGE TOURISM TRAIL PLANNING AND A FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL CENTRE IN THE HUMBER RIVER WATERSHED		
KEY ISSUE:	To endorse the concept of a heritage tourism trail within Claireville Conservation Area in the City of Brampton and along the William Granger Greenway in the City of Vaughan, as well as the potential creation of a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre within the City of Vaughan.		

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the story of Aboriginal habitation of southern Ontario within the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) jurisdiction including both the cities of Vaughan and Brampton in both pre- and post-Contact periods is extraordinary, complex and little understood by the over 5-million inhabitants of the Toronto region;

AND WHEREAS the traditional territories of many Aboriginal nations (Huron-Wendat Nation, Anishnaabe nations, Haudenosaunee nations and the Métis Nation of Ontario) overlap to provide a rich and varied cultural history in the Humber River watershed;

AND WHEREAS the Councillors and staff of the City of Vaughan have over the past 10 years expressed an interest in working with Aboriginal nations, including the Huron-Wendat Nation whose ancestral villages and ancestral burials date from the 15th to the 17th centuries, to recognize and celebrate the heritage of these nations;

AND WHEREAS the sacred Skandatut First Nations archaeological site, located within the City of Vaughan, is now permanently protected through a generous private donation of land and is now in process of being incorporated in public ownership;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vaughan is interested in exploring the potential for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre in partnership with Aboriginal nations as a means of celebrating their ancestral heritage;

AND WHEREAS The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© program offers a successful model for inclusive interpretation reflecting the rich and varied cultural history;

AND WHEREAS both the cities of Vaughan and Brampton have continually over many years invested in trail infrastructure and conservation areas within their municipalities

with the goal of promoting major recreation gateways for outdoor recreation and tourism;

AND WHEREAS TRCA has a policy to conduct archaeological assessments on TRCA lands and to curate the artifacts resulting from investigations of archaeological sites, and is able to incorporate the artifacts and teachings about the past peoples at those sites into education programs for students, such as the Boyd Archaeological Field School (35 years running);

AND WHEREAS TRCA led, in partnership with The City of Toronto, Heritage Toronto, the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, and La Société d'histoire de Toronto the nationally award winning The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© program in Toronto in 2011, consisting of 13 story circles with interpretative signage along the pedestrian trails of the lower Humber River;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport may provide financial support to municipalities interested in initiating tourism development plans through a tourism feasibility study grant;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA staff be directed to participate in the preparation and planning for the creation of heritage tourism trails in the cities of Vaughan and Brampton in partnership with municipal staff, regional staff, representatives of Aboriginal nations and other vested stakeholders;

THAT staff be directed to participate in the discussions and preparation of grant application submissions to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for a tourism feasibility study that would assess the tourism economic development potential for the creation of a heritage tourism trail, as well as identify product packages and outline the preliminary economic opportunities for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre in the City of Vaughan;

THAT staff be directed to participate in discussions and subsequent study being led by the City of Vaughan in conjunction with the Region of York to explore the potential for the location of a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre within the City of Vaughan;

THAT a potential location for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre be investigated within the lands known as the Boyd Tract, which includes Kortright Centre for Conservation, and Boyd North and Glassco Park;

THAT TRCA staff be directed to review current opportunities as part of the Kortright Centre¹ building retrofit to house, initially on a temporary basis, displays or other installation developed in collaboration with representatives of Aboriginal nations that would celebrate the unique and vibrant cultural heritage of the area;

THAT the regions of York and Peel, the cities of Vaughan and Brampton, Friends of Boyd Park and the Humber Watershed Alliance be so advised.

BACKGROUND

The proposal to create First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre within the City of Vaughan has

been in discussion with Vaughan Councillors and staff over a period of ten years, as a means of celebrating the rich and varied history of Aboriginal nations ancestral to the area. Proposed to be situated within the Humber River watershed, the inclusive First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre will highlight Aboriginal history unique to the area, including the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, which was a trade and transportation route for all Indigenous peoples throughout the ages, as well as the many archaeological sites in this part of Vaughan which speak to the varied cultural history of the area.

A successful model for highlighting Aboriginal nations and their heritage is The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© launched in the Humber River valley in Toronto in 2011, in partnership with TRCA, the City of Toronto, Heritage Toronto, the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and La Société d'histoire de Toronto. As a nationally award winning project by the Heritage Canada Foundation, The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé tells the early history of Toronto and Canada from the perspectives of its founding nations (Aboriginal nations, and early European settlers, the French and British) through a series of story circles containing interpretative signage. These story circles are installed along existing pedestrian trails and follow the banks of the Humber River, the Greater Toronto Area's only Canadian Heritage River.

The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé contains thirteen story circles that are installed at contextually relevant locations, where events significant to the development of Canada took place. Tracking across centuries, the trail connects an ancient Aboriginal portage route to modern roads and railways, Aboriginal settlements to 18th-century, French trading posts, and the ruins of water-powered mills to the birth of industrial Toronto. The trail highlights how the Humber River is an ancient corridor of Aboriginal settlement and trade, a route for the fur trade with Europeans, and a reason for the founding of the modern City of Toronto.

Building upon the success of The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé, both the cities of Vaughan and Brampton have expressed an interest in extending the concept of a heritage tourism trail up from the City of Toronto, along the inter-regional trail network, into both respective municipalities along existing and proposed trail networks, and within Claireville and Boyd conservation areas, Kortright Centre, Nashville Resource Management Tract and two designated Heritage Conservation Districts (Woodbridge and Kleinburg).

The opportunities for extending the The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé model into both Vaughan and Brampton are extraordinary. Some of these opportunities are summarized as follows:

In the City of Vaughan

The proposed heritage tourism trail:

- promotes the inter-regional trail in the Humber valley from the top of Vaughan to the bottom;
- crosses over three heritage bowstring bridges;
- connects Vaughan to Toronto and Bolton along a continuous trail network;
- links Nashville Resource Management Tract, Kortright Centre and Boyd Conservation Area;
- links two designated Heritage Conservation Districts: Kleinburg to Woodbridge;
- promotes the recently protected Skandatut First Nations archaeological site in Vaughan;
- ties in major anchors such as McMichael Art Gallery, The Living City Campus at

Kortright, conference facilities, businesses in Kleinburg and Woodbridge, the Board of Trade Country Club, etc.;

- complements newly proposed major initiatives such as the First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre, and the proposed Pierre Berton Discovery Centre;
- provides opportunities for promoting natural and cultural heritage as well as active living in the valleys;

The majority of the trail is developed, in development or under review for future development.

The following partners are interested in participating in The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© model in Vaughan: Kleinburg Area Ratepayers Association, Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association, Kleinburg BIA, Woodbridge Heritage groups, Woodbridge Farmers Market, Humber Watershed Alliance and Central Counties Tourism/RTO6. The project also provides opportunities for near urban agriculture and culinary tourism development.

In the City of Brampton

The proposed heritage tourism trail:

- links the inter-regional trail from Toronto into Brampton through Claireville;
- promotes Brampton, the Humber and Claireville as a primary trail tourism destination;
- crosses over one heritage bowstring bridge, the Wiley Bridge, which is in process to become heritage designated;
- ties in major anchors such as Wild Water Kingdom, Humber Arboretum, surrounding golf courses, etc.;
- has potential to highlight unique cultural heritage area of the designated McVean Farm site;
- provides opportunities for near urban agriculture and culinary tourism development;

The majority of trail is developed, or is under development in 2012/13. Many dozens of archaeological sites are already identified within Claireville which tell the story of 10,000 years of pre-Contact Aboriginal habitations as well as post-Contact pioneer settler habitations.

The following partners are interested in participating in The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© model in Brampton: City of Brampton, Humber Watershed Alliance, Claireville Subcommittee, local BIAs, arts councils, trail groups and RTO6. Claireville subcommittee members are already assisting with identification of areas of interest and scenic secondary trail options as part of the trail planning process for the Claireville Trail Plan.

Furthermore, The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Discovery Walk© model may serve as a successful example for promoting the unique Aboriginal culture history of the area that not only enhances existing municipal investment in the form of trails, Heritage Conservation Districts and conservation areas, but may lead to new potential investment, in the form of a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre in Vaughan.

Project Benefits and Components:

The benefits of this project include:

- Civic pride celebrates Vaughan and Brampton's rich and diversified heritage as well as the City of Vaughan's Vision 2020 "to preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture".
- Increased public awareness educates and informs the general public by revealing shared Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian experiences.
- Tourism industry offers residents and visitors a broader horizon of the history of Vaughan and Brampton.
- Public education offers pedagogical resources for public school curricula.
- Environment promotion of the existing designation under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System as well as both the cities of Vaughan and Brampton's Official Plans will help further promote, enhance and protect the Humber River.
- Cultural and historical festivals provide a setting for festivals highlighting the cultural and historical contributions of the Humber River to the development of Canada.
- Health and recreational activities incorporates existing hiking trails and specific areas
 of fitness and suggests improvements to the trail network through specific projects.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Tourism Development Fund

Tourism Development Fund supports projects that encourage tourism investment, tourism product development and industry capacity building.

- 1. Supports the creation or revitalization of tourism attractions, sites and experiences.
- 2. Supports innovative product development for emerging sectors that have demonstrated market potential.
- 3. Enhances the quality of tourism services, businesses and practices through training.
- 4. Assists with tourism planning and capacity support to ensure that the tourism industry is well positioned to make future strategic decisions, address issues and opportunities.
- 5. Assists communities with investment readiness, investor relations, investment attraction and communications.

Tourism associations, economic development corporations, municipalities, tourism businesses and organizations interested in undertaking tourism-related initiatives which support industry development and increased visitation are all eligible to apply.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- 1. Seek council endorsement of the concept by the City of Vaughan and the City of Brampton to pursue The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé model with a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre in the City of Vaughan.
- 2. Identify project champions, Aboriginal community representatives and form stakeholder committees in each respective municipality.
- Apply for Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Tourism Development funds in partnership with local municipalities. Confirm funding.
- 4. Retain a tourism planning consultant to prepare a Tourism Feasibility Study for both proposed trails that identifies project potential, opportunities, product packages and short, medium and long range goals for implementation with estimated costs outlined.
- Circulate completed feasibility study to stakeholder committees for review as well as the Authority and both municipal councils;
- 6. Implement project goals based on funding availability and current priorities.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Through the completion of a tourism feasibility study, staff will have a clearer idea of the

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financial implications for the short, medium and long-term project goals.

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Prepared by: Susan Robertson, extension 5325 Email: srobertson@trca.on.ca For Information contact: Adele Freeman, extension 5238 Email: afreeman@trca.on.ca Date: July 18, 2012