
TO: Mayor J. Lehman and Members of Council

FROM: R. K. Sutton, P. Eng., Director of Engineering

NOTED: R. J. Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng., General Manager of Infrastructure & Growth Management
M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Public Consultation on Design of Sam Cancilla Park
(File: R04-SA)

DATE: July 13, 2017

The purpose of this memo is to brief Council on the partnership with the Ontario Water Centre to engage the public on creating an innovative design of Sam Cancilla Park as it will become a prominent waterfront feature.

Background

Former Alderman Sam Cancilla passed away suddenly on January 9, 2015. He was the Alderman for Ward 2 from 1985 – 1991. Sam Cancilla was a strong supporter of initiatives involving youth, sports parks and the Barrie community. On May 25, 2015, City Council adopted Motion 15-G-107 regarding the recognition of Alderman Cancilla's community contributions; following a public consultation the recommendation was to rename Bayview Park to Sam Cancilla Park.

As part of the Playground Replacement Program, the Park is proposed for design in 2017 and construction in 2018. A more detailed plaque/signage describing Sam Cancilla's contributions to the community and his efforts to maintain the park will be prepared to coincide with the park construction. In Staff Report CLK009-15, it was noted that the playground area is anticipated to be identified as "Sam's Place" to acknowledge Mr. Cancilla's approachable nature and his commitment to parks, recreation and youth within the community.

Partnership with the Ontario Water Centre

City staff were approached by representatives from the Ontario Water Centre to partner on a project to repurpose waterfront areas that could add significant value to the people of Barrie as well as increase the health and well-being of the waterways/creeks and Lake Simcoe.

The idea of an internationally recognized Ontario Water Centre evolved from the Ladies of the Lake Conservation Association who in 2006 convened 300 citizens in the Lake Simcoe watershed to create an action plan to help restore the health of Lake Simcoe.

Through the ReWilding of Lake Simcoe project, a flagship initiative of the Ontario Water Centre; experts, citizens, community groups and diverse partners are discovering new ways of helping people enhance their own lives as they help the lake and watercourses. The project is inspiring communities, neighbourhoods, and municipalities to rethink their futures through the redesign of unique outdoor spaces that foster the vibrancy of people, nature and waterfront areas by:

- Innovations in citizen/expert engagement enabling people to reimagine their lives in a 21st century context and demonstrate how a partnership between people and nature can help them realize these dreams.
- Transformational designs provide spaces with new purpose as well as innovations in Low Impact Development, stormwater management and aquatic habitat.
- Experimentation with new approaches measure complex changes in both people and nature.

A number of sites have been redesigned including Pine Beach in Keswick, Centennial Park in Kirkfield and the Beaverton Harbour in the Township of Brock to name a few.

Pine Beach



Before



After

Centennial Park



Before



After

Beaverton Harbour



Before



After

Next Steps

The City plans to work with the Ontario Water Centre on the design and facilitation of three half day workshops with the objective of inspiring possible designs for the purpose and function of Sam Cancilla Park. The first two will be with City staff from Parks Planning, Recreation and Communications to prepare for the public engagement. The third workshop will be the actual public/community engagement to test the new context and to explore new possibilities for Sam Cancilla Park which will initiate a new vision, purpose and design of the park.

Following the public engagement in the fall of 2017, staff will report back to Council on the final design. The project will be funded under the Playground Replacement Program and no additional funds are required.

If there are any questions, please contact Sherry Diemert at extension 5150 or by email Sherry.Diemert@barrie.ca.