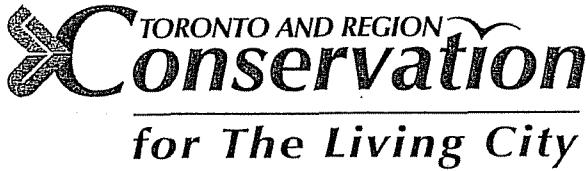


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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council
Public Works	Sept 27/12
Employee and Business Services	
Health Services	File
Human Services	
Peel Living	

August 14, 2012

Regional Municipality of Peel  
Office of the CAO

AUG 23 2012

RECEIVED

Mr. David Szwarc  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Brampton, ON  
L6T 4B9

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;*

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

...../2

Member of Conservation Ontario



*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;*

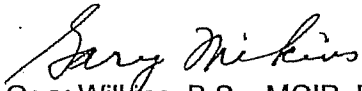
*THAT a potential location for a First Nations/Aboriginal cultural centre be investigated within the lands known as the Boyd Tract, which includes Kortright Centre for Conservation, and Boyd North and Glassco Park;*

*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.*

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,



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

/L.  
Encl.

cc: Deborah Dubenofsky, City Manager, City of Brampton  
Sohail Saeed, Director of Economic Development, City of Brampton  
John Spencer, Manager, Parks & Facilities, City of Brampton  
Alex Taranu, Manager, Urban Design, City of Brampton  
Antonietta Minichillo, Heritage Coordinator, City of Brampton  
Mitch St. Clair, Brampton Heritage Board, City of Brampton

Requester

Approvers

SECTION: SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL: 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 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;

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.
3. 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.
5. 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.

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