

**Full Authority
18 January 2024
Agenda Item: 15**

Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area Update

Background

[Please see 18 May 2023 Agenda Item #10.](#)

Progress Report

- A detailed year end Progress Report has been submitted by CVCA Volunteer Mr. M. Forget and is attached as information item for the CVCA Board.

2024 Projects

- The original design and implementation of barricades was sufficient to deter the vast majority of ATVs and all passenger vehicles. This objective has been achieved. We knew that a handful of ATV operators would seek out weak spots in the barricades and they have done so.
- The objective of the remedial work for 2024 is to greatly reduce the remaining opportunities for breaches in a proactive manner and hopefully reduce any and all prospects of trespass by ATVs.
- Providing there are no impediments, this will be the final year for work on the perimeter barricades which will eliminate gaps.
- This work is essential to ensure as much as possible to create a safe environment for all visitors to Callaghan's.

2024 Barrier Work

- Total estimate for maintenance and completion of remaining 2023 projects in 2024 is placed at approximately \$5,100.
- Labour and heavy equipment (local volunteer) is provided for free or in kind from the CVCA. A 10% contingency is included in the total amount for the projects (for signage, additional materials, etc.)

Proposed Kiosk

- To be completed once the perimeter is secured and the threat of vandalism has been reduced to "acceptable levels".
- Current past donations held in reserves should cover the estimated kiosk expenditures. Please see Proposal for Kiosk for additional details for the proposed project.

Establishment of “Friends of Callaghan’s”

- The creation of a Friends of Callaghan’s Foundation (FCF – a tentative name at this time) will be instrumental for maintaining and improving Callaghan’s Rapids to become a premier natural recreational destination as once envisioned by Mr. John Seeback and the CVCA Board members responsible for the purchase of the property.
- Once the FCF is in place, the intent currently is for the Foundation to be in a position to step in and take over the routine maintenance and management of the Conservation Area for 2025 and beyond.
- Of course, there are governance issues to address such as by-laws, and a contractual agreement between the FCF and the CVCA.
- Planning is underway to complete the FCF application and administrative items to be completed in 2024 to be ready for the 2025 recreational season.
- In the meantime, there remains much work to do, especially trail improvements with regards to drainage and the Mucking Trail rehabilitation. The Friends will get this done and the time frame for completion is 2027.
- In the interim, the park is quickly becoming fully functional, if not already there. Evidence for this is perhaps reflected in the very low amount of garbage that is being left behind by increasing number of visitors.
- Mr. Forget and I believe that the character of the visitor is now more respectful of the quiet (ATV free) and clean appearance of the park.

Staff Recommendation

That the CVCA Board release \$5,100 in donated funds from reserves to pay for the remainder of the concrete work, the installation of two gates and a small contingency as presented in this report.

Board Decision

TP