

ADDENDUM

**Heritage Guelph Meeting
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
Monday, 8 September 2014
1 Carden St., City Hall**

COMMITTEE ROOM B

Additional new business item

- Item 6.3** **108 Water Street - McCrae Memorial Garden**
Designated property
Proposed location for installation of freestanding Ontario Heritage Trust plaque to commemorate Col. John McCrae.

Supplementary information related to current Information Item

- Item 7.2** Update by staff on upcoming Public Information Centre for the current Niska Road Environmental Assessment.
- Letter (dated 3 September 2014) to Stephen Robinson and members of Heritage Guelph from Laura Murr, Vince Hanson, Sandy Nichols, Joe Bigley, Sharon Campbell-Claessens and Judy Martin.

September 3, 2014

TO: Stephen Robinson, MA, CAHP |
Senior Heritage Planner
City of Guelph
Stephen.Robinson@guelph.ca

AND

Members of Heritage Guelph

FROM: Laura Murr, Vince Hanson, Sandy Nichols, Joe Bigley, Sharon Campbell-Claessens, Judy martin

We would like to formally request that the City of Guelph conduct a Cultural Heritage Landscape Technical Study for the Heritage Speed River Valley lands in the vicinity of Niska Rd and the Bailey Bridge.

We have reviewed the Class Environmental Assessment Study for the Black Bridge in Cambridge. There are many similarities between the Black Bridge and Niska Rd. and Bailey Bridge Class EA's. Both the Niska Rd. /Bailey bridge and the Black Bridge areas are involved in a Class EA that involves:

- (1) A heritage bridge over the Speed River
- (2) A scenic undisturbed wooded valley of the Speed River
- (3) A road that is designated as a collector for traffic generated within the area but (if poorly designed) could form an arterial high-traffic route between major highways.

Both the Niska Rd. Bailey Bridge and Cambridge Black Bridge were identified in the GRCA April 2013 Arch, Truss & Beam: The Grand River Watershed Heritage Bridge Inventory as having significant heritage value.

One important significant difference between the Black Bridge EA and the Niska Rd. and Bailey Bridge EA processes is that in the terms of reference of The Black Bridge EA, the cultural importance of the river valley was recognized.

This has led to the decision by the City of Cambridge to establish a Cultural Heritage Landscape designation for the Black Bridge area and to require a Cultural Heritage Landscape Technical Study to be completed before the preferred option for the Black Bridge was selected.

At the initiation of the Black Bridge EA, the cultural features of the area and the beauty of the natural river valley were listed as important factors in the selection of road and bridge design, and the concerns about cut-off traffic was acknowledged.

Both Heritage Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo Heritage Planning Advisory Committee have been actively engaged in the road EA process and, as noted above, as a result of this engagement, and with the strong support of the Black Bridge Community Association, the City of Cambridge, at its May 5 2014 meeting, approved funding for a Black Bridge Area Cultural Heritage Landscape Technical Study and approved in principle a Cultural Heritage Landscape Designation for the Black Bridge Area.

In view of the similarities of the Niska Bridge area and the Black Bridge area in terms of the beauty of the undisturbed river valley and, in the case of Niska, the connection of the properties in the area with the leading settlers and

entrepreneurs of early Guelph including Felix Hanlon, Sheriff G.J. Grange, F.W. Stone and Horace Mack, a Cultural Heritage Landscape Designation for the Niska Bridge area is called for.

Laura Murr and Vince Hanson as members of the Niska Class EA Community Working Group have requested that the entire area from the viewing/observation point at the top of the Niska Rd. Hill and from the intersection of Ptarmigan and Niska be considered as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. We strongly believe that no preferred options should be selected before a Cultural Heritage Landscape Technical Study is completed and brought before Heritage Guelph for their consideration.

At our July 23, 2014 EA Community Working Group Meeting Phillip Rowe (see attached meeting minutes) from Burnside Consulting indicated that our concerns for the protection of the heritage view shed and cultural heritage landscape will be dealt with at the design stage. Since the design stage is conducted after the preferred option has been selected the design stage could potentially result in significant alteration of the cultural heritage landscape and viewshed. For instance, preferred option could result in road widening, road re-grading, tree removal and removal of the Bailey bridge all of which could irreparably change the character and beauty of the historic landscape that has developed over time.

Again, we believe strongly that it is neither acceptable nor appropriate to continue this EA process without first conducting a Cultural Heritage Landscape Technical Study since the early identification of significant cultural heritage resources is best addressed early in the planning process before the 'design stage'.

Richard Unterman of Unterman, McPhail Associates, at our July 23 2014 meeting (see attached 1), indicated that the April 2014 CHER Report recognizes that the landscape may have heritage value under O.REG 9/06. Mr. Unterman also indicated that it is up to the city to provide a linkage between the CHER Report and conformity to the City of Guelph Official Plan. We append sections of the OP that may be applicable.

It is our understanding that the *CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION for NISKA ROAD BRIDGE, MUNICIPAL SITE No. 00001(LOT 12, CONCESSIONS 5 & 6 GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH) CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY NISKA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS* will be on the agenda of a future meeting of Heritage Guelph. This CHER report as it stands is not complete without a consideration of the cultural heritage landscape by the Heritage Guelph Committee.

We believe strongly that the entire area, not just the area near the Bailey bridge is unique within the city of Guelph. This cultural heritage resource is valued by our community. We have attached a picture of the viewshed as seen from the observation point on the Niska Rd. hill top.

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Murr
Vince Hanson
Sandy Nichols
Joe Bigley
Sharon Campbell-Claessens
Judy Martin

Please respond to: Laura Murr, 123 Downey Rd., Guelph ON; N1C 1A3
Tel. 519-824-3606; Email: bearjakey.rogers.com



Photo provided by Laura Murr.



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