

October 29, 2015.

Dear Residents of Couchiching Point:

This morning four members of the Residents' Association Board met with the steering committee working with the Tudhope Park Design Plan Project. This included Ted Emond. Our members were Ron Vance – Vice President, June Healy – Secretary, Sandy Dougall – Director and Betty Bridgens – President.

Four of our board had been asked to attend so that certain points could be explained and clarified.

The meeting started with a presentation from the company who had been employed to create a plan. The various steps taken to design and create the vision were explained. The intention is not to change the style and atmosphere of the park, just to enhance what we already have. He explained that by the time the Concept Masterplan had been reached there was no wakeboarding on the drawings. It is not planned now as it was felt to be unsuitable in the location of Portage Bay.

John Bryant pointed out that this is a plan or overview, which ties in with the City's Master Plan. It is used with council to budget yearly capital costs. It was pointed out that the last plan was made in 2007 and we are still waiting for that to be completed. The only thing, which really came from it, was the playground and washrooms at Moose Beach.

The results of the surveys filled in by people attending the first introductory meeting and any sent in afterwards had been tabulated and were explained to us. This showed that a new washroom was very high on the priority list for most people.

Then many of the concerns from emails received by John Bryant were discussed and here are the responses:

1. Wakeboarding is **not** something which was to be included.
2. The entrance/exit off of Couchiching Point Road is for emergency use only. They must have two exits from a park the size of Tudhope. The one on Couchiching Point Road will be closed unless needed.
3. Parking will be where Mariposa has overflow parking and is well hidden by trees all around. It will not necessarily be tarmac.
4. There is a city by-law in place that only allows two major events a year. Mariposa is one and the Rib Fest has just been passed as the second one for the next three years. There is no intention of it being a second Burl's Creek. Camping would only be available for Mariposa and it is not planned as a regular occurrence.
5. The trails are enjoyed by many people and will not be changed, but supplementary trails/paths will be created or improved which will double as roadways on which materials can be moved. These will not in any way alter the integrity of the park.
6. There is no part of the plan, which will interfere with fish spawning or other environmental issues. The suggestion of an expanded beach in Portage bay will not be pursued in the near future.
7. Any dock which is put in will be mainly for the use of the rowing club, not for power boats to moor up to.
8. There is no money authorized other than for the plan. It would be paid for from a yearly capital budget. Mariposa has agreed to contribute with the funding.

9. The terraced viewing bowl is to be rolling grass banks, which will not stand out when not in use.
10. The Jerry Udell Baseball Field will be kept, it is the smaller one near the water which is planned to go sometime in the future and will be replaced by “Tudhope Meadows” a pleasant area to picnic on and sit and watch the water.

Our feelings are that most of what is shown will probably not have materialized by the time that the city comes out with another “plan”. Remember the 2007 plan and only eight years later there is a new plan. We felt this morning that the concerns were all answered and were unnecessary as the planners understand and appreciate Tudhope Park as we do.

Mr Bryant would welcome any comments either positive or negative at any time.

**If you are still left with any questions there is a Ward 1 Meeting with our councilors on Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7 - 9 pm in the Council Chambers in City Hall. This is to cover all affairs of Ward 1.**

*Sincerely*

*Betty Bridgens – President CPRA*

*Ron Vance – Vice President*

*June Healy – Secretary*

*Sandy Dougall - Director*