

The waterfront

'No way' city, CVCA can afford original plan

Construction of a headland at A. E. Crooke's park and completion of Port Credit park could be the extent of the development of the Waterfront Plan for some time to come.

According to George Biro, co-ordinator of the plan for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the \$6 million available would not pay for

any more than the two parks. The original plan called for a headland and an island at A. E. Crooke's park, a headland at Hiawatha Park, an island in the mouth of the Credit River, a headland at Ben Machree Park and one at Jack Darling Park as well as a large island stretching between those latter two parks.

Biro, who has told the

CVCA's water management advisory board that the cost of the original scheme is prohibitive, says there is "no way" that the authority and Mississauga can afford the original plan.

Mississauga is experiencing serious financial difficulties, with taxes expected to rise continuously over the next

few years without the addition of waterfront expenditures.

The money already approved by the province would allow development of Port Credit park, where landfill is already in place. It would also allow construction of a headland at A. E. Crooke's park. Biro says the ministry of

the environment is likely to approve that construction as long as it is no further than 1,200 feet offshore.

The ministry is concerned with the impact of landfill placed in the lake on the city's water supply which is taken from a nearby plant.

The curtailment of the

waterfront plan at this point would not necessarily mean that originally proposed structures could not be built sometime in the future, Biro pointed out.

The water management advisory board will make recommendations on the waterfront plan at a meeting this week.

Clarification sought on marsh expropriation

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority chairman wants the municipal funding procedure for expropriating Rattray Marsh in Mississauga clarified so there are no problems in taking possession of the property.

"We don't want to be embarrassed after all we've been through on this thing," Grant Clarkson told the authority. "If we end up with no money to pay down on the day it comes through..." he said, leaving the thought uncompleted.

General manager Harry Watson reported that the Ontario cabinet has apparently

ratified a decision to provide the province's 50 percent share of the marsh's appraised value of \$1,050,000.

When the minister signs the papers, the expropriation will be officially registered.

"The owner then has 30 days to ask for an inquiry into whether the expropriation is necessary. He's told us he's not going to," Watson said. The Rattray Estate is owned by lawyer Clem Neiman.

The authority can take possession after 30 days.

The Rattray issue has been a bone of contention for a decade or more. Neiman is expected to appeal the ex-

propriation to the provincial land compensation board. Hearings will be held to determine a fair price for the land taking.

Clarkson said that in view of recent squabbles over billing between the region of Peel and Mississauga on conservation projects, he didn't want to see the expropriation jeopardized. "We don't want to start an argument when we need cash on the barrelhead."

Councillor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga suggested that the authority bill the region, which will in turn bill Mississauga in advance of the impending action.

The cheque for the city's share could then be ready and be quickly transferred to the region which could in turn give it to the authority when possession is available.

Under Bill 138, Peel is the benefitting municipality for the three municipalities within its boundaries. It then bills those municipalities.

Mississauga has agreed to pay one half of the marsh cost, with the province providing the additional funds.

But Mrs. McCallion said the region didn't appear to understand that it had to bill Mississauga.

The city has not paid a \$305,000 bill it owes the authority because the region sent its bill to Mississauga rather than billing the city separately. "It's a good technicality that was picked up by our treasurer and city manager," Mrs. McCallion said.

Under the bill, Mississauga shouldn't be issuing a cheque to the conservation authority," she said.

Clarkson asked "pretty please" that the matter be quickly settled between the region and city. "We're the

goats," he said. The authority is paying interest on funds it had to borrow in anticipation of the funds.

"We'd do anything to get the money at this point," he said. "We'll send a courier down to take your cheque to the region," he told Mrs. McCallion.

The minister's signature on the Rattray Marsh expropriation papers is expected soon. Once the authority takes possession, the Rattray Marsh Preservation Committee will begin a public fund-raising campaign aimed at acquiring \$150,000.

'At least it's a shovel inground'

Frustrated in its attempts to get the offshore portion of the Mississauga Waterfront Plan under way, Credit Valley Conservation Authority has decided to go ahead with an onshore park in Lakewood.

"At least it's a shovel in the ground," says CVCA general manager Harry Watson. The authority has been trying for almost two years to get approval to begin construction

on the multi-million dollar plan to provide recreational facilities and parks through a series of offshore islands.

"It looks like we'll be stalled for a long time with problems because of the creation of land in the lake," says authority chairman Grant Clarkson. The ministry of the environment has continuously

questioned the environmental impact of proposals and has refused to give approval for construction.

The new park, which will be created by demolition of some houses south of Lakeside Ave. from Aviation Rd. to the west side of Hampton Cres., can be landscaped at little cost, according to Clarkson.

"This is something the people of Lakewood want," he adds. "It gives them an additional park which is something that's very important in that area where they are short of parkland."

The authority is still attempting to acquire two of

the properties that would be part of the park. One, the Devaney Estate, is being bought although some legal complications have arisen.

The other property, known as the Kashchuk lands will likely be expropriated.

Under an agreement with a consulting engineering firm, the authority will also be coordinating the armoring of Port Credit park where landfill was previously dumped by the former town of Port Credit.

Once the fill has been protected, the authority will decide how it wishes to proceed with the design of the park.


Fund request trimmed

Mississauga council has cut the library board budget request by \$50,000. The decision came after council referred the library budget back to the board.

Chief librarian Noel Ryan told council that if any further cuts were made, service and not just materials would be affected. Of the amount cut \$40,000 was slated to be used for purchasing audio-visual equipment.

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