

November 1, 2007

PLANS FOR REHABILITATION OF CROWN LAND TAKING SHAPE FOR THE CIP WET LAGOON IN HAWKESBURY, ONTARIO

The Ministry of Natural Resources is leading the efforts to rehabilitate a parcel of crown land known as the CIP Wet Lagoon, located in the Town of Hawkesbury. A Community Advisory Committee including members from the Town of Hawkesbury, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources are in the final stages of gathering information for the development of a rehabilitation plan. This plan will lead to the reduction of air emissions and odours caused by the stagnant water sitting in the lagoon and restore the land base to a more natural setting. The clean up and remediation of this valuable waterfront site could lead to further economic development, additional recreational enhancements and increased tourism along the waterfront and within the business areas of the community of Hawkesbury.

Background:

By 1822, twenty-two mills were in operation in the Hawkesbury area using the Ottawa River as a transportation corridor. Following the square timber era of the early 1850's, vast quantities of sawn lumber from the Ottawa valley were sold to the north eastern states to build the great cities of Chicago, New York and Boston. The development and sales of lumber during that period, served as the economic engine for all of Canada.

In the 1890's, cellulose manufacturing, a major component in the production of paper, began along the western waterfront in the Town of Hawkesbury. The property and plant was owned and operated by Canadian International Pulp and Paper (CIP) from 1921 to 1982.

With the construction of the Carillon Dam in 1965, waste from the mill was no longer permitted to be discharged into the Ottawa River. As CIP was one of the largest employers in the area, many solutions to the problem were explored. An adjacent parcel of crown land was deemed suitable for the disposal of waste cellulose fibres into a newly constructed "Wet Lagoon". Tenure for use of the property was provided by a License of Occupation, administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

In the mid 1980's, the CIP mill was closed and the buildings demolished. A Certificate of Approval was issued by the Ministry of Environment for the use of part of the Wet Lagoon as a landfill for some of the inert demolition materials. The License of Occupation was surrendered at that time but no provision had been made to force CIP to restore the site.

Ministry of Natural Resources organizational goals include:

- Healthy natural environments for Ontarians
- Economic growth for Ontario communities
- Public health and environmental safety to protect our citizen
- Stewardship, partnerships and community involvement

Project Objectives:

- To rehabilitate the CIP Wet Lagoon and naturalize the land base in a cost effective manner.
- To comply with the MOE requirements for closure of the site.
- To comply with and follow MOE and MNR Class Environmental Assessment requirements for the CIP Wet Lagoon.
- To work with the Town of Hawkesbury to explore economic development opportunities.

Steps and Activities:

- Gather and consolidate all available information/data to develop a closure plan for the CIP Wet Lagoon.
- Community Advisory Committee:
 1. Move forward the Wet Lagoon Closure Plan and Site Rehabilitation.
 2. Explore recycling options and marketability of cellulose fibres.
 3. Develop economic development options for waterfront and business areas of community.
 4. Seek partner funding for rehabilitation of site.
 5. Provide communications of project activities including webpage updates and hosting public open house during the Class EA process.
- Acquire access route, ground truth survey and repair, replace and construct adequate fencing and install safety signage.
- Start Class EA process, plan for community information session and work to developing cost effective closure plan.
- Institute closure plan and rehabilitate site in a phased process.
- Site rehabilitated, land base re-vegetated and passive use green space created.

Partnerships:

Opportunities for partnerships both monetary and non-monetary will be explored and encouraged. The municipality has a unique role in this project and has been tremendously supportive providing technical expertise and knowledge. The Mayor, Council and staff have taken an active role and interest in the project activities to date. Partnerships are

already exploring economic development opportunities and marketability of the cellulose fibres.

Innovative solutions for clean up and the use of the cellulose fibres will be explored. Any opportunity to partner during the clean up or realize sales of the cellulose fibres will be encouraged with funds generated being used to offset closure and rehabilitation costs.

As the re-vegetation of the site occurs and passive recreation becomes more feasible, community partners will be sought to assist with habitat restoration efforts.

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