

## Report PDR-PCD-28-15

**To:** Chair Wright and Members of the Planning and Community Development Committee  
**From:** Sarah Morrison, Intermediate Planner  
**Meeting Date:** June 16, 2015  
**Subject:** **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150)**  
**Status:** Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution PCD91-15; Endorsed by County Council July 7, 2015 per Resolution CC93-15;

### Recommendation(s)

**WHEREAS the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev) has announced the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program whereby municipalities can apply for grant funding to cover a portion of the costs for eligible projects;**

**AND WHEREAS successful applicants would receive funding for costs incurred between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018 with the application guidelines indicating that priority may be given for projects applying for 1/3<sup>rd</sup> funding;**

**AND WHEREAS applications of interest for the funding were due on June 9<sup>th</sup>;**

**AND WHEREAS given the time constraints, an application of interest was submitted to apply for 1/3 funding to improve the trail and lookout at the St. Vincent Tract located in the Municipality of Meaford making them accessible as per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005).;**

**AND WHEREAS the total estimated cost for the project is \$30,000 with \$10,000 being funded by the Canada 150 grant if successful, \$5,000 proposed to be funded from federal gas tax funding in 2016, and the remaining \$15,000 being funded from the Trails Reserve;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Report PDR-PCD-28-15 be received;**

**AND THAT the Application submitted to the FedDev for the St. Vincent Tract Accessible Trail and Lookout improvements be supported;**

**AND THAT funding for this project be included in the 2016 budget if the project receives funding from the Canada 150 Grant Program.**

## Background

On May 15, 2015 the Government of Canada launched the new Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP150). This \$150-million national program is part of a coordinated federal approach to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The CIP 150 program provides \$150 million nationally over two years to support the rehabilitation, renovation and expansion of existing community infrastructure.

The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) is responsible for delivering \$44.4 million over the two years to CIP 150 projects in southern Ontario. The submission deadline was June 9, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Municipal governments and regional governments are identified as eligible recipients under the program. The Canada 150 program would cover eligible expenses incurred between April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018.

### *Eligible Projects*

Eligible projects must:

- Fall under an eligible category and be proposed by an eligible recipient;
- Be for the rehabilitation, renovation or expansion of existing community infrastructure assets;
- Be open for use to the public and not limited to a private membership;
- Leverage a minimum of 50 percent of funding from other sources. Priority may be given to projects that leverage 66.6 percent or more; and
- Be substantially completed by March 31, 2018.

Projects must fall within the following project categories to be eligible for funding under the program:

- Community centres (including Legion Halls);
- Cultural centres and museums;
- Parks, recreational trails, including fitness trails, bike paths and other types of recreational facilities;
- Tourism facilities;
- Docks;
- Cenotaphs; and
- Other existing community infrastructure assets for public benefit that have a local community impact, such as local roads, drinking water treatment and distribution systems, connectivity and broadband, local airports, solid waste management and wastewater infrastructure.

## *Project Proposal*

Given the tight time frames, staff have moved forward with submitting an application for an expression of interest, with the understanding that should it not be the desire of Council to proceed with the project that staff would withdraw the application.

Staff have chosen to pursue funding for a project that would make one of our trails accessible as per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005). Based on the geography and topography found within the County, many forest properties could simply not accommodate this type of trail, however, it was determined that there was a County forest property in the Municipality of Meaford that would be suitable to upgrade being the St. Vincent Tract.

The St. Vincent Forest Tract has an existing 1 km trail and lookout viewing platform. The upgrades would include grading the trail to a standard which would include the addition of more granular material as well as boardwalks. In addition to this, the viewing platform would be upgraded to accommodate a wheelchair ramp and the existing railing would be lowered while still maintaining a safe barrier.

The project is estimated to cost \$30,000, if successful, the grant program would award 1/3 of the funding (\$10,000), federal gas tax funding would provide an additional \$5,000 and the remaining amount (\$15,000) would be funded from Trails Reserve.

As mentioned it was necessary in order to meet the tight timelines that staff move forward to make the request for funding for this project prior to a discussion with Committee and Council. Staff have prepared this report to provide as much information as possible and will take direction from Committee as to how to proceed.

## **Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations**

As mentioned, the goal is to obtain \$10,000 from the Canada 150 Grant Program, use \$5,000 from Federal Gas Tax Funding in the 2016 budget, and the additional \$15,000 would be funded from Trails Reserve. If the grant application is accepted, the project would be included in the 2016 budget.

There are no anticipated legal or IT considerations with regard to this project.

## **Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities**

Action Item 3.7 of the Corporate Strategic Plan indicates that the County should continue to implement the Grey County Recreational Trails Strategy and seek opportunities to work with others to expand the county-wide trails network.

Action Item 5.2 states that we should collaborate with the public, stakeholders, and other governments to improve the delivery of county services.

Section 6.7 states that we are to ensure that the county services and programs are inclusive, accessible, and reflective of the diversity of the population.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sarah Morrison, Hons. BA, MCIP, RPP  
Intermediate Planner

Director Sign Off: *Randy Scherzer*