

Township of Selwyn

Town of Selwyn Website

KAWARTHA PARK ROAD BOAT ACCESS STABILIZATION AND EROSION CONTROL

MUNICIPAL PROFILE:

POPULATION: 17,060 (2016 Census)

LOCATION: Central Ontario—North of Peterborough

SIZE: 315.7 km²

TOTAL PRIVATE DWELLINGS: 6,857

GREAT LAKES WATERSHED: Lake Ontario

BACKGROUND

The Township of Selwyn is situated in a region rich with natural beauty, including numerous large lakes. The Township is in the position of balancing the desires of the recreational users of these lakes with the environmental impacts associated with vehicular traffic. This project was initiated in order to protect the area from further degradation, and to reduce siltation of the lake caused by changing precipitation patterns and snow melt events.

The Township has demonstrated considerable effort in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. They have participated collaboratively in multiple sustainability efforts within the Greater Peterborough area, such as the Sustainability Peterborough Community Plan. In 2016, Sustainable Peterborough developed a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the Greater Peterborough Area (including Selwyn) to reduce local contributions to climate change and prepare the community for present and future impacts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Township of Selwyn initiated this project in order to re-naturalize a boat launch and associated access lane located along the western shoreline of Clear Lake, accessed off of Kawartha Park Road. The boat access had been used historically by local residents to launch canoes, kayaks, and small motorized boats, however the launch was sometimes used as a means of launching larger boats, requiring their trailers to enter into the water. The project was in part designed in order to restrict vehicle and trailer access while preserving the ability to launch small watercraft, as well as pedestrian access to the nearby beach.

The project was also initiated in order to reduce siltation of the lake during rain and snow melt events. The soil in the area is a fine sand and silt that is easily mobilized and carried into the lake during rain or snow melt events. The project involves re-grading the lane and installing an erosion control structure in the area of the access in order to capture sediments before they reach the lake. In addition, native vegetation plantings will be used to stabilize and re-naturalize the area in order to reduce sedimentation into the lake.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project were threefold:

- Re-naturalize the existing boat launch in order to restrict vehicular access, reduce erosion, siltation, and infilling of Clear Lake;
- Provide continued access for recreational uses; and
- Provide a learning opportunity for the Township and residents.



Wikiwand



Figure 1

- Regraded Lane
- Vegetated Swale
- Boulders
- Stone Check-dams
- Pedestrian Route

Note:
Figures 1-5 are for illustrative purposes
and were not done to scale. Features
may be altered to fit site conditions and
constraints.



Figure 2

PROJECT PLANNING

The site was selected in early 2017, with design work being completed by March. In April 2017, the design was reviewed and permit applications were submitted to Parks Canada and to the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority. The original timeline aimed to have secured favourable reviews, permissions, and permits by June. By August, Parks Canada had granted a permit for the work, however the ORCA had not. This delayed the construction that was originally planned for August. As described below, by September the project had been discontinued and the Township is currently finding a new use for the CIG funds.

The following enhancement activities were initially recommended by a local engineering company:

- Grade the lane to the access to direct drainage of surface water to the west side of the lane,
- Install a naturalized drainage swale to slow water and allow sediment to deposit,

- Place a boulder on each side of the boat access approach spaced approximately 2.75 meters apart;
- Plant areas on either side of the boat access with native vegetation;
- Ensure appropriate pedestrian passage is available; and
- Install signage as required.

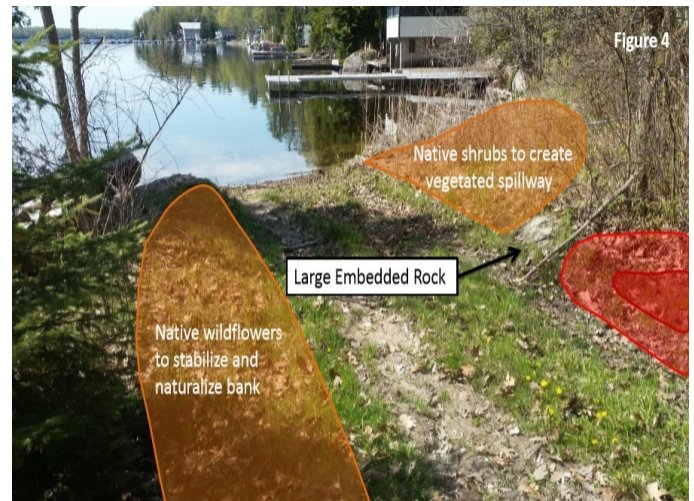


Figure 4

FUNDING

Funding for the project was supported by the \$7,000 grant from the MOECC for participating in the Collaborative Implementation Group project. These funds were matched by cash or in-kind contributions on behalf of the Township.

PARTNERSHIPS

At the outset of the project, the Township identified several stakeholders whose 'buy-in' would be required in order for the project to progress.



Figure 3

Below is a description of the stakeholders and their relationship to the project:

- Kawartha Park Cottagers Association (KPCA) provided a justification for the project and was consulted as an abutting landowner and interested party;
- The Township consulted the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) in order to determine the ideal level of recreational access for the boat launch;
- As a part-owner of the land on which the current boat launch sits, Parks Canada was required to grant permission for any alternations;
- Alterations to the site would require a permit from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) as portions of the work would occur within the flood-prone zone of the lake; and
- Trent Severn Waterway—abutting landowner and federal authority on waterway.

From the outset, the project had support from Council, and the public works team was engaged during the process. The management team included members from community services, finance, and public works, with all parties supporting the project.

CHALLENGES

The first set of challenges encountered by this project arose as a result of approvals and permits taking longer than originally scheduled. At the time (roughly July 2017) this was not considered to be a major impediment to the successful completion of the project.

The most substantial challenge encountered by this project arose as a result of a key stakeholder reversing its position on the necessity of the project. Specifically, in September 2017 the KPCA approached Council asking that the project not proceed as planned and that no work take place in the area. The KPCA noted that some recent land transfers led it to believe that the new owners would use the area in a different manner than previous owners, thus leading to a re-naturalization that did not require human intervention. Given that the concerns of the KPCA were the prime motivation for the project, the Township of Selwyn removed this project from the 2017 capital budget and at their request advised stakeholders that no further Township resources would be allocated to improve or maintain this area.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Although the project was not completed as intended, a positive outcome of this project is that it was motivated by stakeholders who were empowered to play a prominent role in the project, including prompting the project to be cancelled when they reversed their support for it. This demonstrates a sensitivity to

stakeholder concerns at both the outset and throughout the project that is commendable.

MEASURING OUTCOMES

The success of this project was to be demonstrated by monitoring and evaluation strategies deployed in the fall of 2017. These strategies included:

INDICATOR #1: Direct observation of erosion as storm runoff travels over land. This was to be conducted by residents during and after rain events, and is based on their historical observations of the area.

INDICATOR #2: Direct observation of silt accumulation in lake as a result of erosion. This was to be conducted by residents during and after rain events, and is based on their historical observations of the area.

INDICATOR #3: Re-establishment of native plantings in project area. Before and after photographs and inventory of plantings. On site observation before, during and after project completion.

LOOKING AHEAD

As a result of the project no longer being deemed necessary, the Township is able to select another climate change adaptation project that will have greater benefits for Selwyn and the community. The Township is currently deciding on a new use for the CIG funds.



Grant Gibson

Acknowledgements

This project was made possible by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, under the Canada-Ontario (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Adaptation Project Collaborative Implementation Groups

The Collaborative Implementation Groups (CIG) project targeted 12 municipalities throughout the Great Lakes watershed to identify and implement an adaptation initiative in their community over the period of one year (January 2017 – December 2017). The CIGs came together at various stages to share experiences, challenges, and opportunities on such items as measuring progress through indicators, project financing, budgeting, scheduling, evaluation, monitoring, and reporting. Ultimately, the CIGs were an opportunity to bring together practitioners struggling with implementation challenges to create a peer support network that brings these individuals together (both online and in person) to collectively work through the implementation of an identified action and share the resulting experiences.

Author: ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability Canada Office

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