
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum FPC-M01-2021 Port Maitland Pier & Esplanade Operational Improvements (2021) & Future Capital Initiatives



For Consideration by Council in Committee on March 30, 2021

To: Mayor Hewitt and Members of Council

From: Jeremy Misner, Manager, Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations

Memorandum FPC-M01-2021 is intended to provide an update on a Council directive from June 30th 2020 Special Council Meeting, regarding Port Maitland Pier and Esplanade Park for staff to investigate options to better control access to the property, which could include infrastructure upgrades, technology and staff resources. Staff were also to investigate the feasibility of implementing a non-resident user fee.

In the last several years Port Maitland has become a popular destination for residents and non-residents alike. Several issues have arisen from this increased popularity as the area is quite restrictive when it comes to parking, roadway width, park access and limited local area roads. The congestion has resulted in an increased demand for by-law enforcement (parking, unacceptable behaviour), washroom facilities and garbage removal.

Outlined below is work completed-to-date and proposed operational improvements for the 2021 season and future capital improvements (2022 and beyond):

- An engineering study has been completed and has identified solutions to deal with parking, security, access and payment options, lighting, and improvements to the boat ramp and docks. All of these improvements will require further investigation and detail design work in 2021 with implementation anticipated to commence in 2022. The work is identified in the 2021 Tax Supported Capital Budget so that design work can commence this year. Further investigations into user fees would be completed during the detailed design stage.
- Increased parking capacity of approximately 25 parking spots has been put in place at the park with the expansion of the north end parking lot and improved shoulder parking. Work on the road allowance and shoulders provides improved access for EMS and Fire services.
- Increased presence of Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs) to issue tickets for non-compliance of County By-laws (parking, park use, waste and litter disposal) and to educate residents and non-residents on County By-laws (in an effort to achieve compliance first). This includes staff during the summer months that will be dedicated to enforcement and education activities at the site 7-days a week and specifically during the afternoon to early evening hours on weekends. Coordination between MLEO staff, on-duty Facilities staff and on-call Facilities staff will take place to identify any maintenance issues that occur at the park and need immediate attention. This practice was initiated mid-summer 2020 with success and subject to budget approval will be implemented for the full 2021 season (May to Labour Day). Once the development plan has been implemented for the park area an increased MLEO presence (i.e. in summer 2022) may no longer be required.
- Increased Park Grounds Maintenance to deal with the influx of people and the increase of garbage on the property. From the time period of mid-summer 2020 an increase in time and maintenance was implemented at the park with success and this service will continue for the entire 2021 season.

- Maintain the increased number of portable washrooms and increased cleaning schedule that was implemented in 2020.
- Staff reviewed the feasibility of installing live-feed cameras in Port Maitland to display on the County website. This would allow potential visitors to access a view of the park remotely and hopefully deter visitation when the park is already at capacity. Multiple internet providers were contacted and none could guarantee a reliable internet source at this time. Staff are continuing to develop a potential camera/hardware solution for possible implementation when a reliable internet source is available.