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**A. MEILUTIS**

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 29, 2016</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JOHN M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY COMMUNITY PROGRAM 2015 SUMMARY AND 2016 PLANNING REPORT</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, the following report outlining the 2015 Summary and 2016 Planning Report **BE RECEIVED** as per the requirements of the City's agreement with Landscape Ontario for the enhancement of the Veterans Memorial Parkway.

It being noted that the Agreement with Landscape Ontario for the Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program has been extended into 2017.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER**

September 12, 2011    BNEC report regarding the revised partnership Agreement with Landscape Ontario for the enhancements of the VMP and also the Planned Fall 2011 Landscape enhancement project details.

August 15, 2011        BNEC report outlining the pertinent details of the intent and purpose of the recommended agreement with Landscape Ontario.

**BACKGROUND**

In October 2011, a final approved Agreement between the City and the Horticultural Trades Association, known as Landscape Ontario (LO) was endorsed by Council and signed by both parties. One responsibility within the agreement (Section 8) is the submission of an annual written report that outlines the landscape enhancement plans for the upcoming year.

This report will also provide an update on the success of the fall 2015 community planting project.

**2015 PROJECT UPDATE**

- In April 2015, community members participated in the London Clean and Green day along the VMP.
- On planting day this past fall, a total of 295 volunteers from local businesses and the community came out to plant along the VMP between Oxford Street and Hamilton Road.

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- Twenty-two professional volunteers from LO member businesses assisted in preparing the planting sites using heavy equipment and expertise.
- 268 large-size trees were planted. They were all between 60 mm caliper and 3-4 m in height.
- A second planting took place on a separate day in the fall with 63 volunteers from local Scout and Guide groups at the London International Airport at the north end of Crumlin Road. A total of 102 large caliper trees were planted.
- A third planting occurred involving the Argyle Community Association as a part of their gateway project at Trafalgar Street. A total of 16 60mm caliper trees were planted by 14 volunteers and staff.
- A fourth planting occurred in November near River Road and the VMP as a part of a joint research project looking into the effects of site remediation on tree survival rates. Due to the late season, these trees were planted by staff from the VMP and Vineland Research. A total of 107 large caliper trees were planted ranging between 50-70mm in diameter.
- 2015 sponsors included 3M Canada, Starlim North America, Trojan Technologies, Talbot Marketing, Stihl Canada, StarTech.Com, TDFEF, the Sunlight Foundation, RCAF 427 Wing Association, Revera Retirement Living, Parkwood Hospital, and the Rotary Club of London. Donations and commitments for 2015 from sponsors totalled \$65,750.
- The joint Research Project with Vineland Research received a donation of large caliper trees, 50-70mm in diameter, worth approximately \$15,000 from Uxbridge and Sheridan Nurseries, and a donation of organic material, planting material, and site-enhancement equipment worth approximately \$5,000 from Terratec Environmental Ltd and Vineland Research.
- The City of London contribution to tree planting operations in 2015 was \$35,275.
- The total value of all in-kind donations including materials, equipment and volunteer labour was \$80,970.00.
- Recognition signs for the project partners were installed in early November along the east and west sides of the VMP in front of the 2014 and 2015 planting project sites.
- 3M, Starlim North America, Trojan Technologies, StarTech.Com, Talbot Marketing, Echo Power Equipment, and others are continuing to maintain the boulevard planting areas adjacent to their properties.
- Starlim North America, Tunpetti Corp, and CEPM/Eunjac Investments provided support to the VMPCP tree survey and pruning operation which took place in May and June 2015. These in-kind donations valued over \$10,000.
- The two commemorative rock features begun in 2014 were completed in the spring of 2015.
- To date, the VMPCP has added \$965,000.00 worth of infrastructure value to the City of London in tree plantings (1,930 large caliper trees).
- The infrastructure value of the three rock features is estimated to be \$80,000-\$100,000.
- To address previous planting issues, innovative planting techniques were introduced in 2015 that included the full use of a 48" diameter tree planting auger (the only one in Ontario), coco-fiber mats instead of mulch, smaller stakes (tethering instead of staking), infrared reflecting

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tree guards 48" tall, complete wire-basket removal, root-girdling prevention measures for trees supplies in containers, and deep root watering. These new techniques have made planting large trees easier for volunteers.

<b>2016 LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PLANS</b>
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- Spring Clean and Green participation is planned again, and also a goal of a fall community planting project of 500 trees.
- The VMPCP would like to conduct a comprehensive tree survey for all trees planting along the VMP. This program would include tagging the trees and recording their exact location through the use of a GPS device. Average diameter, height, form, and general condition will also be inventoried. Funding currently exists for the 500 trees planted in 2015. Additional funding is required to collect the data for trees planted in previous years. Over time, the data collected will be used to analyse the effectiveness of the varying planting techniques used.
- Local area Scout and Girl Guide groups are working with the VMPCP to train interested members in data collection techniques.
- Plantings will all occur within recommended community project areas between Hamilton Road and Bradley Avenue based on the designs by, and coordinated with, Ron Koudys, Landscape Architect (RKLA).
- The current confirmed partners and their cash donations for this year's projects will allow the 2016 campaign to begin with approximately 250 trees.

Please see the attached *Appendix A – VMP Programme Funding Analysis* for more detail.

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<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
<b>A. MEILUTIS COMMUNITY PROJECTS COORDINATOR</b>	<b>A.W. MACPHERSON, OALA MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PARK PLANNING</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>JOHN M. FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER</b>	

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Monday, March 21, 2016

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Appendix "A" – VMP Community Program's Report

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APPENDIX "A"



VMP Programme Funding Analysis

VMP Results	Actuals	Projected		Totals
	2011-2015	2016	2017	
Trees Planted to Date (including Replacements):	2,100	525	525	3,150.00
Trees Lost - unadjusted	170	25	25	220.00
Trees Remaining to Date	1,930	500	500	2,930.00
<b>Attrition Rate - Unadjusted *:</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
Average Municipal Attrition Rates for Comparison Purposes:	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
<b>Adjusted Rates:</b>				
Remove losses due to accident, bad stock, bad sites, animal related, etc.				
Trees Lost - Planting Technique Related only:	42	25	25	92.00
<b>Attrition Rate - Adjusted</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

Financial Analysis	Actuals	Projected		Totals
	2011-2015	2016	2017	
<b>COL Costs for VMP Tree Program</b>				
EPP Annual Grants (trees)	50,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	70,000.00
EPP Extra Grants (trees)	32,500.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	62,500.00
COL Program Support Grant	220,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	320,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>302,500.00</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>452,500.00</b>
<b>Value of Community Engagement</b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Cash Donations (Trees)	265,453.20	66,363.30	66,363.30	398,179.80
Cash Donations (Features)	20,000.00	-	-	20,000.00
Materials-in-Kind	58,000.00	14,500.00	14,500.00	87,000.00
Services-in-Kind	85,315.55	21,328.89	21,328.89	127,973.33
<b>Sub-Total Donations:</b>	<b>428,768.75</b>	<b>102,192.19</b>	<b>102,192.19</b>	<b>633,153.13</b>
<b>Volunteers - Value **</b>				
Volunteers - Community	158,960.00	39,740.00	39,740.00	238,440.00
Volunteers - Professional	23,800.00	5,950.00	5,950.00	35,700.00
Volunteers - Equipment	26,400.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	39,600.00
Volunteers - Board of Directors	117,600.00	29,400.00	29,400.00	176,400.00
<b>Sub-Total Volunteer Value:</b>	<b>326,760.00</b>	<b>81,690.00</b>	<b>81,690.00</b>	<b>490,140.00</b>
<b>Total Community Contribution:</b>	<b>755,528.75</b>	<b>183,882.19</b>	<b>183,882.19</b>	<b>1,123,293.13</b>
<b>Programme Total (all sources):</b>	<b>1,058,028.75</b>	<b>258,882.19</b>	<b>258,882.19</b>	<b>1,575,793.13</b>
<b>% Community Contribution to Programme:</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>71%</b>

City of London Value Proposition ***	Actuals	Projected		Totals
	2011-2015	2016	2017	
Average COL Cost per VMP Tree Surviving:	156.74	150.00	150.00	154.44
Infrastructure Value per Tree (Current Method):	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Increased Infrastructure Value (Trees Surviving):	965,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	1,465,000.00
Infrastructure Value to Cost Ratio:	3.19	3.33	3.33	3.24

Notes:

\* Projections use a conservative attrition rate of 5%

\*\* Based on hourly rates for volunteer service provided by City of London Staff