



Nature London

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Inc.
P.O. Box 24008, London, Ontario N6H 5C4

May 27, 2013

Chair and Members
Planning and Environment Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin
London, ON
By e-mail

Re: Western Counties Health and Occupational Centre, Cultural Heritage Landscape, item 20

Nature London has commented on previous versions of the Consultant's work and attended the public meeting on this project. In general, we are supportive except for the following areas of concern that we hope the Committee will address.

PROPOSED PICNIC PAVILION

We are concerned about the proposed picnic pavilion in the Catalpa Meadow. In our Nature London comments earlier this year, we said:

We do not support these elements. Shrubs and trees were planted here early in the past decade, and naturalization is proceeding. This naturalizing meadow provides a linkage between two portions of the Environmentally Significant Area. Disturbance through introduction of new infrastructure is not appropriate. The UTRCA also planted a few additional shrubs here this spring.

WESTMINSTER PONDS ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA (ESA)

Although the Consultant Report does make reference to the adjacent Environmentally Significant Area, the clarity and significance of this information could have been enhanced. We do not propose any changes to the text, other than in relation to the proposed new dock and access to the dock. In the proposed implementation Phase 2, we read:

Construct new path to Walker's Pond and new dock or Lookout

In previous correspondence, Nature London accepted the dock:

However, this is a place where it would be highly advisable for the documentation to make reference to the ESA, possibly with words such as:

Construct access to new dock or lookout at Saunders Pond following the process described in the City of London Planning and Design Standards for Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas.

SAUNDERS POND

We are troubled by the inconsistent naming of the pond in the consultant's report and the staff report. The pond is known as Saunders Pond, and has been known as that for generations. The consultant report is almost correct on page 4, where it says:

Saunder's Pond (formerly known as Walker's Pond)

However, it should actually say Saunders Pond (no apostrophe) – the man's name was Saunders, not Saunder. Naming of the ponds was reviewed during the Master Plan update in 2005; Saunders Pond was confirmed as the correct name at that time. Thus it is very confusing to read in the recommendations of the Consultant Report, and the staff report, references to a new dock at "Walker's Pond." There are several other references to Walker's Pond throughout the consultant report in places where it does not make sense to use that name. I do not know of any specific date where the name changed. When Carl Hearn and David Wake prepared Ponds Profile in 1970, the common accepted name was Saunders Pond, and we have seen that name used consistently in city documentation since that time.

Sincerely,

Sandy Levin
Chair, Conservation Committee

Actively concerned with Nature since 1890