



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-093

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability and Growth Group

RESOURCE STAFF: Paul MacLatchy, Director Environment & Sustainable Initiatives

DATE OF MEETING: February 21, 2012

SUBJECT: Update on the Kingston Inner Harbour Sediment Remediation Initiative

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff from the City of Kingston Environment & Sustainable Initiatives Department have been participating in a joint effort between Municipal, Provincial and Federal stakeholders to examine the environmental condition of the Kingston Inner Harbour, identify risks to human or environmental health and determine the scope of environmental management required to address problems found.

The Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group, led by the Environmental Sciences Group of the Royal Military College of Canada is continuing the examination of the Kingston Inner Harbour with the prospect of utilizing the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) to potentially fund sediment clean-up where warranted.

This report provides an update on the City of Kingston's involvement within the Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group and seeks Council's approval to continue our engagement in the initiative.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council recognizes the strategic importance of Kingston's Inner Harbour and its adjacent lands to the sustainable development and quality of life of our community, and

THAT Council authorize City staff to continue working with the Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group to delineate environmental conditions within Kingston's Inner Harbour and seek management solutions where required, and

THAT Council approve \$60,000 to be funded from the Environment Reserve Fund for the completion of further environmental analysis.

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AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

<p>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER <u>Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth</u></p>

<p>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER <u>Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</u></p>
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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Lanie Hurdle, <i>Community Services</i>	N/R
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:*The Kingston Inner Harbour*

Kingston's Inner Harbour area of the Great Cataraqui River has long been a source of concern due to its use as a hub of waterfront industrial activity from the mid 1800s through late 20th century and the legacy of environmental contamination that these activities left behind.

The most heavily impacted portion of the Kingston Inner Harbour lies within the river sediments along the western shore of the Cataraqui River between the LaSalle Causeway and the Belle Park Fairways and within the wetland sediments adjacent to the former Davis Tannery. Ownership of the waterlots where these sediments exist is predominantly with Transport Canada and Parks Canada but also, to a lesser extent, with the owner's of the former Davis Tannery property and the City of Kingston.

In 2000 the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) began an examination of the actual versus perceived environmental condition of Kingston's Inner Harbour area. Their results, derived from a compilation of existing knowledge¹ as well as a public consultation and visioning² exercise identified gaps in the scientific knowledge required to make management decisions for the harbour area and also demonstrated strong public support for improvement of environmentally degraded areas and enhancement of public access to the waterfront areas of the Kingston Inner Harbour.

One of the results of KEAF's work on the Kingston Inner harbour was the identification³ of the need for stakeholders to work collaboratively so as to avoid duplicating scientific efforts within the harbour area, concentrate on known information gaps and aim to create a strategic approach to management of the Kingston Inner Harbour so that environmental conditions and public access may be improved.

Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group

In 2008, under the leadership of Dr. Ken Reimer of the Royal Military College's Environmental Sciences Group (ESG), the City of Kingston joined with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Parks Canada, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, CFB Kingston and Rideau Renewal Inc. in creating the Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group (CRSG). The CRSG is an ad-hoc group of government agencies and one private firm who have ownership or regulatory interest in the waterlots of the Kingston Inner Harbour.

The objective of the Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group has been to gather regulatory and custodial stakeholders together to jointly evaluate the environmental condition of the Kingston Inner Harbour, determine if management actions are warranted, and investigate the potential for funding mechanisms such as the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) to be used to implement environmental management recommendations.

¹ The Kingston Inner Harbour – Great Cataraqui River Data Compilation and Gap Analysis Study, Malroz Engineering, 2003.

² Towards a Sustainable Future, Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum Progress Report #2, May, 2002.

³ Towards a Sustainable Future, Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum Progress Report #3, May, 2004.

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To date a substantial amount of data collection and analysis has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the CRSG participants through a peer review process.

Benefits and Costs of an Inner Harbour Clean-Up

The benefits provided by a project that addresses contaminated sediment within Kingston's Inner Harbour are numerous and include direct benefits such as the removal of environmental risks as well as associated benefits such as increasing development feasibility for underused property which in turn leads to improving public access to the Kingston Inner Harbour and terrestrial brownfield redevelopment.

Because of the largely Federal (Transport Canada and Parks Canada) ownership of waterlots within the Kingston Inner Harbour there may be an opportunity to utilize the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) as a major funding source for any clean-up or management measures that are supported by the stakeholder group. The FCSAP program may also allow for a joint venturing between the municipality and the Federal custodians so that FCSAP funds can leverage municipal contributions thus enabling a larger area of clean-up.

Any environmental management project emerging from this work and funded through a FCSAP process would be subject to the *Federal Environmental Assessment Act* and the associated requirements for public consultation through an environmental assessment process.

City Participation in the Delineation of Potential Sources of Environmental Conditions

As part of the ongoing participation of the City in the review of current conditions, a need has been identified to do further sampling on City properties. To further the completion of the environmental analysis, Council is requested to approve additional budget in the amount of \$60,000, funded from the Environment Reserve Fund in 2012 for further environmental testing. There are sufficient funds in the Environment Reserve Fund, which was established to finance this type of expense.

This sampling will provide further information to the City to work with the Ministry of Environment and the Cataraqui River Stakeholders Group to ensure that former industrial sites are managed.

Staff are requesting approval of an additional \$60,000 in the 2012 budget to complete geotechnical analysis that will further the Kingston Inner Harbour Sediment Remediation Initiative.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

The prospect of a sediment clean-up within the Kingston Inner Harbour is consistent with the City of Kingston's Strategic Plan in that it supports brownfield redevelopment and seeks partnerships that enable funding required for progress on local brownfields.

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

Not applicable.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no accessibility considerations required with this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A more comprehensive review of the financial implications and funding strategies will be required once a cost/benefit analysis of the Inner Harbour Clean-up has been evaluated.

CONTACTS:

Paul MacLatchy, Director Environment & Sustainable Initiatives, 613-546-4291 ext. 1226

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Desiree Kennedy, City Treasurer

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

None.