

# Board Meeting Highlights

December 15, 2017

## Announcements:

a) Solicitor retires after over 39 years of dedicated service to LSRCA

CAO Mike Walters was pleased to present Mr. Ken Hill of Hill Hunter Losell with a gift of thanks in appreciation of his over 39 years of dedicated service to LSRCA. Mr. Hill is set to retire at the end of 2017.

b) And the award goes to.....

The Watershed Interpreters' Network Award, which recognizes an individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership in watershed education, was recently awarded to LSRCA's Outreach Coordinator, Dana Eldon. A strong believer in watershed education, Dana has worked tirelessly to successfully grow LSRCA's Outreach Education division, which now engages nearly 5,000 students and over 100 teachers in Professional Development each year. Her leadership skills extend to LSRCA's local communities, where she has successfully launched initiatives such as the seniors' walking series, presentations for new Canadians and library programming. Dana's approachable and positive nature has enabled her to forge important partnerships in the watershed jurisdiction, thus extending the demographic and geographic reach of LSRCA's education programs. Dana's energy and passion for watershed education is contagious and serves as inspiration to all.



Ken Hill (centre) receiving a gift from LSRCA's Vice Chair Richard Simpson (left), and CAO Mike Walters (right)



Board members and staff congratulate LSRCA's Outreach Coordinator Dana Eldon on winning the Watershed Interpreters' Network Award: From left to right: Vice Chair Richard Simpson; General Manager Conservation Lands, Brian Kemp; Outreach Coordinator Dana Eldon; Manager, Education Nicole Hamley; and CAO Mike Walters.

## Presentations:

a) Schoolscaping: Connecting Children With Nature

LSRCA's Outreach Coordinator, Dana Eldon, provided the Board with an overview of Schoolscaping, noting that working with Simcoe County School Board, a pilot project has been completed at Hewitt's Creek Public School in Barrie. Research shows that spending regular time in nature contributes significantly to

human health, well-being and intellectual development. Schoolscaping is about using existing property, wet areas, erosion issues areas, etc. to create natural landscapes and empowering students to coordinate stewardship projects and forge new partnerships with school boards and health units. Ms. Eldon outlined the project steps, which included a Students-as-Researchers team completing a schoolyard assessment, surveying students and teachers, and generating an assessment report with recommended best features. Next steps included implementation of the selected projects, which provided meaningful learning and engagement opportunities. The students then followed up with a final report.

A Students-as-Researchers team from Hewitt's Creek Public School were on hand to share their Schoolscaping experience with Board members. They noted that they learned a lot from the project, including how to conduct a research project, how to conduct a survey, how to apply for grants and handle money. They met with LSRCA staff and came up with recommendations for an outdoor classroom. The students held a celebration evening and invited students and parents to plant trees. The team thanked LSRCA for this opportunity.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Schoolscaping: Connecting Children with Nature](#). For more information on Schoolscaping, please contact Dana Eldon @ [d.eldon@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:d.eldon@lsrca.on.ca) or 905-895-1281 Ext 242.

b) Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan Update

Land Management Technician, Lauren Grzywniak, provided a presentation regarding Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan, noting that this 26.1 ha (64.6 acres) conservation area located in the Town of Aurora is owned by Ontario Heritage Trust and managed by LSRCA. Its many features make it one of the most visited conservation areas within the Lake Simcoe watershed. She noted that the previous update to the management plan was in 2009, and many of the identified deliverables have been achieved. An update was initiated in 2016 to amongst other things, review objectives, update conditions and uses, and identify challenges. Consultation with conservation area users and key stakeholder groups uncovered a number of issues that diminish user experience including: parking lot conditions and commuter parking, off-leash dogs on the trails disrupting other users, dated washroom facilities, influx of people using sports fields in the summer months, accessibility issues for individuals with limited mobility, insufficient trail signage/mapping, and a lack of family programming and volunteer opportunities.

The [2017 Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan](#) identifies opportunities to help address these issues, reconfirms the long-term direction for the property, and provides short-term direction and timelines for deliverables, as well as a financial outlook for the next five years. While revenues generated from the property can cover the majority of the outlined expenses, LSRCA will need to continue to pursue additional funding sources and in-kind support in order to successfully implement the Management Plan. These funding sources may include municipal partners, government and non-government funding, donations, sponsorships and volunteer support, along with a potential specific municipal special ask in 2019. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Presentation](#). For more information, please contact Lauren Grzywniak @ [l.grzywniak@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:l.grzywniak@lsrca.on.ca) or 905-895-1281 Ext 126.

## **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

### **Correspondence**

The Board received a copy of a letter from Davies Howe LLP to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and members of Council regarding Aurora General Committee meeting of November 21st.

### **Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan**

The Board approved Staff Report No. 53-17-BOD, prepared by Land Management Technician, Lauren Grzywniak, regarding the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan Update, which sought the Board's approval to continue to pursue funding and in-kind support to implement the recommendations of the Management Plan.

### **Budget Status Report**

The Board received Staff Report No. 54-17-BOD, prepared by Manager, Finance, Katherine Toffan, which provided the Board with a summary of revenues and expenditures for the period ending November 30, 2017.

### **LSRCA Fee Policy Amendments**

The Board approved Staff Report No. 55-17-BOD, prepared by General Manager, Planning & Development, Rob Baldwin, regarding changes to LSRCA's fee policy to add fees for Stormwater Environmental Compliance Approval Reviews and Technical Reviews (Non-Application) effective date of January 1, 2018.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, please click the link below for LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage: [LSRCA Board Meetings](#)