



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Planning Committee

**FROM:** Ken Hetherington, Manager, Planning Division

**MEETING DATE:** July 26, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Report PLPD10-061  
Relocation of Pedestrian Bridge to Barnardo Park

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to recommend the relocation of the pedestrian bridge at the mouth of Jackson Creek to Barnardo Park.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report PLPD10-061 dated July 26, 2010, of the Manager, Planning Division, as follows:

That the pedestrian bridge at the mouth of Jackson Creek be relocated to the watercourse flanking the north side of Barnardo Park, and that the Capital allocation for the relocation of the Jackson Creek Footbridge (Chamber of Commerce/GPAEDC) be transferred to this project.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is Capital Budget in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the relocation of the Jackson Creek Footbridge to cross Jackson Creek at the Chamber of Commerce property at 175 George Street (Budget Reference #: 7-1.03).

## BACKGROUND

As part of the implementation of phases for the development of the Otonabee River Trail, the relocation of the existing pedestrian bridge over the mouth of Jackson Creek was anticipated. Initially it was thought that a pedestrian crossing linking the municipal parking lot at 175 Dalhousie Street to the property at 175 George Street would provide a convenient link between the GPAEDC building and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as provide a logical route for pedestrians wishing to access the Downtown waterfront (see Exhibit “A”).

In the early 1990’s, the site plan for the Chamber of Commerce anticipated the future installation of the footbridge. A 1.8 metre wide walkway was constructed with decorative paving along the parking lot next to the building, providing access for people that would cross the creek using the footbridge to George Street. There is an existing concrete sidewalk directly across the street from the Chamber of Commerce property, where people can access the Otonabee River Trail and the C.P. Rail bridge to East City. Although the site plan for the Chamber of Commerce anticipated the future installation of the footbridge, there was not a legal Right-of-Way established over the property in favour of the City.

Staff have met with Chamber of Commerce staff regarding the original intention to place the bridge over Jackson Creek along the rear portion of their property. The Chamber of Commerce has formally responded in a letter, stating among other things, that they have significant liability and safety concerns with the increase in pedestrian traffic through their property that the bridge’s installation would bring.

The plan to place the bridge at the Chamber of Commerce was conceived at a time when the planning of the City’s trail system was in its infancy. With the recent adoption of the Central Area Master Plan, it is now known that the Crawford Trail is to be extended along the existing Canadian Pacific Railway corridor to provide access from the City’s south end and from Bethune Street to Downtown destinations, including the Otonabee River Trail, and East City.

Strategy #9 of the Central Area Master Plan states:

***“As part of the rebuilding of Bethune Street, establish a north-south walkway/cycling corridor serving the Central Area, connecting the Trans Canada Trail at Brock Street and Bethune Street, to the extension of the Crawford Trail at Townsend Street and Bethune Street”.***

Exhibit “B” shows the planned Crawford Trail Extension. With its eventual construction it is now understood that a new, wider, fully accessible bridge will have to be installed over Jackson Creek, probably on the south side of the railway tracks where there is space available for it.

The evolution of the City's trail planning has made the initial plan to relocate the bridge to the Chamber of Commerce site redundant, as there most likely will be a new wider bridge installed along the railway corridor, and just a short distance north, there is the Dalhousie Street bridge, providing two opportunities for people to cross the creek within proximity to each other.

As a result, staff are in agreement with the Chamber of Commerce, and the relocation of the Jackson Creek Footbridge to the Chamber of Commerce site is not recommended.

### **PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE JACKSON CREEK FOOTBRIDGE TO BARNARDO PARK:**

The City's Interdepartmental Trails Committee has identified a need to provide a pedestrian crossing over the watercourse flanking the north side of Barnardo Park (see proposed location: Exhibit "C"). There have been many requests for a crossing of the watercourse. A well-worn path exists through the park to the watercourse, where people have thrown boards and pallets down to cross it in order to access the Parkway Trail. With reference to the City-wide trails network, the use of Barnardo Avenue would provide a convenient link from the Peter Robinson Rotary Greenway Trail to the Parkway Trail. Additionally, residents from the neighbourhood would be given a much safer way to access the major shopping area along Chemong Road.

A preliminary investigation was completed by John W. Merriam and Associates to determine the feasibility of installing the footbridge at the proposed new location. It was originally thought that the bridge may be too big for the location, and perhaps something smaller and lighter would be appropriate. However, it has been determined that the footbridge would be perfectly suited for the proposed location. As would have been the case at the Chamber of Commerce site, a soils investigation will have to be conducted, concrete abutments will have to be designed, and a submission to the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) is required for a permit. Although the watercourse runs intermittently, it is regulated by ORCA.

An opportunity exists to add the installation of the bridge at Barnardo Park to the contract for the installation of the new bridge and ramp over the mouth of Jackson Creek. Currently, the contractor is responsible for the removal of the existing Jackson Creek Footbridge. The contractor could transport the bridge to Barnardo Park and install it as part of the overall contract. Originally, it was intended to include the relocation of the footbridge to the Chamber of Commerce as part of the contract.

The existing footbridge is 1.8 metres wide (six feet). As a result, it is not wide enough to be used as a bridge for a main trail such as the Trans-Canada Trail or the Crawford Trail extension. However it can be re-used to provide access to a main trail just as a narrower collector road provides access to an arterial street.

The floor of the footbridge is made of pressure-treated wood. Some of the planks will have to be replaced as a few have become worn and have weakened.

## SUMMARY

The proposed relocation of the pedestrian bridge at the mouth of Jackson Creek to the watercourse flanking the north side of Barnardo Park, is supported by the City Inter Departmental Trails Committee, as it will provide a logical means of access for the Barnardo Avenue neighbourhood to the Parkway Trail.

The use of Capital Budget originally allocated for the relocation of the bridge to the Chamber of Commerce is in keeping with the original intent to re-use the footbridge, and to position it to provide access to a main trail system.

Submitted by,

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Concurred with,

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### Attachments:

- Exhibit A - Originally Proposed Location for Footbridge at the Chamber of Commerce
- Exhibit B - Crawford Trail Extension
- Exhibit C - New Proposed Location for Footbridge
- Exhibit D - Photo of Footbridge