

Oakville Harbours Master Plan Desired Outcomes

Overall Objectives

- To develop a Master Plan for both Oakville and Bronte Harbours that:
 - Provides a vision for what the harbours should look like in the future; specifically: the role the harbours play in the community (Town of Oakville and Halton Region); broadly speaking, what services and facilities they provide; and, who they serve.
 - Lays out a strategy, complete with objectives and goals, and action plans for achieving these.
 - Is developed in consultation with all users and other stakeholders who have an interest in the welfare of the harbours. Similarly, obtains buy-in to the Harbours Master Plan by the same stakeholders and, in particular, decision makers. Engage and solicit input from relevant government agencies.
- The Master Plan should have an effective timeframe of 10 years. However, it is to be recognized that a Master Plan, and specifically the strategic goals and objectives and the action plans that flow from these, should be viewed as dynamic, not static. The Master Plan should be revisited periodically to ensure that it reflects and keeps abreast of changes in the environment within which the harbours operate.

Scope

- The Town of Oakville's two Town operated harbours; Oakville Harbour and Bronte Harbour
- One Master Plan incorporating both harbours, rather than two individual plans.

Study Tasks

- Take into account the Recreational Boating Feasibility and Capacity Study – Phase I that identified a need for increased harbours capacity, and Phase II of the study, should it be carried out, that is designed to identify options whereby the increased demand may be met (harbour locations, financing, management models, etc.).
- While the intent is to develop one Master Plan covering both harbours, rather than a separate plan for each harbour as in the past, and while doing so will capitalize on the synergies that exist between the two harbours, the exercise and the ultimate Master Plan should consider the individual characteristics, offerings and potential of each harbour.
- Review the findings of the AOHS Facilities and Services Study that compared marina operations in the west end of Lake Ontario. Identify and incorporate desirable marina facilities and services (Oakville/Bronte/both) in the Master Plan.
- Integrate the Harbours Master Plan with community/business and other Town and Region "Master Plans" in adjacent areas (e.g. Downtown Cultural Hub study, BIA plans, and the like).
- Incorporate Harbours Environmental Plan, including the Clean Marine program.
- Recognize heritage features and respect marine history (e.g. Bronte Marina Building, Oakville Lighthouse).
- Explore how moorings and winter storage capacity of existing harbours may be maximized including the introduction of transient moorings. Investigate public launch facilities, including re-opening Coronation Park launch ramp.

- Establish public waterfront access criteria for harbours, balancing the need for public safety and security of boats.
- Investigate merits of acquiring additional lands and waterfront lots (e.g. Greb property; federal or provincial properties) in order to allow for additional moorings and other recreational uses.
- Determine how the use and enjoyment of Oakville's Harbours by the community at large may be maximized; for example:
 - tourism and the promotion required
 - incorporation of uses that are non-marine in nature
 - provision for sports fishery (charter operations and other aspects)
 - provision for canoe, dinghy and other smaller recreational water craft
 - entertainment facilities (e.g. dining, refreshment stands)
 - incorporation of marine artifacts in any development
- Recommend operational and management strategies:
 - public or private marina operations
 - opportunities for private investment
 - possible oversight and governance mechanisms going forward, outside of Town elected officials and staff
 - for public operation:
 - establish cost allocation criteria, Harbours vs other Town departments
 - establish capital asset acquisition program
 - separate and monitor harbour cost/revenue, mooring & storage vs handling/hauling/launching
 - establish criteria for use of reserve funds
 - review cost sharing of dredging
 - periodic comparison with other municipal marina facilities at west end of Lake Ontario to ensure that Oakville's harbours remain competitive

Other Considerations

- Delay Phase III of West Harbour development until the Feasibility and Capacity Study – Phase II and/or the Harbours Master Plan are completed.
- Identify options to be considered with respect to the long term interests and relationship between the Town of Oakville Harbours and the Bronte Outer Harbour Marina
- Reflect the need for the boating clubs that exist in the two harbours to remain viable and sustainable and recognize the vital role these clubs play within the community in boating/sailing education and athlete development.

Implementation Period

- Exercise to develop the Harbours Master Plan should be completed by the 2nd qtr. 2016 latest.

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