

19

ALTERNATIVE PARKING LOCATIONS ST. JOHN'S SIDEROAD, TOWN OF AURORA

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, September 22, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report investigates the feasibility of locating alternative parking for visitors to the Mackenzie Wetlands located just east of Yonge Street in the Town of Aurora.

3. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of April 6, 2005, the Transportation and Works Committee considered a report titled "Parking Restrictions on St. John's Sideroad, east of Yonge Street".

The report recommended that parking be prohibited on St. John's Sideroad in the area of the Mackenzie Wetlands due to safety concerns.

The Transportation and Works Committee added an additional recommendation requesting staff to investigate alternative parking locations for residents wanting to visit the Wetlands.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In recommending the parking prohibition on St. John's Sideroad, staff considered the overall safety of the Regional road and felt it was not safe to park on the road due to the high volume of traffic. As requested by the Transportation and Works Committee, Regional staff has investigated three alternate locations to allow parking for visitors to the Mackenzie Wetlands. This issue has been discussed with Town of Aurora staff and they will review this report and will also investigate alternatives for providing parking in the vicinity of the McKenzie Marsh."

4.1 Old Yonge Street

Old Yonge Street runs south from St. John's Sideroad, and falls under the jurisdiction of the Town of Aurora.

Currently, there is a "No Parking" prohibition on the east side of Old Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad southerly. Parking is permitted on the west side of Old Yonge Street, for approximately 190 metres, with two existing driveways within this section. This allows for approximately twenty-five vehicles to park. This parking is currently available for visitors to the wetland.

4.2 Aurora Pumping Station

The Aurora Sewage Pumping Station is a critical piece of infrastructure within the York Durham Sewage System. It receives all wastewater flow from both Newmarket and Aurora and pumps it to the main trunk sewer on Yonge Street at Bloomington Road, where it flows south by gravity through Richmond Hill. In addition, the Aurora Sewage Pumping Station receives hauled sewage from tanker trucks that pump out septic and holding tanks throughout the Region.

The pumping station operates twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, and hauled sewage is also received at the station at all times of the day through an automated gate system. Access to the station must therefore be maintained twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. Allowing public access to the station site for parking is therefore not feasible for public safety reasons and in order to ensure access is maintained at all times in the event of an emergency. Visitors to the marsh would also have to cross a railway line.

4.3 Hadley Grange Facility

Hadley Grange is a York Region owned senior citizens facility and is located on the north-east corner of Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad. Parking spaces are assigned to the residents of the facility to ensure availability to them. There are also designated disabled parking spaces and allocated staff parking for the complex. People visiting residents in the complex have limited spaces available to them.

As the facility is a residence and operates twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, and staff, residents, and visitors are coming and going at all times of the day, it is not feasible to allow public parking. There is currently no other space available on the site to accommodate other vehicles as the access and open area must be maintained at all times in the event of an emergency.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With respect to the "No Stopping Anytime" prohibition on St. John's Sideroad, and in accordance with the Regional and Provincial Offences Agreements, the Town of Aurora will retain any enforcement revenue.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of Aurora indicated that there are many visitors to the Mackenzie Wetlands that enjoy winter activities and summer viewing. Visitors to this area can park on Old Yonge Street which is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Aurora.

7. CONCLUSION

In response to Council's request, the Roads Branch has investigated three alternative locations for the feasibility of providing parking for visitors to the Mackenzie Wetlands.

Staff proposes that the Town investigate the feasibility of directing visitors to utilize the existing on street parking located on Old Yonge Street, south of St. John's Sideroad.

The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerk of the Town of Aurora and to the Chief of York Regional Police.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the October 12, 2005 Committee meeting.)