

## MEMO

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**CC:** Andy Taylor, CAO

**FROM:** Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services

**PREPARED BY:** David Plant, Manager Parks Operations

**DATE:** November 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

**SUBJECT:** Follow up Information – Toogood Pond

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Please find below information requested of Operations Staff related to the Toogood Pond Ice Monitoring Report. Staff is still waiting for some responses from TRCA and received other information this week hence the lateness of this status update.

### **General Committee Direction to staff:**

Following the staff presentation of the Toogood Pond Recreational Use of Natural Ice – Ice Monitoring Program Options report at General Committee on October 31, 2016, staff received direction to provide the following additional information for Council consideration.

1. That staff be directed to confirm that the City of Toronto will cost share with Option 5 of the report (Engage the services of 2 Ice Engineers with no staff involvement) and if not report back on other options.
2. That staff be directed to report back on the cost of a winter maintenance program for Toogood Pond for the purposes of recreational skating and include the size of the pond to be maintained.
3. That staff be directed to further investigate what other municipalities such as Richmond Hill and Credit Valley Conservation Authority are doing to continue using their ponds for recreational skating.
4. That staff investigate the use of a safety net below the ice surface
5. That staff speak to TRCA about the possibility of lowering the water level in Toogood Pond

### **Follow Up Information :**

1. That staff be directed to confirm that the City of Toronto will cost share with Option 5 of the report (Engage the services of 2 Ice Engineers with no staff involvement) and if not report back on other options.

### **Response:**

The City of Toronto has confirmed that they have entered into a sole source agreement with Geniglace Ice Engineers for the purpose of monitoring the ice on Grenadier Pond. The contract period is from January 2, 2017 until February 28, 2017. The City of Toronto WILL NOT be providing any maintenance services to the ice surface.

Toronto staff will be providing the following services.

- a. marking the area that is being monitored with red bamboo poles
- b. posting signage to explain the flagging system they are employing to warn of ice conditions
- c. posting warning flags on a 25 foot pole to alert the public to ice conditions

**The City of Toronto has confirmed their willingness to partner with the City of Markham and share the costs of the Geniglace Ice Engineers as outlined in the proposal discussed by General Committee.**

2. **That staff be directed to report back on the cost of a winter maintenance program for Toogood Pond for the purposes of recreational skating and include the size of the pond to be maintained.**

**Response:**

Staff contacted six reputable contractors who engage in winter maintenance activities to provide pricing on a winter maintenance program for the ice at Toogood Pond for the 8 week monitoring period. While we are still waiting for formal quotes, we have 4 contractors who have declined the opportunity to bid and one verbal quote at \$23,200.00 +HST. Staff continues to pursue further quotes. **Contracted Service for 8 weeks: \$23,000 to \$ 30,000.**

**Size of Pond to be maintained is outlined in the attached map. *Restricted Area as shown will determine the costs.***

3. **That staff be directed to further investigate what other municipalities such as Richmond Hill and Credit Valley Conservation Authority are doing to continue using their ponds for recreational skating.**

**Response:**

a) Staff received the following information from The Town of Richmond Hill staff with respect to what they are doing to continue using the ice on Mill Pond for recreational skating. Richmond Hill is carrying out the following for Mill Pond in the winter of 2016/2017.

- The Town monitors the ice thickness which is done by Town staff.
- The Town uses a flagging system to let residents know of unsafe conditions.
- The Town provides winter maintenance to the ice performed by Town staff.
- Town staff commented that in places the pond is so shallow that ice will not form
- **The Town is looking to move away from this activity in the future.**

b) Staff received the following information from Credit Valley Conservation Authority in response to the resident deputation regarding the practices used by this organization. Established in 1954, the **CVCA is a community based organization** dedicated to protecting the Credit Valley Watershed. Working with provincial and municipal government, residents, schools and volunteers, they support the use and conservation of a large geographical area. Staff has been informed that CVCA monitors and maintains natural ice for recreational outdoor use at Island Lake Conservation area just north of Orangeville. CVCA staff carries out the following.

- CVCA staff are used to monitor the ice conditions on Island Lake
- CVCA follows MNR Guidelines as their training guide for staff
- CVCA staff clear snow and flood the ice surface
- **CVCA staff is on site at all times that the area is open to the public**

c) Staff reviewed the **Ministry of Natural Resources Working On Ice Policy** dated 2002. This policy is designed for use by MNR staff who must work on or cross ice surfaces to perform their job functions and does not address clearing snow or allowing unlimited access to an ice surface.

*It focuses on worker safety not public access. Additionally, the policy says that "at all times, every individual must carry a self extraction tool, wear an approved PDF, and that 1 in 5 employees must carry a survival kit.*

4. That staff investigate the use of a safety net below the ice surface.

**Response:**

Staff researched the idea of deploying **safety netting** in Toogood Pond that would in effect be frozen into the ice and act as a barrier should the ice break. Safety netting designed for ponds requires anchor points at a minimum of 2 meter intervals around the mesh which would be impractical and costly to provide within the pond area. ***From a cost perspective, such netting sufficient to support the weight of an adult is approximately \$10.00 per square foot for a cost of approximately \$300,000.00.*** In addition, there would be costs to install/remove each year. Based on the conditions at Toogood Pond netting is not recommended and further it doesn't eliminate the need to monitor the ice.

1. That staff speak to TRCA about the possibility of lowering the water level in Toogood Pond

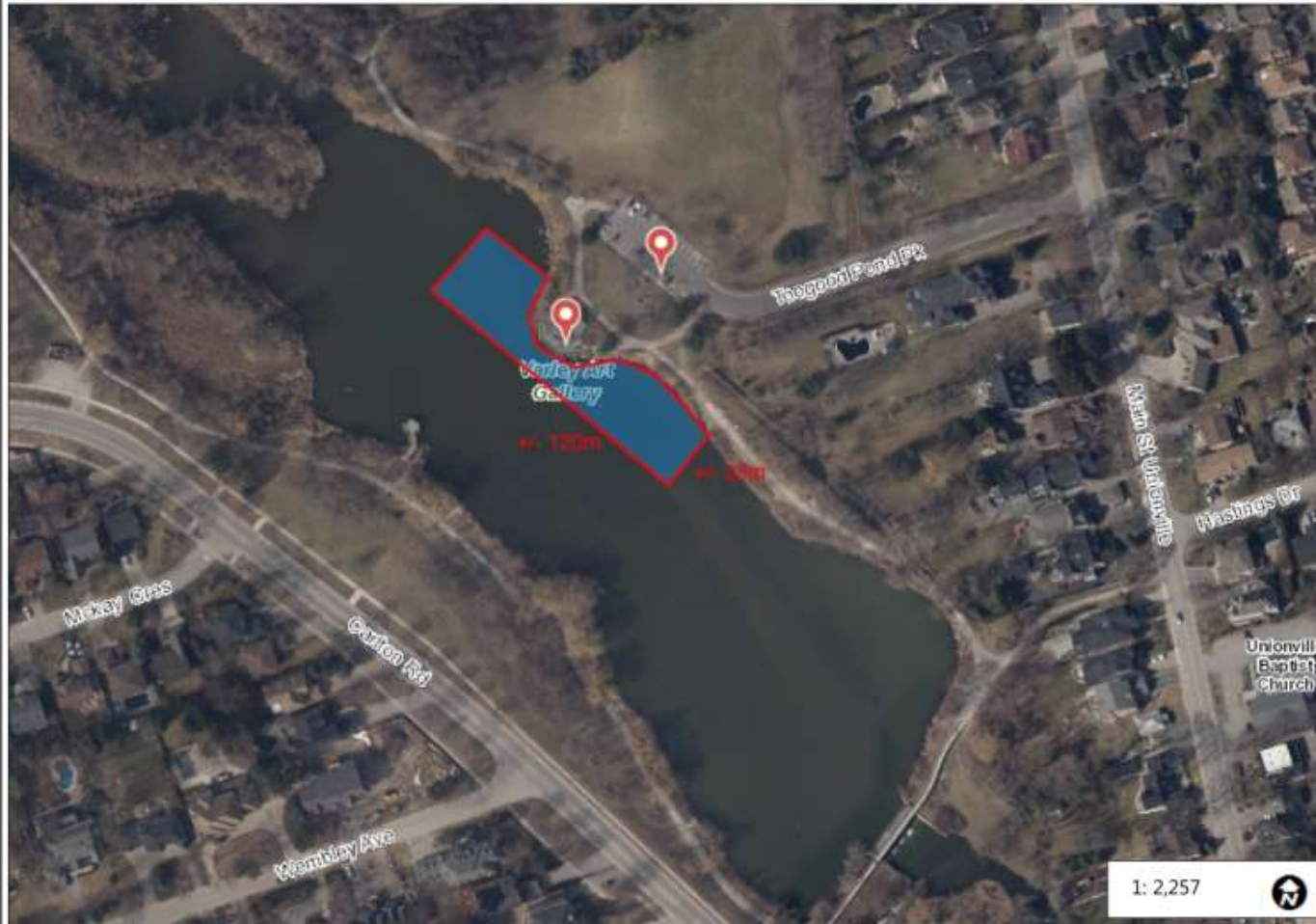
Staff has not been able to get a definitive answer on the feasibility of lowering the water level of Toogood Pond. Staff will provide Members of Council an update once we have received an official response.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or David Plant, Manager Parks Operations.

Respectfully,



Brenda Librecz  
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services



Legend

- Road Attributes
- Building Footprints
- Ponds
- Creeks
- Rivers
- Parcel (MPAC)
- Park Facilities

Notes

114.7 0 57.33 114.7 Meters

NAD\_1983\_UTM\_Zone\_17N  
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This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION