

Kelso/Glen Eden area getting an updated master plan

Public information night on June 20

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More than 1,100 acres of prime environmental and recreational land is under review with an eye to shaping its uses for the near future.

The 2002 Kelso Conservation Area/Glen Eden Master Plan is being updated with the focus on the sustainable management and development of the

park over the next five to 10 years.

Conservation Halton is currently in Phase 2 - Conceptual Design - of a three-phase approach to master planning for the area, which is bounded by Hwy. 401, Appleby Line, Steeles Avenue and Old Tremaine Road.

Adjacent properties include Town of Milton lands at the southeast and Country Heritage Park at the northeast end.

A Public Information Centre is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. It will be held at Kelso's West Lodge, 5234

Kelso Rd., in Milton.

Conservation Halton will present the site analysis, policy frameworks, improved servicing plan, market analysis and draft conceptual design plans for the park.

"The (master) plan will be developed to balance the ecological and environmental sensitivities of the site with the recreational and educational opportunities for the community," said Robin Ashton, manager of marketing services for Conservation Halton.

"The planning process was structured to satisfy the legislative require-

ments of the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Conservation Authority Act, and has included extensive consultation with the public, stakeholders and related agencies," states the Conservation Halton website.

A public survey was undertaken and closed on Jan. 15, 2017. Conversation Halton says it is currently not providing the survey's results at this time.

"It is our hope to receive input from the public and stakeholders to further refine and shape these concepts as we move into the more detailed design," said Ashton.

Phase 3 will be the actual master plan that outlines detailed areas for development and the intentions for the ongoing management at Kelso and Glen Eden.

The master plan is part of the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System and will be reviewed and approved by the Niagara Escarpment Commis-

sion.

Conservation Halton's website says it acquired lands in 1960 for flood-control and water-management purposes within the Sixteen Mile Creek watershed.

The day-use recreational park is open year-round with more than 22 kilometres of marked trails, a beach area and 16 downhill ski slopes.

Kelso is at the junction of the Niagara Escarpment and Sixteen Mile Creek. The Niagara Escarpment rises about 70 metres above the creek, providing a unique combination of geological and ecological features.

The tablelands are predominantly covered in deciduous forests, afforestation fields, wetlands, talus slopes and creeks. Significant environmental features include the presence of ancient cedar old-growth forest, exposures of provincially rare geological formations and a diversity of

escarpment plant and animal species.

Annual park visits are about 500,000 recreational users, including approximately 160,000 summer visitors and 338,000 winter skier/snowboard enthusiasts.

Park operation costs, including maintenance and capital expenditures, have traditionally been funded through self-generated revenues from park admission fees and services, with the exception of capital and maintenance costs for flood control facilities, which are supported through municipal tax levies.

Halton's seven conservation areas receive more than 750,000 visits annually and essentially function as a regional park system. "However, without additional funding for capital and servicing upgrades, this park system is challenged to meet both current and anticipated visitation demands," states the Conservation Halton website.



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