

# Active lifestyles, heritage in new plans for park

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popular," said April Wepler, project manager, land management of TRCA.

What TRCA staff came up with was a plan that will focus on health promotion, an active lifestyle and wellness.

"We know that people are more interested in active lifestyles as they deal with personal growth," Ms Wepler said.

TRCA's research also revealed many of the people who attend the park's most popular event, the maple syrup festival, are also interested in learning about Canada.

## CANADIAN KNOWLEDGE SOUGHT

Which is why TRCA staff created a framework of themes for the conservation area's master plan, Canadian heritage and active lifestyles, both of which will consist of education and nature components.

The active lifestyle component of the plan incorporates fitness, trails, land and water-based play, picnics and the Community Safety Village.

The heritage aspect of the plan includes an archeological site just south of Stouffville Road, which was discovered during the road's reconstruction as well as the mill and maple syrup event.

"They're on a better track this time, it's more focused," said Councillor Clyde Smith, who attended the information session. His ward encompasses Bruce's Mill. "They're trying to make sure what happens there is compatible with the conservation area.

"I found all of that encouraging, (but) the truth is in the pudding. We only heard the themes. What does it mean in terms of active-use areas?"

## 'TRUTH IN PUDDING'

That question will not be answered until sometime next year.

An internal revised plan is expected to be in place next spring, with a public meeting most likely to occur in the fall. Implementation is anticipated to start in 2012.

However, some work on the trails has already begun. The informal trails, ones created by people continually walking the same routes, have been shut down, as has one formal trail, which cut through the wetland.

"You definitely want to go in and see nature at its finest. But you don't want to impact nature," Mr. Bender said. "We felt it was an appropriate time to decommission some of those trails impacting the environment."

For more information, go to [www.trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/bruces-mill-conservation-area.dot](http://www.trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/bruces-mill-conservation-area.dot)

## MONEY FROM FILL-DUMPING SHOULD STAY AT MILL: CULLEN

For the past two years, the northwest corner of Bruce's Mill has been undergoing a transformation from agricultural to forested.

In doing so, about 5,000 loads of fill have been brought in. A total of 7,000 loads of soil and 4,000 loads of topsoil will be required prior to restoring the area, according to Ms Wepler.

The good news is the project is generating money for the TRCA. The bad news is there is no guarantee, according to Mr. Bender, Bruce's Mill will get any of that money for its facility.

"We'd all be quite disappointed if that revenue gets diverted from somewhere else other than Bruce's Mill," said gardening guru and Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Mark Cullen. "For that money to go somewhere else would be criminal. ... The money belongs to Bruce's Mill."

The contract to receive fill ends in 2011.

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