



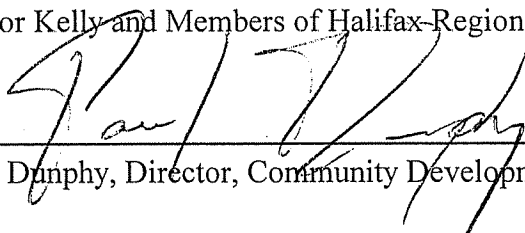
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Halifax Regional Council
May 8, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: April 24, 2007

SUBJECT: **Halifax Public Gardens Phase II and Phase III Update**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the Halifax Regional Council meeting on March 27, 2007 (item 9.3.1), Councillor Sloane requested an update on the progress of the Public Gardens restoration for Phases II and III.

BACKGROUND

The Halifax Public Gardens is regarded as the finest representation of a Victorian public garden in North America. It is a national historic site. An effort was undertaken to restore the Gardens after it was devastated by Hurricane Juan in the Fall of 2003. The Gardens were re-opened in July of 2004 after extensive restoration work to the main gates, Griffins Pond, Freshwater Brook and pathways as well as damaged beds and turf areas. In February of 2006, work was begun on the second phase of restoration which included restoration of Horticultural Hall, new washrooms and a plaza in the former maintenance yard to create a Visitor Centre and entrance. The aim is to enhance the experience the for the public and large groups who visit the Gardens. The Project is funded by Halifax Regional Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia, ACOA, and the Public Gardens Foundation.

DISCUSSION

As an update to Regional Council the following represents the current status to the Phase II Project:

- The structural and mechanical work has been completed in Horticultural Hall and the building is being fitted with interior cabinets and furniture to accommodate the food services, visitor sales and a program of digital interpretive screens explaining the Gardens to interested visitors.
- A request for proposals to operate the food service within Horticultural Hall has been let and will be determined in the next few weeks.
- New washrooms are completed and will be opened when the Gardens open for the season around the second week of May.
- The new staff maintenance shed is complete and will be operational when the Gardens open.
- The plaza, gates and new entrance fountain are slated to be completed by the end of this spring. Until completed, these areas will be cordoned off from the public.
- A Grand Opening for Horticultural Hall and the new entrance plaza is planned to coincide with the July 1st long weekend. The plaza and Horticultural Hall not being available until that date will not interfere with visits to the Gardens.
- Other special events are being planned for the Gardens this year. Council will be apprised of them as they are firmed up.
- The Gardens reopen the second week of May (weather depending).

Staff continue to work with the Public Gardens Foundation who are our partners in the restoration. The next phase of work is a management plan for the gardens with an emphasis on setting objectives for the horticultural collection. It is scheduled for this year. Staff and the Foundation are also working with the Friends of the Public Gardens on this initiative. The Friends are also involved with the development of the interpretive program for the Gardens.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with this report. All work has already been approved by Council and budgeted for. This report does not represent any award of tender but is rather provided as an update to Regional Council and interested citizens.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

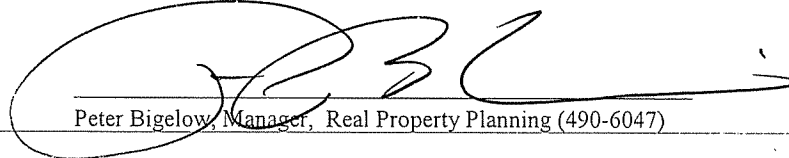
ATTACHMENTS

Photographs of Phase II work to date.

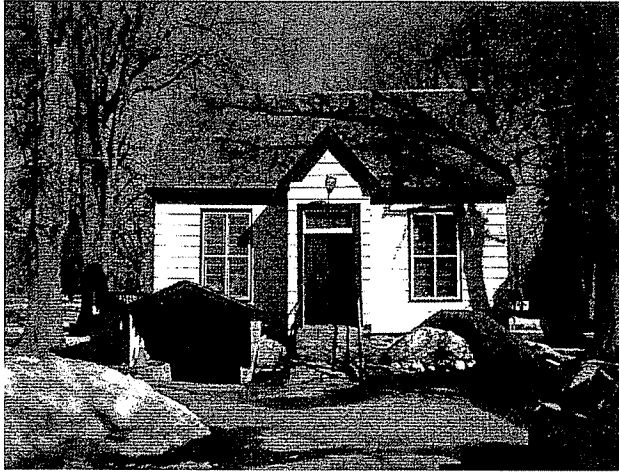
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, Community Development (490-6047)
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Report Approved by:



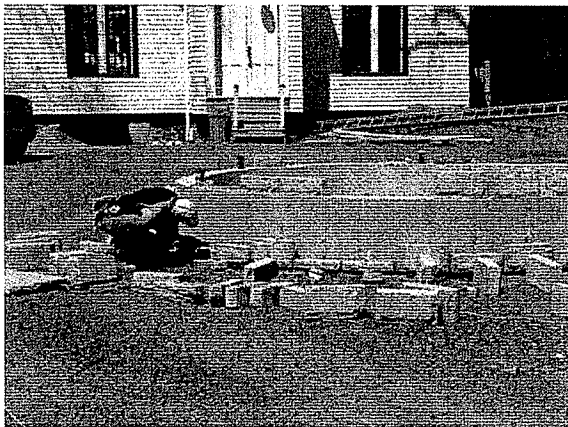
Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6047)



Maintenance Yard Pre- existing Conditions



Horticultural Hall and Spring Garden Plaza



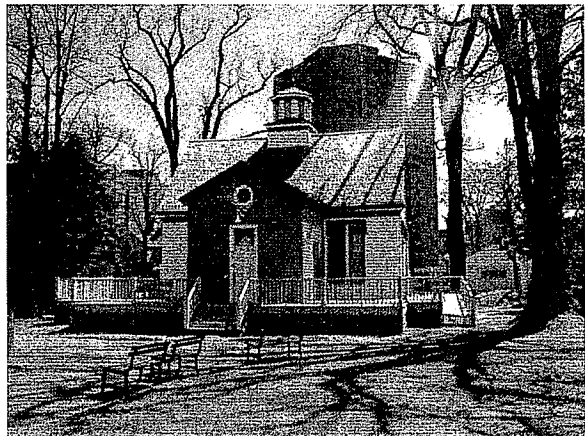
Entrance Plaza and new fountain



New Men's and Family Washroom



New Maintenance Shed



Restored Horticultural Hall (Gardens Side)