
TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: WATERFRONT FISHING PLATFORM PROPOSAL

WARD: ALL

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: W. FISCHER, B.L.A., O.A.L.A.
SUPERVISOR OF PARKS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Ext. 5101)**

**SUBMITTED BY: R. SUTTON, P. Eng.
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: R. FORWARD, M.B.A., M.Sc., P. Eng.
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH
MANAGEMENT**

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the Fishing Platform Project proposed by the Rotary Club of Barrie-Hurononia to enhance public fishing opportunities along the City of Barrie's waterfront, as illustrated in Appendix "A" to Staff Report ENG001-18, be endorsed in principle.
2. That staff in the Engineering Department report back to General Committee with project details on the final design and the capital and operating costs for approval prior to the implementation.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

3. Over many years, the Rotary Club of Barrie-Hurononia (Rotary Club) has undertaken the City's largest public fishing tournament on Kempenfelt Bay.
4. As part of the Rotary "Service above Self" motto, the funds collected from these fall fishing tournaments has allowed the Rotary Club to consider an accessible fishing platform at Heritage Park for use by the public not only during their main fishing festival but throughout the year.
5. Prior to initiating the project, the Rotary Club met with City staff on a number of occasions to help the Rotary Club assess potential locations and to discuss shoreline issues and conditions within Heritage Park before detailing their proposal. From these discussions, the Rotary Club retained the services of a structural engineering firm to commence a preliminary design for consideration by the City. Refer to Appendix "A" for details on their proposal and its potential location within Heritage Park.

ANALYSIS

6. The Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan identifies Heritage Park as a primary activity centre intended to serve as a waterfront park location for large events and recreation opportunities. To enhance the park's use, the plan recommends establishing stronger connections between the park, the rest of the waterfront and the downtown core through a series of improvements, one of which being the completion of a hardscaped walkway at the water's edge to establish a visual and physical connection with the rest of the waterfront promenade. This proposal for a fishing platform supports

-
- the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan vision for a continual wooden boardwalk that links Centennial Beach to the North Shore Trail via the marina and Heritage Park itself.
7. Initial comments provided by staff identified Heritage Park as a good location for a fishing platform based on the following:
- a) An east-west orientation on the south shore of Heritage Park would be less exposed to direct winter ice conditions, although not completely immune to exposure as storms could shift occasionally to a north-south direction. Design of the platform would require shoreline structural engineering.
 - b) Access to the dock and accessibility from the existing walkway could be easily accommodated.
 - c) The location does not impact the public's use of the existing water feature/splash pad, the location is removed from the boating activities within the transient Bayfield basin and it's not adjacent of the City's main waterfront trail system for conflicts with trail users.
 - d) The existing rock edge of the shoreline provides for protection from wave impacts but may require upgrading to granite stones and boulders to be consistent with the recent shoreline treatments within Centennial Park.
 - e) Heritage Park is already the main focus area for public fishing during the fall tournament so the platform structure only enhances the public enjoyment of this event.
 - f) Heritage Park is known for its successful fish habitat and the benefits of a cantilevered platform near the water's edge would help enhance and cool the edge for additional habitat benefit.
 - g) A Use and Construction Agreement would need to be completed to permit the Rotary Club to build the platform within the City's waterfront park through their own tendering process.
8. The fishing platform preliminary design was also based on the following key requirements by the Rotary Club:
- a) The platform would not be accessible by boat to preserve the nature of the structure for fishing purposes only.
 - b) The platform would not be anchored into the water but would be over the existing shoreline edge to preserve the shore habitat.
 - c) The Rotary Club's intention is to build a waterfront area and create a habitat for fishing opportunities that are accessible to all.
9. The Rotary Club requests the City approval in principle on the preliminary design and location within Heritage Park in order to:
- a) Gather input from local fishing organizations such as the Barrie Hunters and Anglers Club and Barrie Bass Masters on the preliminary design.
 - b) Obtain a Right-of-Way Activity permit to allow the Rotary Club of Barrie-Huronion to undertake their site investigations.

- c) Allow the Rotary Club to complete their investigations and prepare engineered drawings, cost estimates and construction schedules for the platform in consultation with City staff and agencies. All investigations and documentation are paid for by the Rotary Club with no cost to the City.
- d) Obtain written acceptance from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and Department of Fisheries that permits would be issued on the final design prior to construction.
- e) Staff anticipate that the tender and construction of the fishing platform would occur in 2018 subject to the regulations and permits being issued for the work next to Kempenfelt Bay.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

10. The Rotary Club have met with the LSRCA and have noted their support in principle for this project.
11. While the shoreline works are not expected to occur within the water, staff are expecting that sheet piles or caissons would be required along with rehabilitation of the shoreline before construction is complete. This work will require permits from various agencies prior to implementation. The City will work with the Rotary Club to move through these processes.

ALTERNATIVES

12. The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could not approve the proposed recommendation to allow the Rotary Club of Barrie-Huronia to install the fishing platform on the waterfront.

This Alternative is not recommended based on:

- As the City has previously worked with and benefited from partnerships with external groups such as the Rotary Club(s) in Barrie; and,
- The platform design, as a form of boardwalk, is consistent with the boardwalk implementation elsewhere along the waterfront.

FINANCIAL

13. This project is not included in the City's 2018-2027 Capital Plan as the design and implementation is fully funded by the Rotary Club. Staff resources for the project will be allocated through the 2018 operating budgets.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

14. The recommendation included in this Staff Report supports the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
 - Inclusive Community
15. The implementation of the fishing platform in Heritage Park would allow for three season enjoyment by the public for passive viewing of the waterfront or for able-bodied and accessible fishing opportunities on our waterfront. The boardwalk design also helps to continue the development of the wooden boardwalk along our waterfront as a feature for public use.

APPENDIX "A"

Fishing Platform Proposal

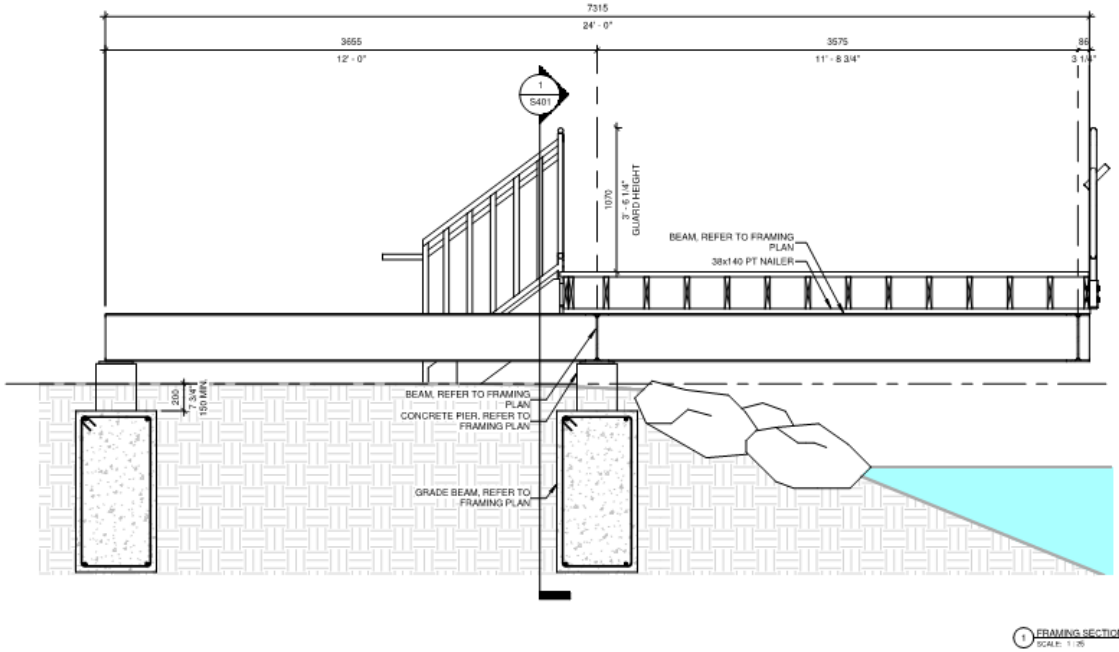


AREA OF WORK

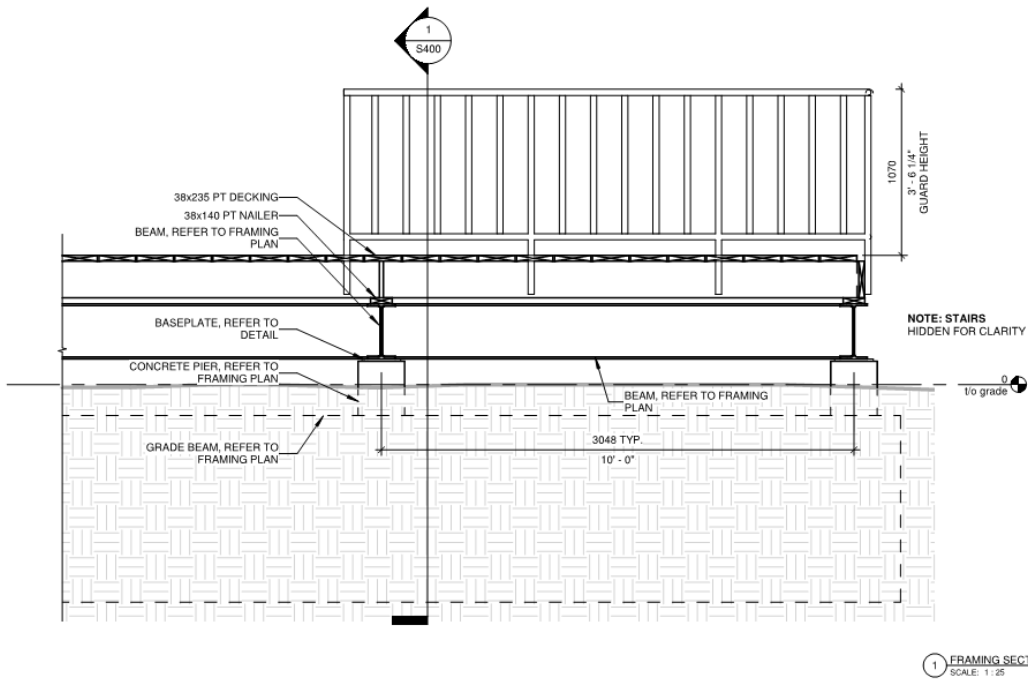
Key Plan



Perspective of Fishing Platform along Shoreline



Proposed Section of Fishing Platform



Proposed Section of Platform Deck