

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING**.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: Apr 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER:		
SUBJECT: Wilkins Beach/WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES - SUMMARY OF COVID IMPACTS AND ADDRESSING GROWTH - RELATED IMPACTS		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Shelley Brook		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
I wish to express to council my opposition to the proposed closure and delisting of Wilkins Beach and request that Staff be directed to revise plans in order to rehabilitate the beach without permanently changing its ability to be used as a beach for local residents.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/>		

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City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

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COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Wilkin's Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: GARY RAY		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City: Barrie	Postal Code:	
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION: The plans to shut down Wilkins Beach which include replacing the sandy beach with cobble, boulders and bushes is wrong and destroys a unique local and beautiful, restful outdoor place for being with nature		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		

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cityclerks@barrie.ca 9

Wilkins Beach deputation input: Gary Ray

In 2009 we purchased a house in Barrie after a beautiful tour from our real estate agent that included the waterfront, the rail trail, the ski resorts in the area and a walking trail that led down to Wilkins beach. We fell in love with the outdoor community and the dessert topping was the ability to walk down to the beach, take a swim and relax on the beach in the sun. There were a few people around but no BBQ, no tents, no influx of people from Toronto and surrounding areas.

Then came the insane idea to include Wilkins beach into the Tourism brochure, an idea that I believe had its genesis from Mike McCann. This and other factors increased the traffic and very unseemly behaviour from individuals that had no allegiance or care for the beach. SO it seems to me that the answer to the issue is not to spend \$25k to \$35k initially on the beach to make it into a bunch of rocks and not accounting for the yearly maintenance required to keep up the renovations to the beach.

So how can we remedy the situation:

- Do not shut the beach down and "give it a rest" for a year. That is punishing the residents who have nurtured the beach, helped it grow and view it as a jewel to be kept sparkling and polished
- The real focus is to ensure that the use of the beach is to be directed to the residents who care; that way there will be no garbage, unsightly tents, stays for the entire days as if it were a holiday resort, drinking parties and loud boisterous and destructive and unspeakable behaviour that comes from people who do not care

How do we do that- reduce the non-Barrie-ite visitors

- First of all we need to eliminate all the insane advertising of a beach that is not a beach; it is a refuge, not a recreation complex
- Make it very difficult for parking from outside areas with increased activity from bylaw officers to hand out parking tickets
- Enforce no smoking, BBQ, tents and loud boisterous behaviour with bylaw fines

Encourage local involvement

- Possibly deputize several individuals to monitor the situation and report to council every month
- Have clean up days as in the past in the next few weeks

Do not shut down the beach

- This is in effect punishing the local community and not the perpetrators

Do not turn the beach into a rock park

- Major cost item: regular yearly fee to maintain
- Discourages any local involvement as no longer a refuge but a rock

Adopt a very minimalist intrusion into fixing up some of the water shed issues with rain fall

- rock beds to avoid erosion?
- Come up with a plan that is ADOPTED BY THE COMMUNITY, NOT THE COUNCIL

Good morning Wendy,

I would like to apply for deputation on this issue regarding Wilkins Park/Beach and am wondering if i can attend the council meeting scheduled for April 12th on this issue or is this a closed session for council members only? I would like to be informed of any documentation and or procedures as well.

Thank you and have a good day. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Carolyn Ray
Hosted~FTP~
{resident of

From: Scales Nature Park <scalesnaturepark@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 10:29 AM

To: Mike McCann <>

Cc: Wendy Cooke <Wendy.Cooke@barrie.ca>

Subject: Re: 5 min deputation

Hi Wendy,

Yes, I'd like to make a deputation related to the plans for Wilkins Park, and the possible negative impacts on turtle nesting. Please let me know what is required. I'm assuming it would be virtual, which is better for me anyway. I can adapt to Zoom, Meet, Teams or whatever platform is necessary.

Thanks,

Jeff

Hi, my name is Jill Richmond. I'm a new [redacted] area resident in Barrie as of October 2020, and woke up today to hear news that Wilkins Beach may be closed. I'm writing you this letter while holding back tears.

My family and I needed to move after being well established in [redacted] Ontario for 23 years. We had always assumed we would live our lives in Whitby. I have a husband Roberto, and two children, Rachel (12) and Andrew (8).

Although none of us had ever been to Barrie, I suggested we move here. As a family we spend a lot of time at ice rinks and outdoors. My husband who is very involved in hockey thought it was an absurd idea to move here. I was ready for an adventure, and when I told him about all the outdoor rinks, he agreed to go for a visit.

When we saw the waterfront and the tall pines, it reminded us of our annual Muskoka cottage retreat, and it was love at first sight for me.

During the spring and summer of 2020 in the middle of Covid, we put our house up for sale and started to look for one in Barrie. With low inventory and covid restrictions in place, it was quite the challenge to find a suitable house. It was a very stressful time for us, and especially the kids, who traveled with us frequently only to have to wait in the car because they weren't allowed in, for example. They gave up their teams, their school, their friends, their entire community in order to move here. And they trusted us we were doing the best thing.

In October, we bought a house in the [redacted] area that is a [redacted] to Wilkins Beach. The day of our house inspection, I took the kids down to the beach for us to see for the first time, and it was heavenly. They were smiling for the first time in too long. I could see some recognition in their faces that all their sacrifices and tears may have been worth it, as they stood on the shore and dreamed of the possibilities for summer.

Coming from a home close to Lake Ontario, where the water is virtually unusable, I told my kids they would be able to swim in the water like at a cottage and it took a while to grasp that! My son was in disbelief. Since then they have been so excited for the summer and telling their friends that they want to show them the beach when Covid is over.

My husband, Roberto, still works in the Durham area and although he has a long commute, the reward for us is that we can live a 'cottage in the city' lifestyle. I tell everyone that I'm pinching myself everyday that we live in a community where we can walk to a beach. We love our neighbourhood. We have been counting down the days until the summer. Last summer since all pools were closed, we had no where to swim, or get cooled down.

This morning I read that city officials, after a long history of complaints or concerns from the residents, have decided to close the beach. I'm in disbelief. I am beyond disappointed.

Both environmental concerns and tourist overuse have been cited as the reasons. I had heard from many people that by the end of summer 2020 the tourist overuse situation was pretty much resolved.

I read the proposal and it says that there is work to be done that would help the environment. This left me wondering why said work can not be done in spring or fall? To make it worse, a resident just informed me that the beach will be filled in by boulders and will not be usable again. Please tell me this

isn't true. I am heartbroken and can not even fathom how I am going to tell my children that there is no beach this summer. This can not be good for anyone's mental health, or physical well being. Please don't close the beach and especially during a pandemic when we need it the most.

Sincerely,

Jill Richmond

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COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: Staff Report DEV008-2		
SUBJECT: Wilken's beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Lindsay Knight, Jake Vella, Jeff Aube		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable): The majority of neighbours the Kingswood neighbourhood surrounding Wilken's beach		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION: Our group would like to dispute the findings in a recent report recommending major changes to the Wilken's waterfront as we feel that the recommendations by the city staff was unaware of certain factors which lead to issues and we want to propose changes		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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The Vella Family including Jake, Chrissy, Paige and Reese

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach

Dear Mayor Lehman, Andrea Miller, Mike McCann and other Barrie City Councilors,

After meeting with many neighbours, Councilor McCann(multiple times), Lindsay Knight, Jeff Aube and I are writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. As the process has been explained to us, and we understand that the time available at council is limited, therefore we have decided to focus our concerns with the same letter, while also adding some of our personal experiences.

Specifically, we are opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

Wilkins Beach is a beloved part of the culture and community in the Kingswood neighbourhood and the City of Barrie. People and families of all ages make memories there. It is a key reason why people want to live in our neighbourhood. To close and permanently change the beach would have a huge impact on our community.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem. Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup
- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout/flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for bi-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials

- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

Until 2020, Wilkins Beach was a hidden gem. Barrie residents came to the beach for an hour or two max, and for the most part treated it with respect. The 2020 season changed everything. Out of towners came in record numbers and abused the beach. There's no question that damage was done, which is why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with council to implement solutions to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

My personal experience with the beach and a review of what has taken place during the last 10 years:

I personally was involved with the protect our community campaign last year as I was asked by some of the longer-term residents to represent the newer generation and am friendly with many people in the neighbourhood having organized events such as Jurassic Court during the Raptors run to the championship. As I have lived on [redacted] for almost 10 years, and being the father of 2 daughters, ages 5 and 2, I believe I have great insight on how the beach has been used given that my family is often spending time there, and many of the parking concerns take place on and around my court.

During the first 8 years that [redacted] there was little change to how the beach was used and the majority of people were very respectful. City of Barrie residents, and especially neighbours in the [redacted] would meet on the beach and enjoy the waterfront. The odd time there would be garbage left, or a fire burning from the night prior, however that was no different than in other parts of the trail system where a sandy beach didn't exist. We took pride in our neighbourhood and until 2020 did not experience any problems with over crowding or parking.

The City of Barrie obviously agreed with us that this beach was a gem and decided to advertise it as part of a tourism campaign to bring people to Barrie to enjoy a day of swimming and playing in the sand. If environmental concerns already existed due to regular use, surely multiple levels of the city of Barrie government would have made that case and prevented the open invite to the GTA. Although this increased traffic to the beach in 2019, it remained reasonable until 2020 when the COVID lockdowns encouraged people from out of town to spend their days at Wilkins.

I personally witnessed 30 people having a BBQ 50 meters from the beach along the riverside, spending the majority of the day there which lead to garbage left, belligerent behaviour and people turning the forest into an outhouse. Once Councilor McCann, Mayor Leyman and City Manager Andrea Miller heard our concerns, the city took swift and drastic measures that solved the problem. The people from out of town who had been abusing the beach and trail system were now diverted to better options and Barrie

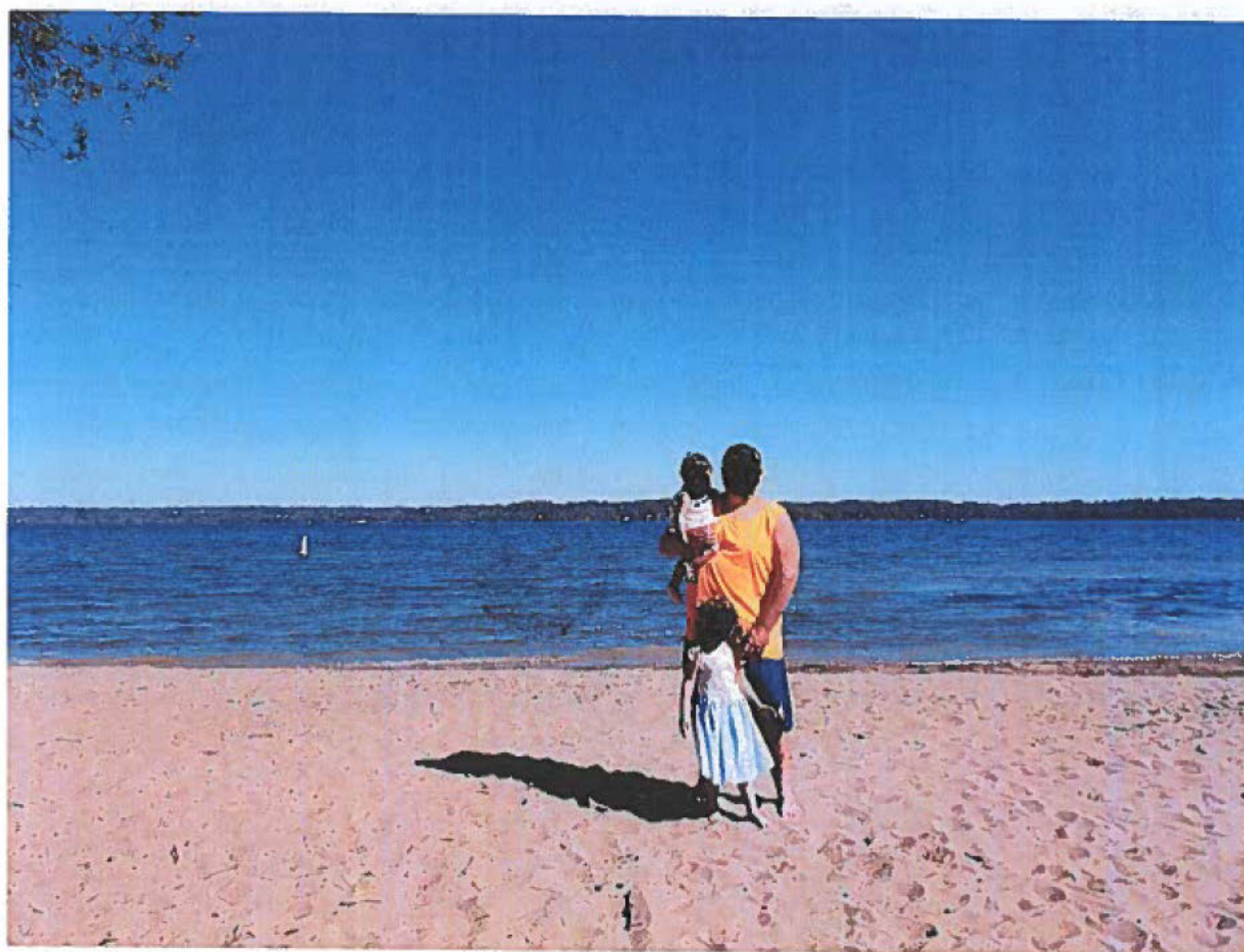
residents got our beach back. We agree that the damage caused along the river must be repaired, and our recommendations to the city will address and prevent it from ever happening again.

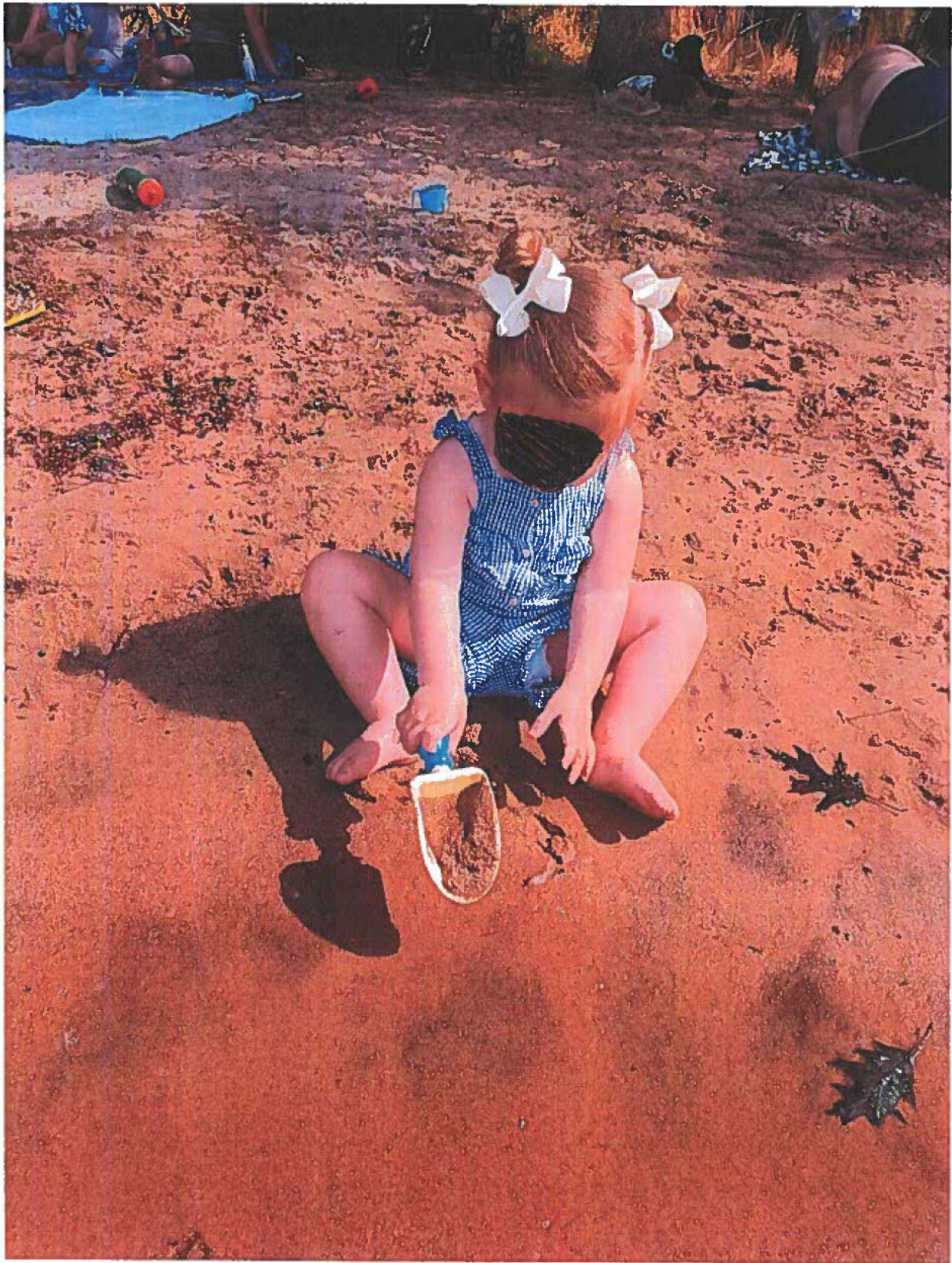
The personal impact on our mental illness this decision has had on the Vella family:

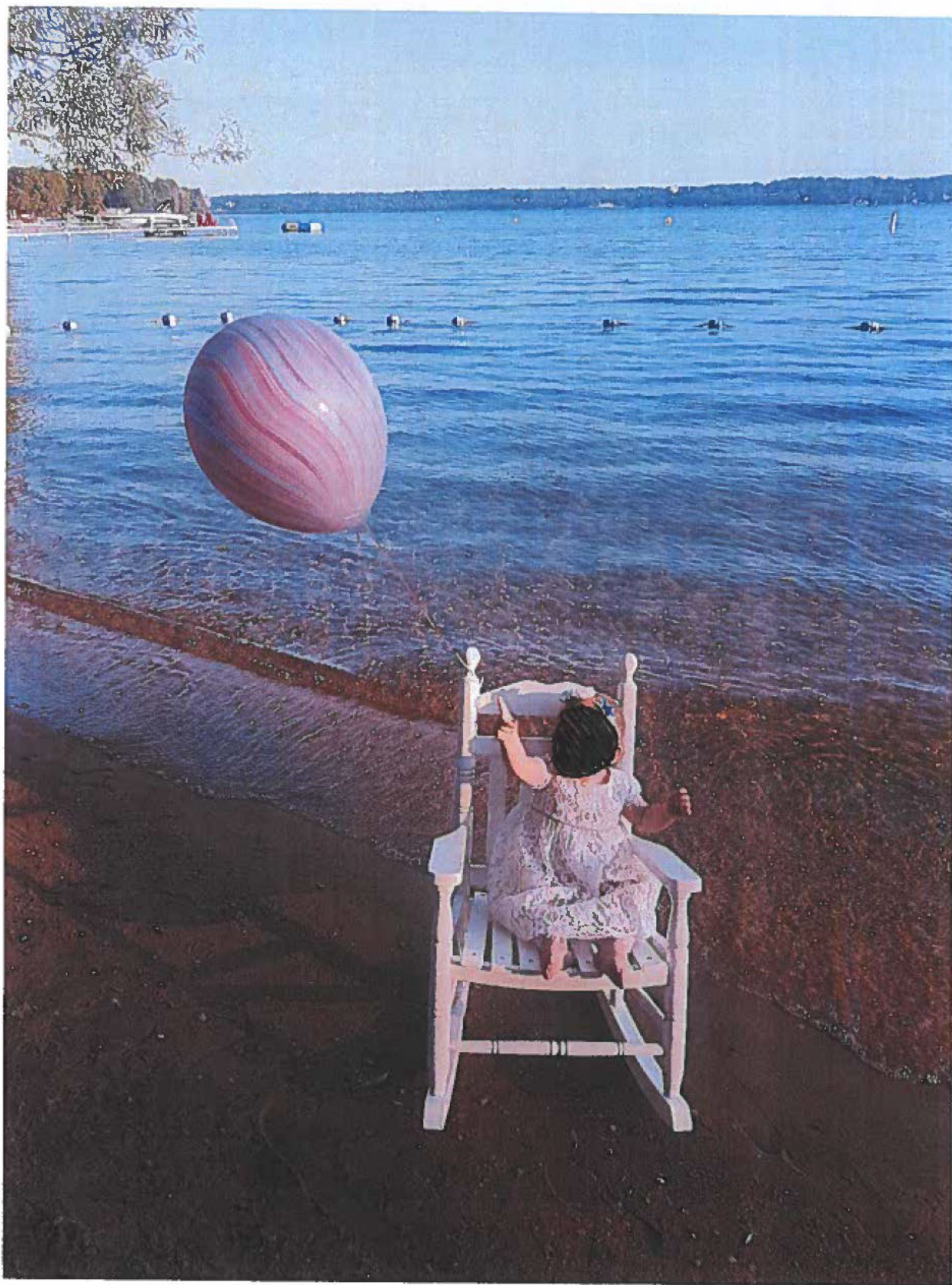
As I realize council has many of these to read, and this one is likely amongst the longest, I ask that you consider the effect on mental illness that this decision will have. The beach has been a place for my family to spend our time on the toughest of days and especially during COVID. Since the day I was informed of council's decision, I have had trouble sleeping and have not been able to properly focus on the companies I own when it is needed most. Oxford Learning Centre on the south end has been helping kids in Barrie for many years and as we fight to hold onto it through this pandemic, it has become a lower priority for me as Wilkins means that much to my family. I was devastated to know that part of our plans for the next 15 years may be cancelled by a council and city staff that may not have ever been to the beach. Much like you, if I were to see environmental concerns on a report, there is no doubt that I would be voting for this, how could you not? We feel that while much of the report is absolutely correct and some major changes are necessary, the sand at the beach is not part of the problem and we are asking council to consider delaying its' closure and eventual removal. Our families and kids need this space more than we ever have and this decision is far too important and impactful to make without doing a review that considers all factors.

Thank you for your consideration.

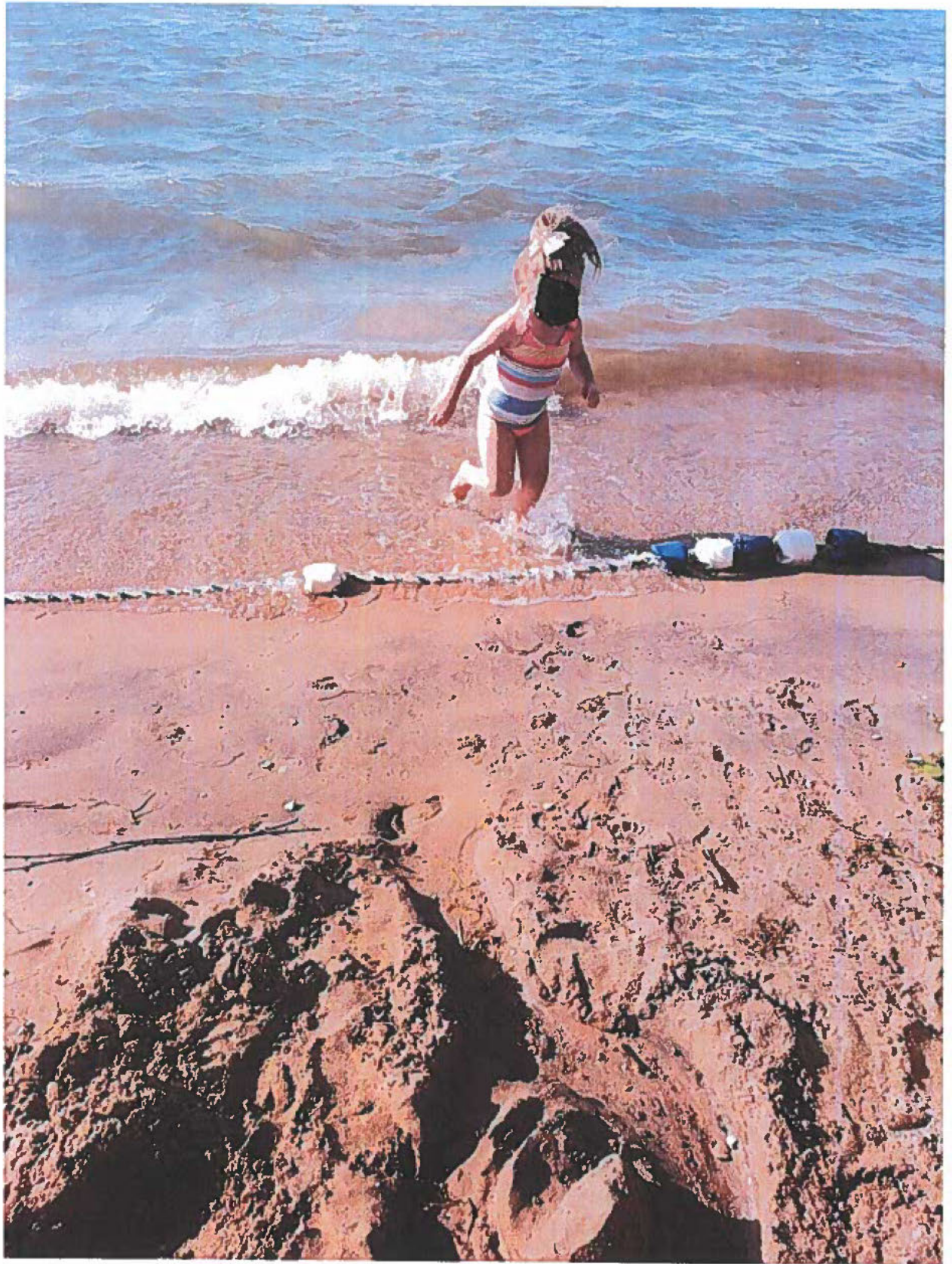
Jake, Chrissy, Paige and Reese Vella











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COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Opposition and Proposed Alternative to Wilkin's Shoreline Restoration Project		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Lindsay Knight		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing): Amy Mitchell		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable): NA		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
Please see Deputation letter attached re: opposition to change Wilkin's beach shoreline		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councillors,

I wish to make a Deputation to City Council in opposition to the recommended motion passed by General Committee on March 29 to change the shoreline at Wilkins Park.

Wilkin's beach in 2020 was not the Wilkin's beach my family and I love. Wilkin's beach in 2020 was misused and overcrowded. The Wilkin's beach we have loved since moving to the Kingswood neighbourhood in 2018 is a quiet, clean, safe and fun place for kids to play, swim, build sand castles and learn to love nature.



I understand and respect the environmental impacts Barrie's growing population will have on the most vulnerable portions of Wilkin's park and specifically, Hewitts creek. I don't dispute that if there are threats to this protected ecosystem, this needs to be addressed. I would like to better understand why this can't be done while still having a sandy beach, and how removing Wilkin's Beach doesn't further contribute to overcrowding at other Barrie beaches. I ask that you please reconsider the immediate replacement of the sand at the beach. The permanency of changing the sand to cobblestone seems extreme, as we do not know the impact that alternative solutions to mitigate environmental degradation will have until we try them first.

Upon reviewing the staff report DEV008-21, it is my hope that General Committee will choose to implement environmental restoration and protection measures in Wilkin's Park, but agree to reopen Wilkin's beach in 2021 in a more controlled manner, which allows our community to continue to enjoy the space while reducing any further damage to the surrounding environment.

Proposed alternative: Implement strategies to discourage heavy beach use by non-Barrie residents. Reassess effectiveness of this strategy in the Fall of 2021 to determine if additional measures need to be taken.

- Remove Wilkin's beach from list of City of Barrie beaches. This was a lapse in judgement in my opinion by the City of Barrie to add Wilkin's beach to the City of Barrie Tourism site, which

resulted in a lot more traffic to the beach in the Summer of 2020

- Signage for no tents/BBQs
- No parking signs and Barrie resident pass required for street parking. Consider tow-away zones as previously suggested during Summer of 2020. Increase fines for parking violations
- Improve drainage from the creek to Kempenfelt Bay to prevent future flooding of the beach with heavy precipitation
- Provide environmental protection for Hewitts creek from the bridge to its terminus by providing fencing or other naturalization/hardening to prevent wading and fishing and protect the habitat of the Coldwater fishery.
- Implement educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why its important to preserve and how we as a community can help
- Provide garbage cans to promote cleanliness of the beach
- Continued beach grooming and buoys for swimming safety



On any given day in the Summer (aside from 2020) there are 1-5 families at Wilkin's beach at one time, staying for 1-2 hours maximum. There is no question that in 2020 damage was done to Wilkin's beach, which is why our community came together to work with council to implement solutions to limit traffic and destruction to the beach. I understand the concerns for the growing population of the Barrie, thus imposing threat to protected environment zones. I don't agree with removing the sandy beach to try to solve this. Please don't take this away from my family and my children, and please don't base your decision on one awful year. This community takes great pride in the beach, Wilkin's walk and Hewitts creek. I guarantee if you implement the above proposed alternatives in 2021 and test their effectiveness first, you will have the information you need to make a more informed decision of what needs to be done from an ecological standpoint while ensuring the voices of this community are heard. I ask that you

Amy Mitchell

reconsider the immediate closure of the beach and proposed plan to change the sand to cobblestone, and ask that you please consider alternative measures first.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Mitchell Family

Amy, Matthew, Connor & Kayla

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COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Opposition and Proposed Alternative to Wilkins Shoreline Restoration Project		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Lindsay Knight		
EMAIL ADDRESS: lindsay.wagter@gmail.com		
STREET ADDRESS: 		
City: B		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing): Lindsay Knight		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable): 		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION: I oppose the recommended motion regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, the significant nature of the restoration work proposed. Letter attached proposes alternative solutions and rationale.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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www.barrie.ca

Lindsay Knight

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

Wilkins Beach is a beloved part of the culture and community in the Kingswood neighbourhood and City of Barrie. People and families of all ages make memories there. It is a key reason why people want to live in our neighbourhood. To close and permanently change the beach would have a huge impact on our community.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem. Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup
- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout / flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for by-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials
- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

Until 2020, Wilkins Beach was a hidden gem. Barrie residents came to the beach for an hour or two max, and for the most part treated it with respect. The 2020 season changed everything. Out of towners came in record numbers and abused the beach. There's no question that damage was done, which is why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with council to implement solutions

to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

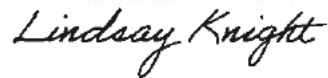
Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Knight". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Lindsay" and last name "Knight" clearly distinguishable.

Lindsay Knight

to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Lindsay Knight

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COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Leslie Zardo		
EMAIL ADDRESS: l		
STREET ADDRESS: r		
City: r		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing): Leslie Zardo		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable): Kingswood Community		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION: I am opposed to the plans to eliminate Wilkins Beach.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

Leslie Zardo

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

Wilkins Beach is a beloved part of the culture and community in the Kingswood neighbourhood and City of Barrie. People and families of all ages make memories there. It is a key reason why people want to live in our neighbourhood. It is why I stayed in Kingswood when I was forced to move in 2012. To close and permanently change the beach would have a huge impact on our community, quality family time and mental health. This area has played a huge roll in my own mental health during the hardest times of my family life.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem. Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup
- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout / flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for bi-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials
- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

Until 2020, Wilkins Beach was a hidden gem. Barrie residents came to the beach for an hour or two max, and for the most part treated it with respect. The 2020 season changed everything. Out of towners came in record numbers and abused the beach. There's no question that damage was done, which is why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with council to implement solutions to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Zardo

From: Jeff Aube <

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:59 AM

To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>

Cc: Mike McCann <Mike.McCann@barrie.ca>; Andrea Miller <Andrea.Miller@barrie.ca>; Office of the Mayor <OfficeoftheMayor@barrie.ca>;

Subject: Deputation - Wilkins Beach

Good morning,

Please find attached a deputation with respect to the proposed shoreline restoration of Wilkins Beach. We appreciate the opportunity to put forth our opinion and would ask that council consider our thoughts carefully and weigh all options presented before reaching a final conclusion. To be clear, we are not advocating for things to be left as is, we are merely hoping for a resolution that works to both protect the land and creek, discourage out of town visitors and allow Barrie residents to continue to enjoy the beach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

-Jeff and Jenny Aubé

Jeff Aubé | Senior Vice President
Select, Canada



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Toll free: 844.859.4990 | direct: 905.948.2667

Gallagher

120 South Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, ON, L6G 1C3

www.aig.com/ca

Jeff and Jenn Aubé

Re: Deputation in opposition to City of Barrie's proposal for shoreline restoration of Wilkins Beach

Dear Mayor Lehman, Barrie City Councilors and Staff,

We are writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, we are opposed to the significance of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

We live in the area and enjoy the beach on regular basis with our 3 young children and the proposal as outlined has the potential to greatly impact how we spend time as a family. Furthermore, Wilkins Beach and the surrounding trails have been a refuge for us throughout the pandemic – with little else to do, it has been a great place for us to get out and unwind.

We recognize that the summer of 2020 was a trying year as it pertained to the beach. There was more use than ever, coupled with a major rainfall that caused additional maintenance and repairs and we understand that council shares the same concerns for the upcoming summer. However, when the City imposed the parking restrictions last August along with restrictions to tents and barbecues, the use of the beach once again returned to normal levels.

We also understand and share council's concerns around conservation/preservation of Lover's Creek and the surrounding lands. As residents of the area, we have a vested interest in ensuring the long-term environmental stability of the area. We believe there are a number of strategies that would allow us to achieve our collective conservation goals while at the same time keeping the sand portion of the beach:

1. Drainage – there is a large storm drain that takes overflow water from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and diverts it to the creek/lake. When there is significant rainfall, as we saw last summer (or a significant spring thaw) the creek and culvert are unable to manage the water and there is flooding and washout. There is also a ditch in the park area at the bottom of Crimson Ridge (where it meets Capps) that diverts all the water from the street down to the wooded area and beach. Again, the area doesn't appear to be designed to handle that much water and it floods causing washout. Dealing with these 2 issues would drastically reduce the amount of washout and annual maintenance to the sand.

2. Fence – fence the entire creek from the bridge to the peninsula – blocking off access to the creek and to the point, allowing for revitalization of the land and protection of the creek. Further, install signs that address/educate that the creek is a protected area and why it is important to preserve it.
3. Parking Enforcement – as mentioned above, continuing with parking enforcement in the area by restricting street parking to City of Barrie residents will help immensely in deterring out of town visitors to the area.
4. Enforce a no-warning system for by-law infringements.
5. Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials

When we moved to the area with our family in 2019, there were 2 specific things that attracted us to the area; Algonquin Ridge Elementary School, and Wilkins Beach. We enjoy going there with our kids for a swim and a quick play in the sand. The 2020 season changed everything. Out of towners came in record numbers and abused the beach. There's no question that damage was done, which is why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with council to implement solutions to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our ask is that council meet us halfway – implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was an aberration, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff and Jenn Aubé

DEPUTATION REQUEST

For use for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE:

April 12, 2021

GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER:

STAFF REPORT DEVC08-21

SUBJECT:

WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES-CLARIFY OF COVID IMPACTS AND ADDRESSING

NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR:

JOHN WENS

HOME ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

WORK ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

PHONE:

[REDACTED]

Postal Code:

[REDACTED]

Business:

[REDACTED]

NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):

[REDACTED]

PHONE HOME BUSINESS:

[REDACTED]

NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):

[REDACTED]

BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:

[REDACTED]

OPPOSITION to motion to convert Wilkie Beach into a cobblestone shoreline.

[REDACTED]

LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES ☒ NO ☐

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4304 Fax: 705-434-4343
www.barrie.ca

TO: THE CITY OF BARRIE MAYOR AND COUNCIL,

SUBJECT: **DEPUTATION REGARDING STAFF REPORT DEV008-21**

IE. "WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES – SUMMARY OF COVID IMPACTS AND ADDRESSING GROWTH – RELATED IMPACTS" (Herein referred to as "the city proposal")

SUBMITTED BY: JOHN WIENS AND QUINTINA WIENS

RE: **OPPOSITION TO STAFF REPORT DEV008-21**, AND ALTERNATE PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL MOTION FOR REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF THE "WILKINS BEACH" AREA

As residents of the Wilkins beach I would like to emphasize what a joy that small, secluded beach is to as a whole. Overuse or abuse was not the norm. On a typical summer day in years prior it was highly unusual to see more than 3 or 4 families enjoying the beach for swimming purposes. The damage that was done to that area in the summer of 2020 should not be held as indicative of a typical summer season in the area. Very high levels of non-local traffic associated with the GTA COVID19 lockdown was evident and should be considered the larger part of the traffic related damage. Those considerations aside, residents of this neighbourhood recognize the need for habitat repair and restoration, and the importance of preserving the Wilkins Creek area as a vital part of the City of Barrie's nature conservancy plans.

That being said, we would like to challenge one of the assumptions that the city proposal makes regarding erosion damage on the beach, specifically referring to the image on page 16 "Erosion on Wilkins Beach Shoreline...". The report frequently collates the damage from foot traffic along the Wilkins Creek bed and shorelines, with the erosion damage on the beach shore of Wilkins Beach on Kempenfelt Bay. As the photo on page 16 actually states, the beach damage is

primarily being caused by poor storm drainage and resulting overflow erosion across the beach area. The source of this overflow and erosion is the storm pond at the bottom of Crimson Ridge Road, which collects storm water on the hill above and behind the beach area to the west. If the overflow drainage from that storm pond was better managed, the erosion effects on Wilkins Beach below would be largely mitigated. Failure to recognize this primary cause of erosion on the beach presents two risks. Firstly, if this drainage issue is not recognized and mitigated, any further attempts at restoration and protection of the Wilkins Beach area would be compromised from the start. Secondly, closure of the sandy beach area based on inaccurate assumption of cause leads to the unnecessary closure of a prized city asset and neighbourhood recreational area.

Therefore, we accept the city proposal in its entirety except for the following amendments...

- 1) The Wilkins Beach area not be converted into a cobblestone area with boulder berms at this time.
- 2) We alternatively propose that the Wilkins Beach area be closed for the 2021 season to improve the drainage from the storm pond on Crimson Ridge Road.

This would accomplish two things. It would help to deter another summer of intensified foot traffic on the beach due to ongoing COVID19 pressures. It also keeps open the opportunity to re-open the beach to swimmers in future seasons once the flooding/erosion issues have been mitigated.

We believe that our proposed amendment will result in an improved long-term result for the City of Barrie's efforts to protect its environmental assets by protecting the viability of the Wilkins Creek habitat, as well as preserving recreational access to one of Barrie's hidden gems for future generations.

Thank you for your time,

John and Quintina Wiens

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING**.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: 20-G-120 Staff report: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES - SUMMARY OF COVIDIMPACTS AND ADDRESSING GROWTH - RELATED IMPACTS		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Apryl Munro		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
We are asking that the Wilkins Beach remain as is. This plan is reactionary to a situation from last summer that was a mistake made by Tourism Barrie, and the residents will be suffering because of this.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

Apryl Munro

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29, regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

This area has brought so much joy to our families, and mine too. We paddle board, swim, walk and take part in all outdoor activities in this area. We even renewed our vows on the beach because it represents so much to our family.

We are on the trail daily, year round. The Kingswood neighbourhood takes good care of it. We bring attention to the city when it's not cared for. We care that much that we request clean up crews when someone mistreats the area.

Last summer the beach area was overtaken by out of town guests, and it was an error by Tourism Barrie to promote it. As a result, the neighbourhood is being penalized. This feels wholly unfair.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem. Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup
- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout / flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for bi-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials
- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Apryl Munro

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING**.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Wilkins Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Linda Campbell		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
In opposition to the current Staff report and recommendation. Would like to share history.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

Linda Campbell

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

April 6, 2021

Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors

I find the staff report rather hard to swallow and ask that you hear the history of our community and allow the community to be part of the solutions.

I would like to Quote Ward 10 Councilor, Mike McCann on CTV News, "I need to know how we got here, why we got here to determine those facts so we never get here again."

Let me share a brief history of our community. The community adopted the trails, parks and beach in 2003 for 3 years. We cleaned and maintained this area with the amazing support of Mona Boyd. We came together and celebrated our community by putting our hands to work. Significant relationships developed during our involvement. We came together for our neighbours through cancer diagnosis, the loss of a partner, fundraiser, pot-luck in the park and activities our children created and implement, for instance making bio degradable Christmas decorations for the park followed by an evening of Christmas carolling. This community said good bye to neighbours but welcomed the new ones. We watched out for one another and always offered support and a helping hand. That's the definition of community.

In the past when our community experienced large teen parties on the beach, Mayor Hamilton orchestrated community meetings at the South Shore Centre with Barrie Staff and Police representatives. Wilkins beach was defined by City Parks Department as a "Community Beach" meaning people would be within walking distance as there were no washroom facilities or parking. This was consistent and constant until 2016.

The Fall of 2015, several neighbours met with Mike McCann to discuss the issues of parking once Capps Dr. would be joined via the development of Mike McCann offered to complete a survey asking neighbours south of what changes they would like to see. He reported back indicating not one was interested in changing the current parking

status. Note: a request was made to see copies of this survey in the summer of 2020 and have not received a copy of the analysis.

By the summer of 2016 the community experienced an increase of all day visitors on weekends. At the end of the day the visitors left their garbage on the beach, parks and our properties. Examples of items; dirty diapers, toddler / children's soiled underwear, beer cans and wine bottles, paper plates and food items. Parking issues began to become problematic, parking in no parking zone and very close to the end of driveways making it challenging to exit your driveway. We discussed these issues with Mike and he told us to take pictures and call by-law office. The community did exactly that. Each year we witnessed an increase of people visiting the beach on weekends. There was a difference though. People arrived at 11:00 am and remained until 8:00 pm. They dumped charcoal from their BBQ in the creek, wooded area or the lake. Washing soiled clothing, dishes in the creek was witnessed frequently. The visitors left behind garbage that by the next day the animals dispersed in the forest. Yes, the community went into the bush and gathered garbage then paid for garbage tags to get rid of it.

From 2016 to 2019 we continued to call by-law and update Mike McCann. During the summer of 2019, Mike Mc Cann was contacted frequently asking for help. The number of people attending Wilkins beach on weekends had become overwhelming. The issues surpassed the previous years and the trend was environmentally concerning let alone the safety of the roadways surrounding the beach and walking trails.

On October 4, 2019 several people attended a meeting with Mike McCann.

The following issues were discussed and the points mentioned are cut from a letter sent to Mayor Lehman and Cc to Mike McCann on Oct 9, 2019

- Parking violations- Parking at Wilkins Beach in a no parking zone. Emergency vehicles have to park in the middle of the road to respond to emergency calls (picture attached). Parking in Valley View Court due to nowhere to park at Wilkins Beach.
- People are coming in large groups, setting up large tent shelters on the beach and Upper Park. They arrive with several coolers, BBQ (charcoal or propane), and staying for the entire day into early evening.
- They are changing clothing in the woods, using the woods for defecating / voiding, leaving their sanitary napkins and tampons in the woods, children's' underwear filled with feces.
- At the end of their lovely day at the beach they discard dirty diapers on our lawns, park, garbage cans, woods. Throwing their charcoal into our wooded area or dump it on the sandy beach. The garbage sometimes is picked up but often our community is required to clean it up. If they leave food by the next days the animals have gone into the open barrel garbage can on the beach. Yes, we find broken beer bottles on the beach, wooded area and upper park. Please note, people that park up in Valley View Court walk the back path and dispose of their garbage on the walk to their car.
- Smoking of cigarettes and Pot is frequently happening and is very frustrating.

- By-law officers will ticket cars parked illegally but do no other violations. Once a car has a ticket it remains in the illegal spot causing issues for emergency vehicles and is a very cheap day of fun at the expense of our community.
- Environmental damage to the grass and beach area and walking trails
- These people are likely not purchasing one single item in Barrie and come with all their plastic, food, drink, diapers and bodily waste and leave all of it here for us to clean up. Actually, it is costing the City of Barrie and our community a significant amount of money, time and frustration.

Community Suggestions offered during the meeting with Mike McCann on Oct 4, 2019

- Parking: extend parking regulations to include Crimson Ridge to Royal Park, all of Valley View Court, all of Blue Water, Royal Park to Tamarac, Capps Drive, with Barrie Resident Parking Permit only signs.
- Increase the parking violation fine in these areas significantly and tow vehicles in no parking zones
- Provide residence with two additional parking passes per household to allow visitors to park without being fined.
- More by-law officers that will not give warnings BUT rather fine people for violations. Smoking on the beach, drinking on the beach, dogs off leash, barbequing, large tents erected and parking illegally.
- Take Wilkins Beach off the City of Barrie website. Note: Dock road beach, Tollendale Park and the Gables are not currently on the website. Dock road has a parking lot and port-a-pot on site. Tollendale Park is identical to our beach area with access to the water with no parking or washrooms but they have been spared the grief we are experiencing. Gables has parking but they remain off the website. Mike has not been able to clarify why these other beaches are not highlighted on the city website in the same manner as Wilkins Beach. We don't wish this on any other community but would like an explanation for this decision.
- Changing the name or removing the word beach from the sign and Barrie City website.

A few notable responses from Mike McCann,

- Request for additional city support staff (by-law or garbage clean up) would increase our taxes
- Wilkins beach could not be taken off the city website because they test the water.
- Our community needs to start calling Service Barrie if we have parking violations or to address other by-law issue. Mike shared the phone number to Service Barrie for the first time in 4 years
- He indicated that we needed to call this number with all and any issues to demonstrate the need and necessity for more service in our community.

Following this meeting nothing further happened regarding the above issues.

If you would like a copy of the meeting minutes from October 4, 2019, we had a stenographer attend to document the discussion and response from Ward 10 Councilor.

Fast forward to spring 2020.

Mike McCann was contacted frequently by the community in the spring of 2020. With Covid 19 social distancing protocol in place and significant increase of people coming to the beach all day, every day. Mike was not able to provide any change or results for the issues we experienced daily. In mid June 2020, I spoke to Mayor Lehman on the phone for 20 minutes and he told me that he would call me back by the end of the day. Mayor Lehman indicated that Andrea Miller would be dealing with the issues and she would contact me the following day. Within 3 days Andrea was meeting with the community and heard many issues. Many community residents were disappointed that Mike McCann did not attend. Shortly after the meeting I discovered Wilkins beach being promoted on Tourism Barrie. I sent this information to Andrea and in less than an hour she replied Wilkins beach was removed from there website. Later that day Mayor Lehman made a post on social medial regarding this incident. Our community discovered that Mike McCann is the cities representative on the Board of Tourism Barrie and Wilkins beach had been promoted for years on this website.

During the summer of 2020 Barrie City Hall responded to the exact same issues the community identified to Mike McCann in the summer of 2019. It took Covid 19, additional people abusing the beach and trails and CTV News to get the support we had been identifying to Mike McCann for many years.

Did I answer Mike's need to know how we got here, why we got here to determine those facts so we never get here again.

Now Wilkins beach is before Council to determine if we stay sandy or rocky.

- I support the closure of the beach for 2021 to replant necessary vegetation to help stabilize the creek embankment and not allow people to have access to this area.
- I feel the staff report has no flexibility to explore less invasive changes to the beach. Why can't we explore less invasive most affective and engage the community to help support restoration. Does the current status of the beach have only one solution ROCKs?

Suggestions:

- A small area of access to the water remain open summer 2021 to allow for people to enter the water to swim, kayak or paddle board.
- Fix the forest at the bottom of the stairs and path at Capps drive access that has been draining directly into Kempenfelt Bay since conception.
- Enforcement of by-laws immediately no warnings.
- Establish tow zone for parking in no parking zone and significantly increase parking fines on roads near all entrances of the trails and beach.

- Have a partnership with the community and appoint a community representative to attend meetings and have a collaborative relationship and ownership with the community.
- Appoint a Barrie City Council member that will not promote Wilkins beach on the Tourism Barrie website.
- Let's give the beach a chance to heal and re-evaluate in a year. Establish levels of recovery for the beach and evaluate the healing process. Is the Rock Plan the only PLAN?

We have been protecting the beach, creek and trails for years with our hand and voices and this community is strongly invested in the future of the beach and walking trails. We have been screaming to the wrong person for years but now understand where to go when we need issues heard and resolved.

Thank you,
Linda Campbell

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING**.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: Regarding STAFF REPORT DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Please do not remove the sand and block access to our beach for 1-2 years		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Aaron Hendriks		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
The issues with the Wilkins Beach are from an improperly routed storm drain and multiple factors which led to overcrowding and those from outside our City using the beach. The solution for now should be to fix the drain and ensure only residents are parking in the area.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

From: Aaron Hendriks <
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:40 PM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Subject: Deputation request for April 12 council meeting

To the city council of Barrie,

I was deeply affected by the plans to remove the sand from Wilkin park and make it a stone beach. A large part of the reason we moved to this area was this beach and the paths around our house. This beach is what I would call my happy place and I am down there at least twice a day 6 days a week as I go for walks or for my daily Paddleboard workouts. I am requesting to talk at the upcoming April 12th meeting to discuss my concern with the City's plans.

The staff report talks about erosion on the beach and that there was a lot of overcrowding last year which was amplified with those coming from outside Barrie who wanted to go to the Beach during lockdowns. The erosion is due to a storm drain which is not able to handle our large storms and is constantly overflowing and creating 3 streams which erode the beach. One factor for the overcrowding was caused by Toronto and other areas being in complete lockdown and those people coming up to Barrie to go to the beach and then finding we have raised parking prices so they then find free beaches like this to go to instead. The other factor of the overcrowding was just due to those that would normally travel or are stuck at home with kids locked out of school having nothing better to do than go to the beach and this was normally a nice and quiet place to go in the past.

I believe that there are many other solutions to both these issues other than closing the beach for 1-2 years and recreating it as a natural area with rocks and pebbles. The erosion could be fixed by increasing the capacity of the small creak from the drain and the size of the pipe under the path. The parking could be addressed like Tiny township by ticketing every hour which would allow residents to easily negate the tickets but those without a pass would have to pay and this would increase revenue to the city. As for any trash in the area a few extra bins and/or more frequent service to those on the weekends would reduce that problem.

Overall this beach is part of the heart of this community and getting rid of it permanently due to overcrowding that is caused by a temporary issue is not the right solution. Closing this beach will also make overcrowding and traffic issues at the other local beaches that much worse so in that respect you are just relocating the issue not solving it.

Sincerely,
Aaron Hendriks

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING**.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-210329		
SUBJECT: Wilkins Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Claire Elliott		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:	Postal Code:	
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (If different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (If applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST:		
YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>		NO <input type="radio"/>

Personal information on this form is collected under the legal authority of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended. The information is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk, City of Barrie, 70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5, Telephone 705 739-4204.

City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES - SUMMARY OF COVID IMPACTS AND ADDRESSING GROWTH - RELATED IMPACTS

WARD: ALL, SPECIFICALLY 1, 2, 8 AND 10

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACTS: K. BRADLEY, BA, MLA, MANAGER OF PARKS PLANNING, EXT. 4825
K. RANKIN, RFP, MANAGER OF PARKS AND FORESTRY OPERATIONS, EXT. 4754

SUBMITTED BY: M. BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: A. MILLER, RPP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

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

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That Wilkins Beach be de-listed as a formal public beach.
2. That staff in the Operations Department with assistance from the Development Services Department, work with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to design, permit and implement ecological restoration plans for those lake and creek shorelines as illustrated in Appendix "A" to Staff Report DEV008-21 prior to the end of 2021.
3. That the areas identified as shoreline and creek area at Wilkins Park as illustrated in Appendix "B" to Staff Report DEV008-21, be temporarily closed to the public for 2021 for restoration work.
4. That staff in the Operations Department install 'No Admittance' signs for the areas temporarily closed to the public, as per Parks Use By-law 2019-059, as amended.
5. That staff in the Operations and Development Services Departments, with assistance from Access Barrie, develop and implement a proactive and inclusive communications strategy in 2021 for the specified environmentally protected area.
6. That staff in Access Barrie be directed to:
 - a) Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and other materials; and
 - b) That communication material refer instead only to Wilkins Park and the Hewitt's Creek Valley in all future corporate communications materials.
7. That staff in the Development Services and Operations Departments work with Tourism Barrie and other organizations known to list public beaches to remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach.

8. That staff in the Operations Department continue to provide a level of service for the specified shoreline area that is consistent with service levels provided in other City-owned environmentally protected lands, specifically noting that the level of service is lower than the level provided at the other formal waterfront beach areas.
9. That staff in the Development Services Department explore City initiated amendments to Zoning By-law 2009-141 to review the benefits of establishing a new Natural Shoreline zone and consider tailoring the permitted uses and activities for the specified areas to be consistent with the waterfront activity centres hierarchy identified in the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan (2015) and any updates thereto.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

10. On July 13, 2020, City Council adopted motion 20-A-074 regarding a presentation concerning a waterfront operation update where Council approved temporary measures to assist in controlling and mitigating the impacts of the significant increase in the City's waterfront use due to the changes in people's outdoor activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provincial and local health regulations and restrictions.
11. The above noted motion extended resident-only parking restrictions in several residential areas within 500 metres of the popular beaches, parks, and waterfront areas, along with increases to parking rates and parking fines.
12. On August 10th, 2020, Staff Report DEV026-20 was received by General Committee and Council motion 20-G-120 was approved giving the following direction to staff:

"WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES - SUMMARY OF COVID IMPACTS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO ADDRESSING GROWTH- RELATED IMPACTS

1. That staff in the Operations and Development Services Departments investigate the process of and the implications of closing the beach at Wilkins Park due to ongoing environmental damage in this area that is zoned Environmental Protection and report back to General Committee by March 2021.
 2. That staff in the Operations Department, in conjunction with staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department, investigate the implications of and the required by-law changes for making permanent restrictions on the use of personal BBQs, tents and other associated equipment on City beaches, and report back to General Committee by March 2021.
 3. That staff in the Development Services Department investigate the feasibility of and the cost to update the Waterfront Strategic Plan (2015) to address emerging trends and the impact of growth on the safe and appropriate access to City beaches, public spaces and parks along the public waterfront and report back to General Committee."
13. The purpose of this Staff Report is to respond to the first item in the above-mentioned motion 20-G-120 approved on August 10th, 2020.
 14. This Report should be read in conjunction with Staff Report LCS004-21 dated March 29, 2021, as it addresses the second item of motion 20-G-120.

8. That staff in the Operations Department continue to provide a level of service for the specified shoreline area that is consistent with service levels provided in other City-owned environmentally protected lands, specifically noting that the level of service is lower than the level provided at the other formal waterfront beach areas.
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15. The third motion item is a multi-pronged approach that involves an update to the Waterfront Strategic Plan and addressing the impacts the growth of the City's population has on our parks, open spaces, and waterfronts. A capital project was approved in the 2021 budget and the selection of a consultant is underway. Further updates to Council will form part of this project work plan anticipated to begin later this year. The Waterfront Strategic Plan update will include additional community consultation.
 16. The most common issues around park and beach use in the summer of 2020 focused on a few areas:
 - a) Overcrowding and parking impacts on the surrounding neighbourhoods due to overcrowding.
 - b) Impacts on the environment because of overcrowding and inappropriate use of adjacent areas.
 - c) Sentiments about not welcoming visitors to the City's beaches when people were asked to not travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - d) Concern about dogs off leashes and in the beach areas.
 - e) Overall lack of awareness and respect of the rules and unpleasant behaviour (related to trash and washroom matters).
 - f) Ability that City staff had to enforce the rules actively and respectfully.
 17. The City responded as quickly as possible to making regulatory changes to address problems as they arose and several City departments and divisions were involved in establishing, implementing, and enforcing initiatives.
 18. Staff's intention is to learn from the waterfront experience in 2020 to prepare the City for a successful summer season. Managing the summer activities of 2021 will involve several City departments and divisions.
 19. By-law provisions related to BBQ, tents and dogs for summer of 2021 are outlined in companion Staff Report LCS004-21.
 20. Parking within proximity to popular beach, park and natural areas has been addressed by the Waterfront Spillover Policy approved by Council on October 26, 2020 as part of the overall Parking Strategy. This Policy provides that there is resident only permit parking within 500 metres walking distance from a waterfront access point. The Policy also provides that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Access Barrie to work with the Ward Councillors to allow nimble responses to any waterfront spillover parking matters that may be identified as parking restrictions are realized in proximity to the City's parks and waterfront access areas. Staff in the Transit and Parking Strategy Department are continuing to explore other parking and transportation demand models for use in the summer of 2021.
 21. The shoreline at Wilkins Park contains a smaller beach along Kempenfelt Bay located at the south-east end of Barrie's waterfront. It contains the terminus of Hewitt's Creek, a designated cold-water fishery, which empties into Kempenfelt Bay. It is located within the Regulated Limit of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Area and is zoned Environmental Protection (Appendix "C" to Staff Report DEV008-21)
 22. The increasing use of the beach in Wilkins Park, which occurred especially during the summer of 2020, has affected the environmental integrity of the area.

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23. As stated in Staff Report DEV026-20, there have been concerns raised that wading and fishing in the creek is impacting the habitat of the coldwater fishery and that excessive human use has led to the deterioration of the vegetation in the beach and the immediate forested area. This Report also notes that while there have been regeneration efforts previously taken by the City, the continued overuse of the shoreline area of Wilkins Park reverses these efforts.
24. Moreover, there is concern that as Barrie's population continues to grow (the City is forecasted to nearly double its population by 2050), the environmental degradation of Wilkins shoreline will only intensify.
25. Throughout the summer of 2020, Infrastructure and Growth Management senior staff met with Wilkins Park area residents and the Ward Councillors to discuss their concerns related to increased visitation, the overall use of the lands at the mouth of Hewitt's Creek, and the resultant damage.
26. COVID-19 Impacts
- Beach use across the City in the summer of 2020 was unlike any other in recent history due to restrictions placed on other events and activities due to COVID-19.
- a) Approximately 75-100 people were observed at Wilkins Park and the small surrounding area during at least one period (as noted in Staff Report DEV026-20); while physical distancing protocols suggest a capacity of less than 50 people.
 - b) There were also some complaints registered that beach patrons had been using nearby wooded areas as washrooms, which was more prevalent in beach areas without washroom facilities, such as Wilkins Park.
 - c) Complaints were also received regarding an increase in parking within residential neighbourhoods adjacent to the waterfront.
27. On October 26, 2020, City Council adopted motion 20-G-168 regarding the parking strategy, which included the approval of the Waterfront Spillover Policy as discussed in paragraph 20 of Staff Report DEV008-21 that has defined Waterfront Access Points where "Permit Only Parking" will be permitted within 500 metres walking distance of parks. This will be enforced between June 15th to September 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
28. To address Council motion 20-G-120, a consultant was retained by the City to conduct a review of the City's waterfront park beach policy options and the actions undertaken by the City of Barrie in the summer of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intention was to use the information in the report to ensure the City of Barrie was doing all it can to protect its residents, visitors, and natural areas.
29. A jurisdictional scan of City of Barrie policies and regulations, along with a review of the processes for Parks Canada and Ontario Parks, 11 municipalities in Ontario and Canada (Toronto, Greater Sudbury, Kingston, Ottawa, Guelph, Coburg, Collingwood, Lambton Shores, Halifax, Montreal, and Vancouver), one international example (Government of Barbados) and two industry associations (Parks and Recreation Ontario, and the Lifesaving Society) took place in late 2020.
30. Following this research, City staff were able to determine that the courses of action taken in the City of Barrie in the summer of 2020 matched, or in some cases, exceeded the work of other jurisdictions. This validated the approach and allowed staff to continue to prepare for the summer of 2021, as well as plan for future improvements as part of the update to the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan (2015) and to be poised to address future and emerging trends of a growing population.

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31. In addition to the research work, on November 24, 2020, Infrastructure and Growth Management staff undertook a consultation exercise about the Waterfront. The full consultation Report is attached as Appendix "D".
32. The consultation focused on connecting with members of the public who expressed concern over the use of the waterfront over the past summer, asking both about overcrowding and the environmental resiliency of the waterfront. Two virtual consultation sessions were held, and feedback was also obtained through a survey and a "Share Your Ideas" tool on buildingbarrie.ca. Specific Wilkins Park area residents whom senior staff met with during the summer of 2020 were invited to participate in the November 2020 consultations and the Ward Councillors also participated and shared the events with their constituents.
- a) The messaging was consistent about maintaining that the waterfront should be preserved as a natural and publicly accessible space, with restrictions on the use and activities taking place to decrease the crowds and reduce impacts on the natural environment. Several ideas were also shared for increasing the resiliency and environmental integrity of the waterfront, such as a more robust native tree and plant species program, rain gardens and natural-looking stormwater ponds.
 - b) Participants also discussed the possibility of exploring beach restrictions to visitors coming from outside the City.
33. The November 2020 public consultations indicated public support for further measures to limit public use to more passive activities and to add environmental enhancements and protection measures for the beaches and the waterfront.
34. The items raised in the public consultation exercises are being addressed as follows:
- a) *Parking:* Waterfront Spillover Parking policy established and poised to address parking matters in surrounding residential areas.
 - b) *Signage:* Was installed throughout the season last year but will be reviewed and proactively installed in the coming months. Inclusive signage in other languages and other technological options will be explored.
 - c) *Environmental Protection:* Staff are recommending shoreline restoration works to be completed in the summer of 2021 for Wilkins Park and limits on activities through the Park Use by-law should reduce length of stay and some environmental impacts.
 - d) *Enforcement:* Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will be hired in the summer of 2021 to respond to the anticipated demand. The Parks Ambassador program will be re-established in 2022.
 - e) *Unpleasant behaviour:* Limits on activities through the Park Use by-law should reduce length of stay and increased enforcement would seek to address this matter.

ANALYSIS

Policies and Guidelines Governing the Waterfront

35. As the motion was to explore closing Wilkins Beach, staff also investigated the environmental implications and risk of not taking any action to mitigate environmental degradation. Staff conducted a review of existing environmental policies governing the waterfront.

36. The protection and enhancement of the natural environment in the City, including the waterfront and beaches is engrained in several pieces of Provincial legislation and the City's by-laws and policies. As part of the review to determine the potential closure of the beach at Wilkins Park, staff conducted a review of these and determined the proposed rehabilitation work at Wilkins Park is consistent with several pieces of legislation.

International Initiatives

37. In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report stating that, given the current rate, global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius. The effects of climate change on bodies of water such as Lake Simcoe are wide-ranging and already starting to register; in addition to causing extreme weather events that can damage natural areas and shorelines, climate change affects water quality and quantity, and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem structures and function.

Province of Ontario Policy Framework

38. The provincial legislative framework governing the designation of beaches includes a variety of statutes, such as the *Planning Act* (1990) and the *Municipal Act* (2001). The *Conservation Authorities Act* (1990), *Public Lands Act* (1990), *Great Lakes Protection Act* (2015), *Safe Streets Act* (1999) and *Aggregate Resources Act* (1990) have provisions related to beaches, some more applicable than others, however, none specify how a municipality is to identify a beach as private to reduce environmental impacts to the natural shoreline.
39. The protection of environmentally sensitive lands is stated as a priority in both *Ontario's Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)* (2020) (1.8.1 and 1.8.1.f, 2.1.2) and *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* (2019) (4.1).
40. As stated in the PPS, "planning authorities shall support ... preparing for the *impacts of a changing climate* through land use development patterns" (1.8.1) that "promote design and orientation which maximizes ... conservation" (1.8.1.f).
41. The PPS also specifically addresses the protection of natural features and areas in the long term and emphasizes that the "diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of *natural heritage systems*, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among *natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features*" (2.1.2).
42. The Growth Plan acknowledges that the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) "contains a broad array of important hydrologic and *natural heritage features and areas* ..." and states that "these valuable assets must be wisely protected and managed as part of planning for future growth"; the Plan also "recognizes and supports the role of municipal policy in providing leadership and innovation in developing a culture of conservation and addressing climate change" (4.1).
43. The *Planning Act* states that municipalities must provide for "the adequate provision and distribution of educational, health, social, cultural and recreational facilities" (s.2.i); recreational facilities include parks and beaches.

Lake Simcoe Protection Act and Plan

44. The *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* (2008) is intended to respond to some of the environmental degradation already occurring at Lake Simcoe, such as compromised water quality due to excessive nutrients (e.g., phosphorus), the proliferation of invasive species such as zebra mussels, and the loss and fragmentation of sensitive natural areas and habitat, such as shorelines.

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45. Staff can point to some of the environmental degradation already occurring at Lake Simcoe, such as the loss and fragmentation of sensitive natural areas and habitat, such as shorelines. Actions to protect the environmental integrity of the Wilkins Park shoreline are strongly in alignment with the Act, whose objectives include: Protecting, improving and restoring the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed (4.a); Improving the Lake Simcoe watershed's capacity to adapt to climate change (4.f); Improving conditions for environmentally sustainable recreational activities (4.h); and Promoting environmentally sustainability land and water uses, activities and development practices (4.i).
46. The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) is a policy and implementation document that guides efforts to protect and restore the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed and identifies one of the near-term goals as: "improving the health of the ecosystem by protecting and rehabilitation important areas, such as shorelines and natural heritage."

City of Barrie Official Plan

47. The City of Barrie Official Plan designates the land for Wilkins Park as Open Space and Environmental Protection.
48. Open Space is a designation intended to apply to "lands within the City intended to be used for passive or active recreational uses and shall include city parks with public community centres which are developed and maintained for the purposes of active recreational uses such as playing fields, ball diamonds, bicycle paths and those lands which are preserved in their natural state for the passive recreational use" (s.4.6.2.1). Permitted uses include "conservation and active and passive recreational purposes" (s.4.2.1) and lands along the waterfront within the Lakeshore, Southshore and Bayshore areas may incorporate "public and private recreational uses and ancillary uses, which include but are not restricted to public and private docking, public picnicking, trails and bikeways and ancillary commercial uses provided such uses clearly serve the major recreational function" (s.4.6.2.5).
49. Environmental Protection is a designation intended to apply to lands that contain "provincially or locally significant features or functions such as those areas containing ... rare species, important ecological functions, surface water features, valley and stream corridors and fish habitat; provincially significant wetlands, natural hazard lands and abandoned waste disposal sites" (s. 4.7.2.1). Such areas "are intended primarily for preservation and conservation in their natural states. Such uses as passive outdoor recreation, forestry and wildlife management may be permitted where appropriate" (s.4.7.2.2).

City of Barrie Zoning By-law 2009-141

50. The City's Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2009-141 zones the Wilkins Park shoreline area and stream corridor as Environmentally Protected Lands (EP). Many of the other City beaches are zoned Open Space (OS), which permits active uses as well as playing fields, courts, and structures. The OS zone is not as restrictive as the EP zone.
51. The EP zone permits the following uses: ecological management measures, environmental conservation, lookout points, naturalized buffer, natural restoration, and other similar uses where there are minimal impacts on the environmental features and functions.

City's Park Use By-law 2019-059

52. The City's Park Use By-law 2019-056 defines a beach as "an area of a public park whereby the landscaping or ground cover is made up of sand or other similar material in a defined area including but not limited to such areas that may be designed for the purpose of swimming". This definition does not reflect on the environmental integrity of a beach or its protection. (s.11.3.0.0.0).

Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan

53. The City's provides a more specific vision for the waterfront with some direction provided for environmental protection as the Plan is guided by the following **eight principles**:
- a) Public
 - b) Green
 - c) Connected
 - d) Diverse
 - e) Attractive
 - f) Accessible
 - g) Clean
 - h) Well-Managed
54. To achieve these qualities, the waterfront's environmental integrity must be taken into consideration; thus, prioritizing and attending to the features that contribute to the Wilkins Park environmental sensitivity is in alignment with the Plan.
55. The Plan categorizes the Wilkins Beach area as a Tertiary Activity Centre, which typically includes limited park amenities related to passive activities (i.e. trail-walking) by smaller groups of users and visitors than the Secondary Activity and the Primary Activity Centres that includes Centennial Beach, Johnson's Beach, Minet's Point Park, and Tyndale Park. Tertiary Activity Centres are not intended to serve as primary gathering places along the City's waterfront and typically include limited park amenities related to passive activities (i.e. trail-walking) by smaller groups of users and visitors.
56. It should be noted that the Official Plan does not currently recognize the hierarchy of activity levels referenced in the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan. This policy option is being explored in the new Official Plan and in alignment with any updates to the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2017)

57. The City of Barrie's commitment to climate change action is demonstrated through its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy as the document lists seven goals to guide the development of the City's actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Goal five is to "protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem functions" (36). Prioritizing the integrity of Wilkins Park's ecology is in alignment with this goal.

Parking Strategy (2020)

58. Most recently, the City of Barrie's new Parking Strategy (also helps to direct use of waterfront beaches through a new Traffic By-law 2020-107 and Waterfront Spillover Parking Policy, which together, formalize many of the actions taken by the City in response to concerns experienced in the summer of 2020 (e.g., increase in non-resident waterfront parking rates, restrictions on non-resident on-street parking within 500 metres of various waterfront beaches and parks).

Legislation and Policy Review

59. As a result of staff's review, it has been determined there is a significant legislative and policy framework governing Barrie's waterfront that encourages environmentally restorative works for shoreline edges located in Environmental Protection lands.
60. Staff believe there is value in exploring a City-initiated zoning by-law amendment to review the benefits of establishing a new Natural Shoreline zone (or some similarly named zone).

Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan

53. The City's provides a more specific vision for the waterfront with some direction provided for environmental protection as the Plan is guided by the following **eight principles**:
- a) Public
 - b) Green
 - c) Connected
 - d) Diverse
 - e) Attractive
 - f) Accessible
 - g) Clean
 - h) Well-Managed
54. To achieve these qualities, the waterfront's environmental integrity must be taken into consideration; thus, prioritizing and attending to the features that contribute to the Wilkins Park environmental sensitivity is in alignment with the Plan.
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60. Staff believe there is value in exploring a City-initiated zoning by-law amendment to review the benefits of establishing a new Natural Shoreline zone (or some similarly named zone).

61. The proposed zone would tailor the permitted uses and activities for the specified areas to be consistent with the waterfront activity centres hierarchy identified in the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan (2015) and any updates thereto, along with input from the community and Council.

Restoration and Naturalization Proposal

62. In light of the established policy framework, restoring and protecting the Wilkins Park shoreline is aligned with Provincial and City policies.

63. While staff in the Operations and Development Services Departments would need to collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to design, permit and implement ecological restoration plans for the Wilkins Park area, staff have determined preliminary concepts about of what future work could entail and the benefits of such an exercise that includes:

- a) The hardening of the most vulnerable portions of the lake shoreline to mitigate past and future impacts of overuse by employing the techniques illustrated in Appendix "A" of Staff Report DEV008-21:
 - i) The hardening techniques proposed for the shoreline and creekbank include a granite boulder berm with cobble beach and native restoration plantings. These techniques are based on shoreline stabilization best practices and have been widely used in the Lake Simcoe watershed and other lake and shoreline environments in the province of Ontario.
 - ii) The boulders and granite cobbles selected for the shoreline restoration will maintain access to the water, but in a more controlled and natural method that will discourage users from extended stays and reduce the number of visitors seeking a typical beach experience.
- b) Naturalization of the degraded riparian area of Hewitt's Creek, including the seeding and planting of native pollinators, shrubs, and trees along the creek.
 - i) A wood rail fence (temporary control barrier) in combination with the restoration plantings along the creek bank and the access to the groyne will prevent individuals from directly accessing those highly sensitive and degraded areas while maintaining access to the natural trails to allow users the opportunity to experience the natural environment.

64. Staff from the Development Services and Operations Departments met at Wilkins Park in early January 2021 with staff from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) who are responsible for permit approvals to review the proposed environmental restoration works and the LSRCA staff were supportive of the proposed plans and offered further technical assistance. The City will need to apply for a permit from the LSRCA prior to any site work proceeding.

65. The Operations Department has completed comparable shoreline restoration work in consultation with the LSRCA in Minet's Point Park, The Gables (Appendix "A" to Staff Report DEV008-21), and upstream from this area on Hewitt's Creek.

Restoration Impacts on Public Use

66. A 2021 warm-season closure of the shoreline and immediately adjacent areas (including the small sand beach, creekbank at the headwaters of Hewitt's Creek and the groyne that extends into Kempenfelt Bay as shown on Appendix "B" Staff Report DEV008-21) is recommended to complete the restoration works.

-
- a) The restoration planting and installation of the wood-post and rail fencing can be completed during the optimal planting period from mid-May through early June.
 - b) Shoreline construction works at Wilkins Park and Hewitt's Creek can be scheduled to occur between July 15th to October 1st, according to Ministry of Natural Resources guidelines.
 - c) The one-year seasonal closure would not prohibit individuals from using the trail system in the natural corridor except for periods of heavy equipment use where trail users would be temporarily re-routed.
 - d) After the shoreline restoration work is complete it will be naturalized and will not look like the current sandy beach environment that is contrary to the Environmental Protection designation in the Official Plan and the zoning in Zoning By-law 2009-141.
67. A proactive communications strategy is recommended to be prepared prior to the start of construction. The public communications strategy developed by Access Barrie for the 2018 one-year closure of the Sunnidale Park Dog Off-leash Recreation Area (DOLRA) is a successful template to be used for this project to provide advanced and on-going information related to the project benefits, timing, and public closure. The communications strategy should include:
- a) Installing "No Admittance" signs for the areas temporarily closed to the public. Inclusive signs including the printing of signs in other languages and / or using technologies, such as QR codes, to be more accessible to people who read more languages than English. It is recognized not everyone has a smart phone to access technological options so all signage options should be explored.
 - b) Removing any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials.
 - c) A visitor signage program highlighting the permitted activities in the area, the area's environmental sensitivity and the benefits of the Hewitt's Creek Valley and waterfront lands, as well as clear indication that the area is not a beach facility. As stated above, inclusive signage should be explored and implemented, where possible.
 - d) Encouraging passive uses of Wilkins Park by small groups (in alignment with the waterfront parks hierarchy guidelines set out in the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan).
68. Following the restoration works, reducing service levels from Parks Operations will create a more natural shoreline experience by:
- a) Ceasing to groom any remaining sand areas following the restoration works.
 - b) Not installing in the Hewitt's Creek Valley lands and adjacent to the shoreline any public amenities typical of a formal beach area, such as: swim buoys, picnic tables, portable washrooms, garbage cans and other public facilities.
69. The proposed environmental design, materiality and restoration works are consistent with the Environmentally Protection zoning and the site conditions and are intended to assist in controlling and directing public access and activities in the area in a manner that will prevent further environmental degradation. Those wanting a beach experience will not be drawn to Wilkins Park following the shoreline restoration work and the accompanying naturalized maintenance proposal.

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70. While shoreline restoration continues to be priority for Barrie's waterfront, the recommendations in this Report are specific to immediately addressing the shoreline issues in Wilkins Park. The future Waterfront Master Plan update will provide the opportunity to examine the broader waterfront sustainability issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT MATTERS

71. The following environmental and climate change impact matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
- a) Alignment with environmental matters as presented in the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019).
 - b) Alignment with the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* (2008) and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (2009).
 - c) Alignment with the Environmental Protection land use designation, as stated in the City of Barrie's Official Plan (2010).
 - d) Alignment with the City of Barrie's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2017):
 - i) 3.2 - Increase natural/forested areas within sub watersheds with high surcharge and runoff;
 - ii) 5.7 - Promote the planting of native vegetation along lakes, creeks, and ravines to reduce erosion risk, maintenance needs, and enhance local biodiversity; and
 - iii) 7.8 - Continue with active tree planting, community partnerships, and naturalization programs as outlined in the Urban Forest Strategy.
 - e) The shoreline hardening and root mass restoration from the naturalized replanting program will increase the climate change resiliency of the area providing a higher level of protection from more frequent and intense storms, stormwater erosion, flooding damage and wave action.
 - f) The restoration works will increase the ecological function of the lands providing enhanced terrestrial and aquatic habitat for the local flora and fauna.

ALTERNATIVES

72. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could choose to implement greater environmental restoration and protection measures in Wilkins Park and to close off the shoreline to the public permanently.

Although this alternative is a possibility, the park and waterfront are a major gem and source of enjoyment for the public. The reopening of Wilkins Park in a more controlled manner, whereby more passive recreational use of the park by smaller groups is permitted, enables the public to continue to enjoy the space while further environmental damage is mitigated after significant shoreline restoration work is completed in the summer of 2021.

Alternative #2

General Committee could choose to keep a reference to Wilkins Park as a traditional beach and keep it open while also choosing not to take any action to reverse and mitigate environmental degradation.

This alternative is not recommended, as it is neither in alignment with Provincial policy (e.g., the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*; the Provincial Policy Statement), nor with City of Barrie policy (the site's land use designation as an Environmental Protection area in the Official Plan; the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy). This alternative would lead to further degradation of the area, including its vegetation and coldwater fishery – especially as visitation is likely to increase, given Barrie's projected population growth.

FINANCIAL

73. Staff and funding resources (\$26,500) for the naturalizing the lake and creek shorelines would be allocated through the existing 2021 operating budgets, specifically:

Shoreline Materials	1267-675600	\$9,500
Naturalization	1269-670800	\$6,000
Fencing	1267-560200	\$7,000
Salaries & Benefits	1267-400000 & 400100	\$3,500
Signage (inclusive)	1267-540900	\$500

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

74. The recommendation included in this Staff Report supports the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
- ☒ Build a greener Barrie while mitigating and adapting to climate change.
 - ☒ Grow responsibly.
75. Planting and naturalizing a large portion of the Hewitt's Creek and Kempenfelt Bay shoreline at Wilkins Park would promote a healthier, more sustainable shoreline community. After the closure to perform the restoration work in the summer of 2021, residents would still be able to access and use the area, though not as a traditional sand beach that has resulted in attracting large numbers of users.

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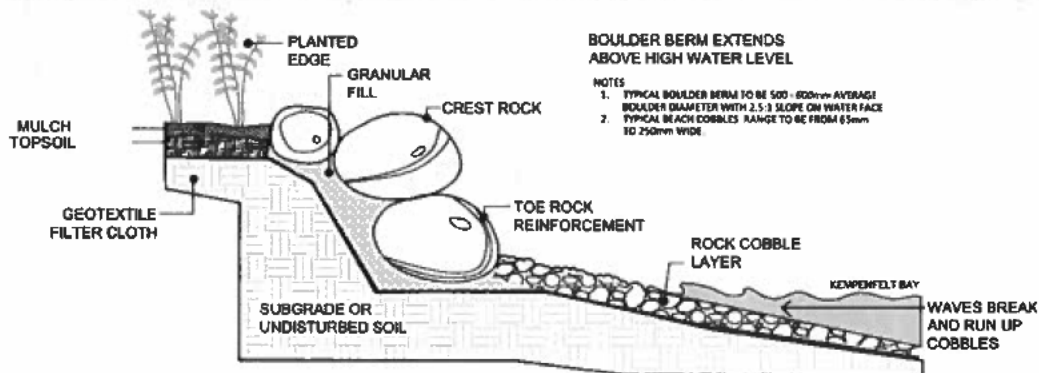
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APPENDIX "A"

Wilkins Park Proposed Shoreline Hardening and Restoration

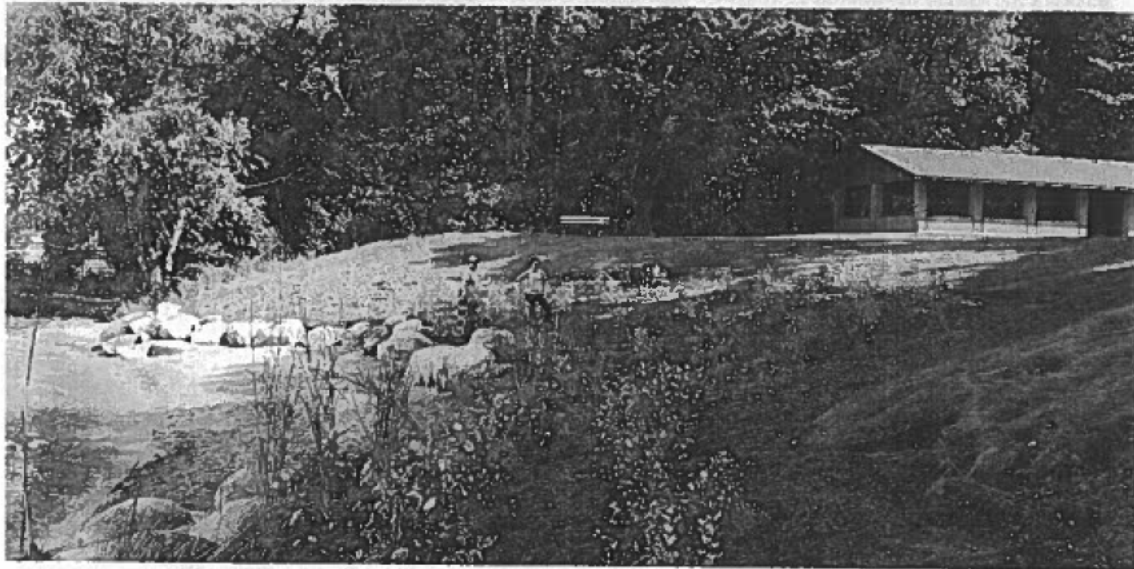
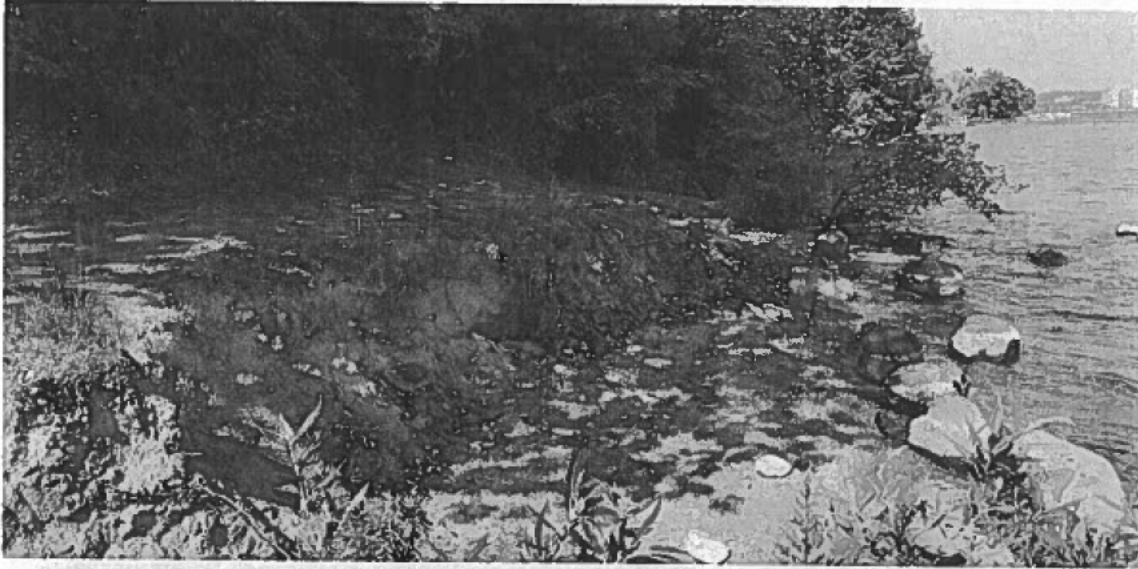


SAMPLE BOULDER BERM AND ROCK COBBLE BEACH SECTION
nst

Boulder Berm installed in 2019 at The Gables - Before & After images



Boulder Berm installed in 2019 at The Gables - Before & After images



Existing Cobble Shoreline Examples in Ontario

Image Below: Cobble shoreline at Toronto's Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario (Source: <https://trca.ca/conservation/erosion-risk-management/restore/bluffers-park-major-maintenance/>)



Image below: Cobble beach and boulder berm on Lake Ontario shoreline at Chancery Lane Promenade, Oakville (Source: <https://www.oakville.ca/assets/general%20-%20environment/2016%20shoreline%20inventory%20draft.pdf>)



APPENDIX "B"

Proposed 2021 Area of Wilkins Park Shoreline Closure



Image below: Erosion on Wilkins Park shoreline after a severe storm event in 2020



Image below: Hewitt's Creek on east side of groyne showing well-used public access to shoreline (Source: Stephanie King at <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/canada/ontario/wilkins-beach/photos>)



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APPENDIX "C"

City of Barrie Zoning By-law 2009-141 for Wilkins Park Shoreline



Source: City of Barrie GIS Internal Portal

APPENDIX "D"

Barrie's Waterfront for Tomorrow
Summary Report

City of Barrie | November 2020 Public Consultation

Report completed: January 2020

Report by: Anna Sajecki

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Introduction

To make Barrie's waterfront and beaches safer and to help mitigate overcrowding during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Barrie implemented a series of short-term solutions for the waterfront during the summer 2020 period. These included:

- Non-resident waterfront parking rate increase (\$10/hour with a daily maximum of \$50)
- Resident waterfront parking pass only in Dock Road and Gables parking lots, as well as in small sections of surrounding streets at Wilkins Park
- Additional education and awareness signage installed
- Increased patrols by municipal law enforcement officers and police, focused on education and compliance
- Park ambassadors in parks/along trails to educate and answer questions
- Prohibition of personal BBQs and tents
- Anchoring of picnic tables to prevent two or more being moved together

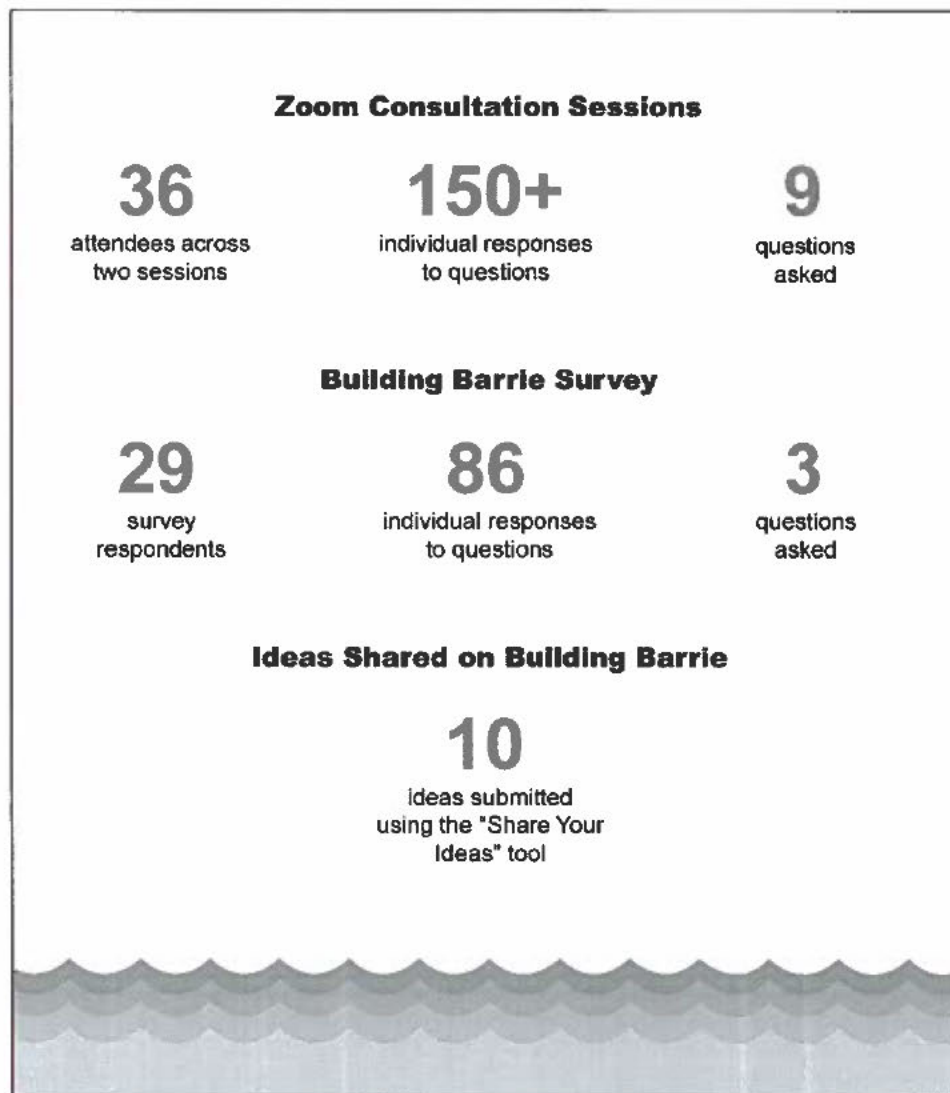
Following these changes, Infrastructure and Growth Management staff consulted with local residents in November 2020 to determine the effectiveness of those short-term solutions implemented during the summer and to plan for the waterfront into the future. Since COVID-19 has restricted many other recreational options for both residents and visitors, the resultant increase in the use of waterfront beaches and public spaces during summer 2020 has given the City a glimpse into what future use may look like as Barrie's population continues to grow.

As part of consultations, City of Barrie staff conducted a survey and solicited ideas through the buildingbarrie.ca website, and conducted two virtual consultation sessions via Zoom – an afternoon and an evening session, both held on November 24.

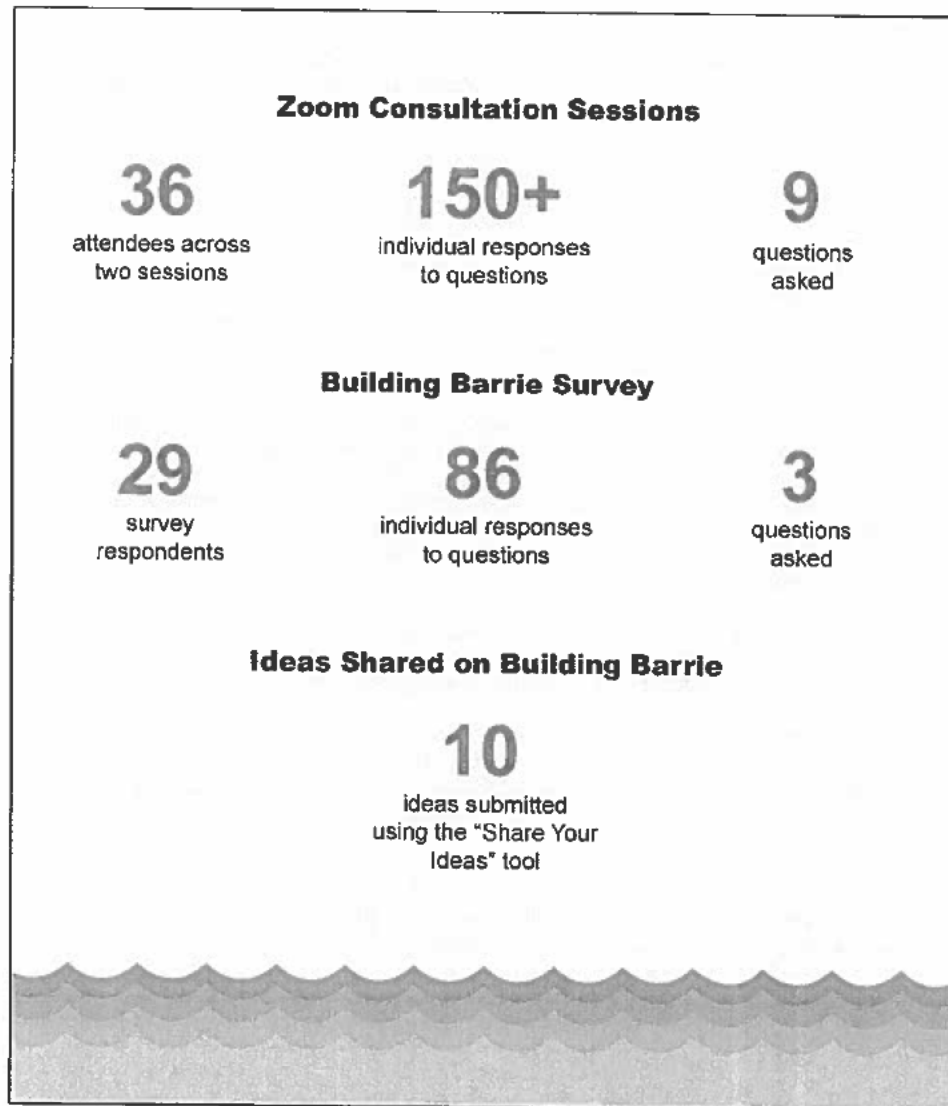
Recommendations were given for what the City might prioritize for the waterfront into the future (e.g., potentially as part of a new Waterfront Master Plan). During the consultation, staff also solicited feedback specifically on the City's approach to the waterfront during the summer 2020 period to determine what additional or revised short-term solutions could be implemented for summer 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The following report summary provides a high-level summary of key feedback and considerations for the City of Barrie, both as the municipality considers waterfront use during summer 2021 and into the future more broadly.

By the Numbers



By the Numbers



Top Ten Overall Actions

The most common public feedback from the two virtual consultation sessions, the survey and the "Share your Ideas" tool has been distilled into the following key actions:

1. The waterfront should be maintained as a natural and accessible space that can be enjoyed through walking, cycling and other recreational activities.
2. The waterfront could benefit from better separation of pedestrian and cycling areas from vehicular areas – the increasing automobile traffic at the waterfront is a problem and potentially dangerous.
3. More parking options or incentives/alternatives that minimize vehicle traffic are needed, especially as the downtown undergoes intensification.
4. More signage and wayfinding could be used along biking and walking lanes, to indicate how to use the trail system and to guide boaters coming in from the water.
5. There is a need for more bylaw enforcement, whether related to boating or to rules for beaches and parks.
6. The waterfront could benefit from the provision of more restaurant, pub, cafe and food kiosk options.
7. A diversity of recreational facilities and features are needed to support year-round activities (e.g., more bathroom facilities that are also open in the winter, covered shelters for when it's raining, more benches, and better cycling and walking trails).
8. The waterfront could benefit from increased connectivity between waterfront parks and trails; between water and land for boaters, kayakers and canoers; and between the waterfront and the downtown.
9. The waterfront can be made both more enjoyable, environmental and resilient through natural elements – such as natural-looking stormwater ponds, a more robust native tree and plant program, rain gardens and community gardens, solar or wind power for building facilities, and even vertical farming.
10. The waterfront could be made more inclusive through greater wheelchair access pads and permanent ramp solutions, accessible playground and bike rental options, and by ensuring that all people from a diversity of backgrounds are welcomed.

Key Feedback for Summer 2021

During the public consultation sessions, residents selected what they found to be the most effective short-term waterfront measures implemented during summer 2020. By order of popularity, these are:

1. Prohibition of personal BBQs and tents
2. Anchoring picnic tables to prevent two or more from being moved together
3. Non-resident parking rate increase
4. Residents-only parking pass
5. Increased patrols by municipal law enforcement officers and police
6. Increased education and awareness signage
7. Park ambassadors tasked with education and awareness

Other suggestions given by residents for potential implementation in summer 2021:

1. Encourage visitors to use certain beaches, while residents use other beaches
2. Provide more socially distanced outdoor fitness classes
3. Create more pedestrianized areas along streets
4. Have one to two bylaw officers patrolling beaches at all times
5. Implement higher parking rates for non-residents
6. Better communication of waterfront rules and use – including an app that notifies residents when beaches are nearing capacity and when they are less busy
7. Use markers to designate socially distanced areas (e.g., ropes that portion off different sections of the beach, or walking paths that are designated as one-way)
8. Offer a pre-booking process for shelters and other spaces, and consider implementing a small fee for non-residents to use

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Other Key Findings: Top Fives

Top five waterfront areas (based on use):

1. Centennial Park
2. Sam Cancilla Park + Heritage Park + Meridian Place/Memorial Square + Spirit Catcher Park + City of Barrie Marina
3. Allandale Station Park + Military Heritage Park + Tiffin Boat Launch + J.C. Morrison Shipwreck
4. Johnson's Beach Park + Barrie Yacht Club
5. Tyndale Park + Dock Road Park

Top five waterfront activities (most common uses):

1. Running and/or walking
2. Cycling
3. Relaxing
4. Boating
5. Swimming

Top five most wanted programs and features:

1. All-season programming (e.g., ice skating, fire pits)
2. More trails and better connectivity
3. More recreational features (e.g., benches, picnic tables, washrooms)
4. Food kiosks
5. Cleaner parks

Summary

During consultations, many Barrie residents voiced their appreciation for the waterfront overall, particularly as a natural space at the heart of downtown that encourages outdoor activities, such as walking and cycling.

Most residents consulted want to maintain the continued use of the waterfront as a peaceful outdoor recreational space and a number of recommendations were aligned with this: such as improvements to cycling paths, guided walking tours along trails and all-season programming. Several recommendations were also given for preserving the naturalness of the space, such as increasing the planting of trees and other native greenery, establishing community gardens and taking a more environmental approach to maintenance.

At the same time, the challenges facing the waterfront were discussed, particularly as related to the issue of overcrowding. Several residents feel that there are far too many automobiles driving or parked along/at the waterfront, and that this results in both parking and safety challenges. Other residents suggested that the increased use of the waterfront has resulted in greater amounts of litter. A number of residents also implied that the increase in visitors and tourists to the waterfront is a major contributor to these issues – they feel that visitors tend to take over the space and the beaches become too busy.

The impact of COVID-19 was also discussed, and some additional recommendations were given for encouraging compliance with social distancing rules during summer 2021, such as one-way walking paths. Generally, those residents consulted approved of the summer 2020 short-term solutions that were put into place for Barrie's waterfront, such as the increase in parking rates.

Ultimately though, from a long-term perspective, it was acknowledged that the solution to the increasing use of the waterfront isn't simply to discourage visitors, who also bring tourist dollars into the downtown and support local business. As one resident suggested, Barrie is a diverse city and becoming increasingly so, and the waterfront must reflect this by being a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

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DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by 9:00 a.m. on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING**.

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Wilkins Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Brandon Elliott		
EMAIL ADDRESS: t		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City: Barrie.		
Postal Code:		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
Before construction begins, residents should be given options that accomplish ecological r		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST:		
YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the Legislative and Court Services Department by ~~5:00 PM~~ *noon* on the **WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING.**

PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE:			April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER:			DEV 008-21		
SUBJECT:			Shoreline and Creek Area at Wilkins Park		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR:			Elizabeth Thomas		
EMAIL ADDRESS:					
STREET ADDRESS:					
City:			Postal Code:		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:			
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):					
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:			
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):					
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:					
To save our sandy beach from being turned into stone and rock.					
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST:			YES <input checked="" type="radio"/>		NO <input type="radio"/>

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PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: APRIL 12TH, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV 008-21		
SUBJECT: DESTROYING WILKINS BEACH		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: STEVE CUMMING		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
TO ENSURE THAT WILKINS BEACH		
IS NOT DESTROYED BY REMOVAL		
OF SAND. RESIDENTS HAVE PAID MANY		
YEARS OF INFLATED TAXES FOR THIS BEACH.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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DEPUTATION REQUEST

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PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: <u>April 12th / 21</u>		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: <u>2008-21</u>		
SUBJECT: <u>Decontamination of Wilkins Beach</u>		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: <u>Charles K. Jennings</u>		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City: <u>Barrie</u>	Postal Code:	
PHONE: HOME: <u>N/A</u>	BUSINESS: <u>N/A</u>	
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE: HOME:	BUSINESS:	
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION: <u>To ensure that this ridiculous photo of the sand on Wilkins Beach with boulders & stones is not placed with this photo with the beach by the residents.</u>		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/>		

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DEPUTATION REQUEST

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PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Wilkin's Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Julia Harrison		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City: Barrie	Postal Code:	
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
We are concerned about the removal of Wilkin's Beach Sand. We want to see an extensive environmental review.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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JULIA HARRISON

April 7, 2021

City of Barrie
Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street,
P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5

Dear City of Barrie
Legislative and Court Services Department
70 Collier Street,
P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5:

My family has lived i We have enjoyed Wilkin's Beach nearly every day, all year round. We have raised our children here and have respectfully and responsibly enjoyed the beach to play, to swim, to pretend, and to show them the beauty of nature.

We demand that our elected city officials partake in ALL necessary due diligence to protect our beach from ALL dangers including naturally occurring environmental concerns (including erosion) to chaotic overpopulation and out-of-town visitors.

We have seen the proposed plans to remove the sand. If this is entirely necessary to protect the wildlife and the health of the water, ok. But we have not seen the results of such an extensive environmental study. We are concerned that this is an extreme and expensive response to the (ridiculous) behavior from visitors from last summer...which can be curtailed and prevented in a myriad of other ways.

We adore our neighborhood and choose to live here and pay our taxes. We hope that our and the neighborhood's best interests are taken into account at the council meeting on the 12th.

Sincerely,

Julia Harrison

From: Len Feinstein <>

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:47 PM

To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>

Subject: Deputation Letter - Wilkins Beach

Hello,

I hope you are well.

Attached is a deputation letter regarding proposed changes to Wilkins Beach.

Please confirm receipt and that the letter will be presented at the appropriate council meeting.

Thank you,

Len Feinstein

Leonard Feinstein

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

Wilkins Beach is a beloved part of the culture and community in the Kingswood neighbourhood and City of Barrie. People and families of all ages make memories there. It is a key reason why people want to live in our neighbourhood. To close and permanently change the beach would have a huge impact on our community. Personally, I walk to the beach on average 5 days a week throughout the year. For many years I have mentioned to many that walking through the forest to the beach is a highlight of my day and a primary reason for not moving out of the area.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem. Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup
- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout / flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for bi-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials
- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

Until 2020, Wilkins Beach was a hidden gem. Barrie residents came to the beach for an hour or two max, and for the most part treated it with respect. The 2020 season changed everything. Out of towners came in record numbers and abused the beach. There's no question that damage was done, which is why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with council to implement solutions to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Len Feinstein

DEPUTATION REQUEST

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PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12, 2021		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: P26/20		
SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT DEV008-21 re: Wilkins Park Waterfront Shoreline		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Cindy Giller		
EMAIL ADDRESS: C		
STREET ADDRESS: C		
City: Barrie	Postal Code:	
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
To speak to concerns regarding shoreline area. See attached letter.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

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Wednesday April 7, 2021

Mayor Lehman and Members of Council

The staff report dated March 2021 deals with the ecological restoration plans for lake and creek shorelines and has identified a section of Wilkins Park to be closed to the public for 2021 restoration work. Under Section 23 it notes "that while there have been regeneration efforts previously taken by the City, the continued overuse of the shoreline area of Wilkins Park reverses these efforts." We live in close proximity to the beach, and yes the summer of 2020 saw an extreme over use of this area, but the City fails to take its ownership of its involvement or lack of, for the damage to this area.

For many years now we have reported the loss of trees and vegetation directly to the City by phone and through our counsellor dealing with the erosion at the point where the creek meets the lake. Only limited restoration of this area has occurred since we moved here 8 years ago. For several years, during maintenance, the City has taken the NATURAL BEACH and extended its size by approximately 30 percent. Particularly in the summer of 2020 where dump truck loads of sand were placed at the waterfront. The City made the beach larger in the year of Covid which contributed to the overuse of the waterfront area. When the sand was being placed and moved by a City 'Bobcat', significant damage was done to the area by the machinery with the removal of several former grassy/vegetation areas in front of the wooded forest and the grassy area leading to the point that consisted of greenery including 3 large clumps of natural lake irises whose bulbed root system supported the natural dense sub soil replacing it with sand. As well the City has actually cut down dead and struggling trees on the point that were being used for firewood but never replaced the trees removed. Two large spruce trees also fell along the path that were removed by the City as well as a tree in the centre of the beach and the old Willow on the shoreline. All were never addressed. The removal of the trees on the point occurred pre-Covid and nothing was done. So our question is how can the City claim previous regeneration of the area when the opposite actually occurred? Is the City proposing to return the beach to its natural size and state? The natural beach was always there and we would like it to stay. We support the restoration of the original beach, regenerating areas of vegetation and replacing the original trees that where removed as well as the point peninsula being addressed.

The City report refers to the shoreline and point as a "groyne " which by definition is usually manmade, built perpendicular to the shore that interrupts water flow and is usually made out of wood, concrete or stone and engineered. In the plan the City is naming the NATURAL shoreline and point as a groyne.

(Appendix B). Since groynes are manufactured how can this area be labeled as such? The point is actually a very small natural peninsula that is surrounded by water on three sides. Presently it may be severing as a NATURAL groyne but it was never intended to be so which is why the erosion is occurring at the point. A real groyne if necessary should be built to the west of the shoreline going out into the lake that would thereby protect the entire shoreline. Can you make a natural peninsula into a groyne and cause this area to work even harder against unnatural water flow? A groyne is also built to protect the shore from wave action and erosion but we need to remember most of the erosion to the beach area is occurring from the retention ponds, the slope of the land and walkway from BEHIND the shoreline and not from the wave action. Only the point is being effected by actual wave action.

In the City plan the erosion at the point and tree replacement was not even addressed. Appendix A - Why? This is an area with extensive damage. By all means fence off the area proposed in the map showing the point but regenerate this area FIRST. Let's SLOW Things DOWN and restore the area back to its original state which included the NATURAL BEACH to permit future enjoyment for generations.

Next, address the REAL source of erosion to the beach area which is actually caused by the urbanization with the establishment of the surrounding subdivisions which creates intense water overflow from severe weather. There are 2 retention ponds that were designed and built by the City to address this issue approximately thirty years ago and they are in very close proximity to the shore. See Appendix "C". However, both retention ponds where designed to overflow into Hewitt's Creek and the forested area which is the real source of the water erosion and NOT the wave action of the lake. The erosion to the beach is coming from water flow from BEHIND the shoreline which in our opinion the boulders along the beach will not address the real erosion issues. One retention pond flows right into the creek at the bridge. The area needs a detailed, comprehensive plan, by an engineer studying the entire area, to deal with the real issues that will have a positive long term solution that maintains and respects the actual natural beach and shoreline area. The end result may very well be the pride of Barrie for years to come.

We have included 6 aerial views of the shoreline that show the changes that have occurred over the last two decades.

2016

Features

- LSRCA Watershed Boundary
- LSPP Watershed Boundary
- Regulatory Transactions
- Permit Application
- Site Clearance
- Property Inquiry
- Primary Review
- Assessment Parcel
- Lot and Concession
- Road Labels
- Watercourse
- Roads
- High 400 Series
- Highway, Arterial
- Local Road
- Railway
- Lower Tier Municipality



Mapped By:

Printed On: 4/6/2021

Scale: 1:408

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere



This product was produced by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and some information depicted on this map may have been compiled from various sources. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the Authority does not warrant the accuracy of the information. The information is provided for informational purposes only and should not be used for any other purpose. The information is provided for informational purposes only and should not be used for any other purpose. The information is provided for informational purposes only and should not be used for any other purpose.



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PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 12		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER: DEV008-21		
SUBJECT: Wilkin's Beach		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR: Greg and Tracey Steffens		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City:		Postal Code:
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing): Linda Campbell		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
705-321-0176		
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
Living on Capps Drive for 15 years, our family want to preserve the existing beach but maintain the current parking restrictions. The proposed plans to remove the sandy beach does not serve the community or the ecosystem. It only serves Barrie city council.		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST: YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/>		

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