



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 17, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Identified Tobogganing Locations on City Property for Winter 2015/2016 Season (PW15086a) - (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Jennifer DiDomenico (905) 546- 2424, Extension 5596 Lugene Donelson (905) 546-2424, Extension 2199
SUBMITTED BY:	Craig Murdoch, B.Sc., Acting General Manager Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

On December 9, 2015, Council approved General Issues Committee Item 8.15 report PW15086 with the following amendment:

(c) That staff be directed to review the feasibility of preparing Waterdown Memorial Park as a tobogganing site for January of the 2015/2016 Winter season and report back to the General Issues Committee as soon as possible.

Information:

Staff have consulted with the Ward 15 Councillor's office and determined it is not feasible to prepare Waterdown Memorial Park as a tobogganing site for the 2015/2016 Winter season.

In assessing this site as a designated tobogganing location, it was determined the Waterdown Memorial Park will not be feasible for the following reasons:

- The park is currently under construction and construction materials, such as equipment, supplies and fill materials, are being stored on-site, therefore prohibiting a dedicated, obstruction-free hill and run-out for tobogganers at this time.

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- Under Section 3.1 of the Occupiers Liability Act, (R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.2) an occupier owes a duty to take care to see that persons and/or property entering the premises are reasonably safe while on the premises. This duty of care applies whether the danger is caused by the condition of the premises or by activities performed within the premises. Due to the current condition of the park, inviting residents to the park to take part in tobogganing activities, while potential dangers are still present, increases the City's risk while construction activities are not complete.
 - Parking lot is shared with construction equipment during this period of time
 - The park re-development includes impediments for tobogganers:
 - Path has been excavated, with the intention of paving, around the perimeter of the property which bisects the hill on the North side of the property, inhibiting tobogganing activity.
 - The hill on the South-East side of the property does not allow enough run-off at the bottom of the hill. Tobogganers would not have enough space to stop before colliding with the permanent fencing in place for the baseball diamonds. The fencing runs perpendicular to the hill.

At this time, it is not feasible to include Waterdown Memorial Park in the 2015/2016 pilot tobogganing program. Should the program continue, staff will evaluate Waterdown Memorial Park again and make recommendations to feasibly identify a tobogganing hill at this park. Following the 2015/16 Winter season, staff will be reviewing the information on the pilot program and will report back by the third quarter of 2016 with results.