



INFORMATION REPORT

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| TO: | Chair and Members Planning Committee |
| DATE: | May 15, 2018 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Review of Problems Associated with Increased Visitors to Waterfalls (PED18011(a)) (Wards 6, 9, 13, 14 and 15) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | (Wards 6, 9, 13,14 and 15) |
| PREPARED BY: | Marty Hazell (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4588 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Marty Hazell Director, Strategic Initiatives Planning and Economic Development Department |
| SIGNATURE: | |

Council Direction:

On April 12, 2017, City Council approved General Issues Committee Report 17-008, resulting in approval of the following:

“WHEREAS, Hamilton has been promoted as “*The Waterfall Capital of the World*” and annual visitors to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak continue to increase (84K in 2016, not including annual pass holders or unpaid visitors);

WHEREAS, the increased visitors to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak are wreaking havoc on Greensville and Dundas neighbourhoods with serious negative impacts including, but not limited to:

- traffic and parking issues for local residents such as gridlock on local streets, visitors blocking roadways and blocking resident’s driveways;
- nuisance issues such as littering and picnicking on resident’s lawns;
- emergency vehicle access impacts for residents

WHEREAS, measures to combat overcrowding such as the installation of “*No Parking*” signs, extra staff and proactive by-law enforcement on weekends, and the implementation of fees for visitors to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak have had no deterrent effect whatsoever;

WHEREAS, increased visitors to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak are also having negative effects on the environment including damage from littering and trampled ecosystems, as well as safety issues for people on the narrow trails; and

SUBJECT: Review of Problems Associated with Increased Visitors to Waterfalls (PED18011(a)) (Wards 6, 9, 13,14 and 15) - Page 2 of 3

WHEREAS, regular rescue calls for “*risk takers*” at Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak is a concern for emergency service providers (i.e. fire, police and paramedics).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City staff be directed to form a multi-disciplinary working group to conduct a comprehensive, multi-faceted investigation of public safety and the negative impacts to the Greensville and Dundas neighbourhoods associated with the increase in visitors to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak;
- (b) That the Hamilton Conservation Authority, the Hamilton Police Service, EMS, Traffic, Parking, By-law Services, and CN Railway and any other required staff / agency be requested to participate in the review;
- (c) That staff be directed to report back to the three area Councillors and the General Issues Committee, no later than September 2017, with potential solutions to the problems associated with the increase in visitors to Webster and Tew Falls.”

Information:

As directed, a multi-disciplinary working group was formed, consisting of representatives from Planning and Economic Development (General Manager’s Office, Tourism and Culture, Licensing and By-Law Services), Public Works, Legal Services, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), CN Railway, and the Hamilton Police Service. Staff reported to the Planning Committee on January 16, 2018, through Information Report PED18011, respecting the work and issues addressed by the group in 2017.

Further, various representatives from the multi-disciplinary working group, including City staff, have also been attending other meetings with some Ward Councillors to address similar issues and implement strategies to ensure public safety at Mount Albion and other waterfalls throughout the city.

The HCA and City staff agree that the working group provided an effective mechanism to address on-going issues and concerns associated with increased visitors to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak. Therefore, staff intend to reconstitute the working group to meet, as necessary, during the spring, summer and fall annually.

As noted in Report PED18011, the most significant and impactful change was the HCA initiative to pilot a weekend shuttle bus operation, which ran from May 13, 2017 until October 29, 2017, transporting people from Misener’s on Highway 5 to the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area, to Webster and Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak. Attached

**SUBJECT: Review of Problems Associated with Increased Visitors to Waterfalls
(PED18011(a)) (Wards 6, 9, 13,14 and 15) - Page 3 of 3**

hereto, as Appendix “A” to this report, is a copy of the HCA Chief Administrative Officer’s report to the HCA Board respecting the 2018 Shuttle Bus Service – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” – HCA Report, dated February 8, 2018, “2018 Shuttle Bus Service – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area”

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