



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Wentworth Lodge Heritage Trust Fund Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 22, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Wentworth Lodge - Enhancements to the Courtyards - 2021 (HSC21021) (Ward 13)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 13
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not applicable

INFORMATION

Through generous support of the Wentworth Lodge Heritage Trust Fund, the main courtyard had significant upgrades completed in 2018. The upgrades included installation of a permanent and large-scale gazebo structure, a decorative fountain and improvements in seating options.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of offering and facilitating safe outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities for residents in Long Term Care (LTC) has been highlighted as an important intervention to minimize risk of infection while addressing overall quality of life.

Despite the recent Lodge's main courtyard upgrades, residents and families have identified several barriers to comfortably and safely use the physical space.

Access and enjoyment of the outside environment has been an area of focus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents in LTC Homes across the province suffered and

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languished indoors for most of the 15 months of the pandemic due to prescriptive restrictions set out in various provincial directives with the goal of mitigating risk.

As restrictions are being removed and efforts made to return to more normal activities in LTC Homes, the residents and families at Wentworth Lodge have prioritized enhancements to outdoor space and programming as an area for improvement.

Both the Wentworth Lodge Resident Council and the Wentworth Lodge Family Council have had discussions with Lodge staff regarding further enhancements to outdoor areas for resident use.

Specifically, both Councils, have shared an interest in increasing the availability of shade for outdoor visiting through more permanent or effective equipment such as retractable awnings to provide shade for comfort and minimize exposure to ultraviolet radiation from direct sunlight. This need has been identified for both the main courtyard and for the internal courtyard that is used by residents living on the secure neighbourhood due to their cognitive and behavioural diagnoses.

Residents and their families have also referenced an interest in reducing the lawn in the main courtyard and their interest in creating a series of pollinator gardens. These pollinator gardens would support biodiversity and include native wildflower plants that are perennial. The gardens would also serve as focal points in the outdoor environment and support a variety of recreation and leisure programs for residents. Similarly, the installation of an accessible and multifunction shed in the main courtyard has been suggested as a further enhancement.

Preliminary consultation has occurred between the Manager of Facilities at Wentworth Lodge and the Forestry and Horticulture Section of the Environmental Services Division of the Public Works Department to discuss high level opportunities that may exist to support enhancements in the courtyards.

Wentworth Lodge staff will develop a fulsome plan with the required budget breakdown to enhance the two outdoor courtyards and bring it back to the Wentworth Lodge Heritage Trust Fund Sub-Committee for consideration. The plan will be available for review by August 2021.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A