



MEDIA RELEASE

Corporate Communications Department

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Cobourg Establishes Urban Forest Management Plan to Provide Proactive Care of Town Trees over Next 20 Years

Community engagement strategy planned to gain insight and information from citizens

(Cobourg, ON) April 13, 2017 – The Town of Cobourg Recreation and Culture Division is initiating a project to establish an Urban Forest Management Plan to guide proactive care of Town trees over the next 20 years. The Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) will include a detailed community engagement process beginning with a public information and consultation session on April 26, 2017.

The goal of the UFMP is to ensure a healthy and sustainable urban forest that contributes to the economic, environmental and social vitality of the Town. The UFMP will establish guidelines and direction for care, planting, replacement and overall management of Town trees over the next 20 years. Cobourg Municipal Council is requesting that members of the public become involved in the project to provide input and information on the current and future desired state of Cobourg's urban forest. Background information will be provided to members of the public regarding the Town's current operations and guidelines. Members of the public can provide input regarding more opportunities for tree planting, areas in which more canopy cover is needed and the preservation of Cobourg's mature trees.

"The establishment of an Urban Forest Management Plan will allow the Town to move from reactive to proactive urban forest management," said Brian Darling, Coordinator of Parks and Recreation Services. "The plan will work in concert with the Parks Master Plan and will further Council's strategic plan objective of managing sustainable growth and development."

Plan content will include characterization of the current state of the Town's urban forest, analysis of current forestry management operations, identification of strategies to improve urban forest health and sustainability and recommended management changes and future needs. The Plan's main focus will be on the management of trees on public (Town) lands, however, consideration will be given to identifying strategies that will help maintain and increase the Town's urban forest on private lands.

The following are preliminary dates and times for Community Engagement tactics for the Urban Forest Management Plan. Please note some dates may be subject to change. The Town of Cobourg will host all information regarding the project on the municipal website. Please reference www.cobourg.ca for news and updates as well as final dates and times of meetings.

The first public information and consultation session will be held on **Wednesday April 26th in the Cameco Room at the Cobourg Community Centre, 750 D'Arcy Street**. Surveys will be distributed at this meeting and will be available on www.cobourg.ca or for pick-up at the Municipal Clerk's Office at Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West. Comments or questions regarding the UFMP can be sent to the Town Arborist, Rory Quigley at trees@cobourg.ca.

For more information visit Cobourg.ca, 'like' us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and watch us on YouTube.



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| Public Engagement Tactic | Date |
|---|---|
| Open House/Public Consultation Meeting - Review of background material | April 26, 2017 Cobourg Community Centre, Cameco Room Open House: 4:00pm – 5:00 pm Presentation/Workshop: 5:00pm – 7:00 pm |
| Resident Survey - Survey will be available online electronically - Paper copies will be made available at the Town of Cobourg Municipal Clerks Office, 55 King Street W | Survey will launch on Wednesday April 26 th . Surveys are requested to be completed/returned by May 17 th |
| Email Notifications - Communications and Parks staff will collect email contact information from members of the public who would like to be kept up-to-date on the UFMP. Email updates will be sent out to this group to announce updates and project milestones. | Ongoing |
| Social Media - Town of Cobourg Facebook and Twitter accounts will be used to provide regular updates, address public comments on the project and advertise upcoming public meetings | Ongoing |
| Municipal Website - The Town of Cobourg will dedicate a page on www.cobourg.ca that will house all information on the project as well as information and notices regarding upcoming public engagement opportunities. | Ongoing |
| Interactive Public Workshop - Round table discussion | June 13, 2017 Location to be confirmed |
| Presentation to Council - Draft plan presented to Council | June 26, 2017 |

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About The Town of Cobourg

The Town of Cobourg is a lakeside community (population 18,500) located on the north shore of Lake Ontario halfway between Toronto and Kingston and has been recognized multiple times by MoneySense Magazine as “One of Canada’s Best Places to Live” in populations under 25,000.

Founded in 1798, Cobourg is rich in heritage offering a vibrant downtown, sophisticated small town atmosphere and renowned waterfront that serves as a popular getaway destination. As the largest town in Northumberland County, Cobourg is personified by historic Victoria Hall, hosts a 27.4 million community centre, an educated and skilled labour force, flourishing commercial sector and supportive municipal government. Cobourg has received the Federation of

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Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Award, accolades from the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, and multiple heritage, environmental, and event awards.



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