

Parks, Forestry and Recreation

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August 14th, 2008

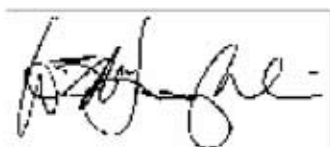
On Thursday June 5th 2008, Parks Forestry and Recreation staff in conjunction with Councillor Grime's office organized an open house to present the conceptual plan for the proposed Skating Trail in Etobicoke Lakeshore. The meeting was hosted by LURA Consulting, a firm hired by the City to facilitate the discussion, collect and organize comments and feedback from the community, and prepare a summary report.

Some residents expressed excitement and support for what will become a great family destination in your neighbourhood. Others raised concerns regarding the potential impact of a skating trail in this area. Be assured that City staff are committed to developing this project taking into account the importance of the sensitivities of the park and community, and without disturbing the existing Wetlands-Wildlife Restoration Trail.

In proceeding with the project, the City will be issuing a proposal call in September for qualified and experienced firms to initiate the design phase. It is anticipated that the project would be complete and operational for the 2009 skating season

I appreciate the time and effort you have taken to be engaged in this process and providing your opinions and input. LURA Consulting will continue to receive your comments as the project progresses so please forward any comments to shall@lura.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schreiner", enclosed within a rectangular box.

per

Michael Schreiner
Manager Construction Management
/Capital Projects

Colonel Sam Smith Park Ice Trail Proposal Community Consultation and Discussion DRAFT Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 5, 3:30 – 5:30 P.M. Youth Consultation
6-7 P.M. Open House
7-9 P.M. Presentations and Discussion
Ken Cox Community Centre
Etobicoke, Ontario

August 22nd, 2008

This Community Consultation summary report was prepared by Lura Consulting. Lura is providing third-party facilitation services as part of the Colonel Samuel Smith Park Ice Trail consultation. This summary captures the key discussion points raised during the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments received. If you have any questions or comments regarding the summary, please contact either:

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Table of Contents

1	About the Community Consultation	1
2	Format of the Meeting	1
3	Summary of Feedback Received	2
4	Next Steps	9
5	Summary of Public Comments	14

Appendix A: Agenda

Appendix B: Concept Plan

Appendix C: Summary of Comment Form entries

Appendix D: Detailed Participant Feedback from Comment Forms and email submissions

Appendix E: ipetition results and Resident petition August 5th, 2008

Appendix F: Urban Forestry Review

1 About the Community Consultation

A community meeting for the Ice Trail proposal in Colonel Samuel Smith Park was held at the Ken Cox Community Centre located at 28 Colonel Sam Smith Park Dr. in Etobicoke, Ontario. The purpose of the meeting was three-fold:

- To introduce an alternate preliminary concept for an ice trail for Colonel Sam Smith Park;
- To seek community feedback on the advantages, disadvantages and suggested changes to the preliminary concept, and;
- To address questions about the ice trail from the community

Approximately 150 members of the public attended the June 5th event, primarily during the 7-9 pm timeframe. Representatives from the project team, including City Councillor Grimes, City of Toronto staff and Lura Consulting (independent facilitators) attended the community meeting.

This report provides a summary of the presentation at the meeting, highlights of the question and answer period and feedback received following the session.

2 Format of the Meeting

The meeting began in an Open House format where participants were invited to review a series of display panels that presented an overview of the project. Project team members were on hand to answer questions related to the various themes presented on the display panels. The agenda for the session included:

- 3:30 – 5:30 Youth Consultation Open House
- 6:00 – 7:00 General Public Open House
- 7:00 – 9:00 Presentation and Questions and Answers.

A copy of the Agenda is available in Appendix A.

The display boards available for viewing during the open house session included information on the following topics:

- Site Plan Context
- Seasonal use (photos)
- Ice Skate Trail Layout and Design
- Section Elevations of Design

Contact information for the study team was also provided. A printed copy of the concept plan was available to participants and is provided in Appendix B.

Participants were provided with a comment sheet to record their feedback. They were asked to comment on the pros and cons of the proposed ice trail design, suggest changes to the proposed

design, identify opportunities created by the ice trail and if they would be interested in joining a working group to further examine the ice trail proposal.

Detailed participants feedback received from comment forms, and results from an “petition” and a resident petition (August 5th, 2008) can be found in Appendices C, D and E respectively.

3 Summary of Feedback Received

3.1 Highlights of Open House

The initial open house period between 3:30 and 5:30 pm was designed to provide youth with an opportunity for individual discussions with project team members. The 6:00-7:00 pm open house time period also attracted participants from the 17-25 age group who arrived in advance of the 7:00 pm presentation.

The main issue raised during the open house period was the need for financial resources in support of a new community centre for the area and/or a larger gymnasium in the school. It was felt that the \$2 million cost for the ice trail could be better spent on broader community needs. However, it was also noted that there is an existing community centre, and that the ice trail would provide a benefit to the community and attract visitors.

3.2 Question and Answer Period

Stephen O'Bright from the Parks and Recreation Department of the City, of Toronto made a presentation commencing at 7:00 p.m. and described the proposed design.

Following the presentation, Susan Hall, an independent Facilitator from Lura Consulting asked participants to identify what they liked about the design, what changes they would recommend as well as pose their questions. The following highlights the questions (Q) or comments (C) raised, as well as answers (A) provided.

- Q1: Who proposed this idea? I would like to know because there are other organizations/community centers that are suffering financially (schools/hospitals).
- A: The concept originated with the former Metro Council in 1994-96. The concept was discussed throughout the mid 90's and following amalgamation City Council decided to specifically support the project and allocate resources to it.
- C1: On behalf of the Lakeshore Village BIA, I like the idea very much. This park really does not get used in winter time except on very nice days. This is a destination that would draw people, not just from local neighbourhood from a couple of miles around. It's unique. I have no problem spending a few million dollars on this.
- Q2: What is the annual operating budget for the project? When and if it gets built, we need to ensure that it gets maintained.
- A. The operational budget is not yet defined. It will be defined when the final design is determined. *City response provided following the meeting - The operating cost for an outdoor rink for a 12-week season at minimum is approximately \$60,000 per location. However, this is only an estimate as the staffing complement has not yet been established. It will vary, depending on whether the skating trail is*

well used throughout the daytime period, not only during prime time, evenings and weekends. If so, there will be a requirement to have staff on site to continuously flood the ice surface. In addition, if the skating trail is well used, rink guards will be required to maintain a safe environment.

Q4: Do you intend to have a concession stand for park users?

A: The Power House is structured to accommodate this type of amenity. It would evolve in response to need. Our intention is to not “commercialize” the space.

Q5: (Child) I think it is a good idea to build a rink for people to have fun. I like this idea because it's fun for children to play with other children. When will the ice trail be open?

A: The goal is to get it in full operation for December 2009 (next winter). The program is to refine the details, and work closely with a core group of people addressing all the points that are being raised tonight, and those that we receive through this consultation process.

Q6: I was around when the skating trail was conceived. Most of us thought it would be flooded with a bit of water and go away in spring. I have a couple of questions and a comment: There was a request for sidewalks, has that been considered? What happens with major snow fall, all the debris coming off the trees? Isn't that going to make it hazardous? The capital budget approval goes through council, which would have an analysis of capital and annual operating costs – surprised that information is not available at the moment.

A: In response to the questions, we are proposing a sidewalk along the edge. Working around ice to new crosswalk. If development shows that there is a desire line through the clearing, it can be amended through refinement. As for debris, heavy snow fall, clearly maintenance will be required. Snow clearing will be a daily event. The Zamboni picks up pine needles, staff pick up larger twigs/branches.

C2: I have lived in the Lakeshore area for 30 years. One thing don't like about the concept is that it is walled to the west by condos. We need a lot of natural space. The second thing is that we were promised \$1 million for a community center. We have hundreds of children and the City promised us an entire community center.

A. No comment.

Q7: What about the other outdoor rinks in the City that are not being maintained?

A: This is not a hockey rink. It's a very passive use. The operational cost of ice rinks is a separate issue which I am not able to address and this time.

C2: When is Council going to understand that most of the area residents don't want this project to go ahead?

Q8: With respect to the number and size of trees being slated for removal, if this was City property and I was a private citizen making the proposal, would the City approve the proposal to remove these trees?

A: We are not proposing any trees be removed from the north end. There's a small row of cedars and spruce that have been identified and one potential tree on the corner. We are proposing to limit and reduce the impact of the trail on existing trees overall with the intent to remove as few as possible. In my opening comments I noted a concern for the walnut in the north end and the impact on the poplars. *(During the presentation the City committed that for*

every tree removed they will replace it with five). We have identified trees in decline within the design. The City has to follow the same bylaw as the public.

Q9: Could I get a copy of the arborist's report?

A: Yes, we can provide the arborist's report (See attached Urban Forestry Review in Appendix F)

C3: I am a representative for the South Etobicoke skateboard and skate shop. We were promised \$500K for a skateboard facility. I am appalled at this idea. Youth of the Lakeshore area feel marginalized and left out. This isn't the answer.

Q10: What's really wrong with the area the way it is right now?

A: The idea is to expand the use of the park throughout the year and draw people to the area.

Q11: Will the City be able to provide the additional maintenance required to pick up garbage etc., as a result of additional use of the park?

A: We do not have the operational budget at this point in time.

Q12: I'm appalled to hear the Carolinian trees will be in danger. I am here to represent the animals in the park. I would like the names of the articles you have researched that say the impact of the lights and sound on bird populations would be negligible. I think promoting our park as a beautiful place for nature will bring more people here year round.

A: These are Carolinian poplars, they are not indigenous. There are studies that have been done by FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) that describe the impact on migratory birds. The FLAP report can be provided.

Q13: I'm with Friends of Colonel Samuel Smith Park. I'd like to correct something that was said about the last meeting. The message was not that we liked this idea and that it should be moved north, the message was that we did not like the idea at all. We want the money to go towards a community centre. This trail will only be used 4 months of the year. What about the other times of the year? We're already finding plywood ramps...skateboarders will use the trail in the summer months. What about the evolution of the park? How likely is it that the park would evolve to include expanded concession stands, restaurants, or commercial establishments? Most of us are pretty sure this is the direction things will go. In July 2006 Councillor Grimes offered to put together a consultation committee to find a new site for the skateboard park. This committee was never struck. Why don't we bring back the skateboard park idea?

A: I clearly recall that meeting and the Councillor's message was very clear. This concept (trail design) has been reinforced and we are here tonight to talk about the ice trail design. The skateboard park is a separate issue, and it is not the focus of this discussion. Staff is being directed to identify a location for the skateboard park in Ward 6.

Q14: When?

A: Parks planners for this district are starting to look at it.

Q15: I'm the convenor of the Etobicoke Speed Skating Club. I'm here to represent a lot of speed skaters who would be excited about this project. I hope the City can build it, if not here

somewhere. I've been up to Gage Park and it's a fabulous facility with lots of families with small kids. We need to remember what the little boy had to say about the proposed ice trail.

- C4: I was stopped by 2 families who asked me to represent them at the meeting tonight and show their support for the idea. They are happy to have their kids learn to skate on areas safer than hockey rinks. The area has a lot of wildlife, butterflies, a beaver family, turtles, fish habitat, and songbirds. It would be a lovely addition to the area.
- Q16: For close to 2 years members of our group (Friends of Colonel Samuel Smith Park) have been asking Councillor Grimes to set up a community advisory group to address the issue of the skateboard park. Our calls have been unanswered. A group such as this is necessary to ensure that the heritage and natural attributes of the area are preserved. Now we are facing the trail proposal. A consultants report in 2004 said we are adequately supplied with ice rinks. Adding 14,000 square feet of concrete to the park will contribute to the environmental degradation of the park. The City should be taking a leadership role in protecting the natural amenities. I'm asking Councillor Grimes again, will you set up an advisory committee to address the issues at Col. Sam Smith Park?
- A: Councillor Grimes: We're here tonight to talk about the Trail.
- Q17: There are a lot of skateboarders in the area. Is there anything that can be done to include skateboarders in the park plans?
- A: This is not about skateboarders. This facility is not designed to accommodate skateboarders.
- Q18: We've just heard about a grade difference of 4 feet that would result in a cut and fill average of 2 feet. In the analysis of potential tree damage was this taken into account?
- A: Yes. In the next level of topographic investigation we will determine what actual cut and fills would be required and what impact these would have on the tree population. The design would attempt to minimize impact on trees.
- Q19: I was around when they did the EA (Environmental Assessment) for Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Now I've been hearing the word "evolve". In attempting to keep these grounds for the community and not let housing go there, we had a vision for the grounds at that time and expected there would be an overall plan for the site. When can we get the City's Parks and Recreation department overall vision for the site?
- A: The siting of this particular concept reflects a very preliminary idea of where it might work based on the 1994 vision. We're trying to follow that. You're talking about the opportunity to re-generate a Master Plan which could be developed across the department or City at large.
- Q20: Once the money (\$1.9 million) goes out for the project, what are the annual operating costs? I'm a construction worker and there are lots of hard working people in the area who will not use the park. The majority of people will not be there and it will cost millions to maintain.
- A: I assure you we will reply to that question at a later date.
- C5: I have a family of four. I love taking them skating to Nathan Phillips Square. We've skated on the canal in Ottawa. I love the park but I'm often tripping over needles and condoms and would rather have more attention paid to the park. I think it's a great idea.

- Q21: When the skate park was proposed the issues were security and safety. How is this any different? The Brampton skating park is flanked by 2 major downtown streets, it's different. What about late night security?
- A: Although there is some exposure to Kipling Avenue, you can go to the park during the summer and find evidence of bonfires and needles. A different use for the area might be preferred rather than some of the current undesirable activities.
- Q22: I'm concerned about safety issues and people using the park after dark. You've been very vague about funds. How much is insurance going to cost the City? How can you make a decision without Council having all the information? Council could be sued. It would cost millions. We can do without that.
- Q23: I'm with a new group formed in the area. I'm surprised the costs of maintenance are not presented. Do we need the sound system? Money from this could be used to upgrade playgrounds.
- A: We don't need to install a sound system if it isn't a high priority for the community. Clarification added by the City after the meeting: *the provision of a sound system is to promote the pleasure skating experience and any events.*
- C6: I'm disappointed that my Councillor says he's not interested in meeting with me to hear my views. If we had time to consult with him we could have come up with a different vision i.e., outdoor recreation centre, arboretum. We don't need more concrete! Our skateboarders need a park and our teenagers need a community centre.
- C7: I've lived here for about 2 years. When I first heard about the idea I thought it would be an oval rink that would be maintained by volunteers, like in Kitchener.
- Q24: Although some of my concerns have already been voiced, I have a real concern about the operation of a refrigeration system to keep the ice frozen. How do you keep the pipes from freezing and leaking? What about cracking concrete and water escaping? What about security at night? We have these problems now and it will only be worse with more equipment in the park?
- A: The mechanical and electrical issues will be resolved in the next refinement of the detailed design. There are all kinds of options to come up with a system that is the most environmentally friendly.
- Q25: I'm a member of Toronto Good Neighbours. I can't make a decision on this until I know what the alternatives might be for the park as well as what the operational costs are going to be. Will you come back to us with alternatives for the money?
- A: This proposal is one of 4 original concepts that were considered for site design. Expanding it is not going to work within the capital budget of the project. This concept represents the optimum opportunity for the area. If it needs to be amended this is what I would expect to be working on with a working group.
- Q: What alternatives could the money be spent on?
- A: That would have to be addressed by City Council.

- C8: This is an excellent opportunity. Great idea to showcase the neighbourhood to get people out of downtown. I'd love to phone my relatives and invite them to come for a skate in the park and then go out to one of our local restaurants.
- Q26: A skating trail is a great idea, but maybe in a different location...perhaps White Park, could be Humber Arboretum South. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) said they would partner on this kind of initiative. We might not need/want to make Colonel Samuel Smith a special destination that would attract thousands, not hundreds of people to the unique destination. We need broad consultation on Ward 6 parks and recreation opportunities. What is the possibility of looking at other locations for the ice trail?
- A: There are always possibilities. This is the current site identified that reflected pre-amalgamation discussions. There could be other candidate sites if this current site does not prevail.
- C9: I am here to represent the youth of the community. We believe a community centre would be better. The community center would mean more employees, more things to do for kids, and security. I would prefer to go to a community centre to learn about the social and economic issues in the community and to work on them. We youth are the future of your community. We have \$2 million and we can do a lot with it. We think the community center is the better idea.
- Q27: It was identified that it (the ice trail) would be nice in 1996. Life has changed. What has most changed is this park. The field was there, planting days, putting in some bushes – we didn't think it would be a habitat and an actual place that is unique in an urban area along the shores of Lake Ontario. There were people who were here that were part of the management plan that created the park. This project is in violation of that vision, and of our hopes about what this park would become. To base it on 1996, which we thought was a narrow trail, winding through the trees, I find it difficult to accept that over a decade – there will not be any of those trees left. Maintain the tree nursery (in the vision of the hospital), and in resolutions that asked us to maintain that park. It's a question of here or somewhere else. St. Steven's Park, is a perfect place. In 2004, the City did an evaluation of outdoor artificial ice facilities, and the provision rate in former municipalities. East York had 2 pleasure pads; Etobicoke had 1, North York and Scarborough had 1, Toronto had 14. The recommendation was that for any additional or replacement of outdoor artificial ice facilities, the City should focus on low provision areas as priorities. So how did this initiative in the City become a priority?
- A: I need to go back and refresh on this historical context. The direction I had was to bring forward the idea here in Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Statistics are what they are. However I am willing to go back and re-affirm how the location of this trail in the City became a priority. I do need to present this concept here. My job is to discuss this concept tonight.
- Q28: I've been in the neighbourhood for 5 years. I support this 100%. The trail will take the pressure off the indoor rinks to provide recreational skating and leave more time for men's leagues that generate revenue.
- A: Yes, this additional amenity will take some pressure off the indoor rinks, it is a pleasure rink.

- C10: I've lived in lots of parts of Toronto. It's great to be in a community where people are so engaged! Thanks to all the people who have worked on this project. I think the question about operating budget is a fair request. Question of deciding where the money should be put (e.g. infrastructure, community centers, roads) need to be addressed. I'd like to think that given the amount that taxes have been raised, we should reach a level to afford the things the city has to have for its residents. The money has to be there. This area lacks a magnet – it doesn't have something that necessarily defines the community. Taste of the Danforth gets a lot of mileage. This area, Beaches west, has a ton of great stuff. We're close to the beach, and it has to be better defined. Something like a skating trail, Third Street rink may be a way to help develop an identity for this area. There are some good things that the skating trail represents. Are there other places it should go? It's a great thing. We want to build the community.
- Q29: I've been coming to the park for 20 years. I've raised 2 kids here and spent lots of time walking through the park. I was sent here tonight to say that we think this is a great idea. I'm one of the biggest environmentalists you'll find. This park is big enough to facilitate the wildlife/birds, and to have this skating pathway. It's a great way for families to do things together. We have to go a long way to do that. To be able to skate through the trees is different than skating around in circles. We would draw people from all over. I've listened to people complain about the tenants, check cashing places, vacancies, that's because we don't draw people here. It's a beautiful park, most people don't know about it. People would come, and things could change to become a better community for all of us. I'm behind it, our kids are behind it.
- Q30: I'm a fairly new resident – the concept is wonderful. I have a couple of questions. Security would be an issue. Lot of glass, debris and there's a lot of abuse of the park already – would there be a proposal for use of the trail during the summer, so it would be more supervised? Since it's secluded – is there a proposal for anything so it would be used year round? And, is there any flexibility if this trail is built, on extending the amount of time it is being used in the winter? e.g. this winter was long, and all ice rinks were closed before March break – unfortunate for kids not to have those.
- A: The concept is multi-seasonal. Colleagues would work on security issue. Morality lighting is sensitive. Second question ties back into operations/seasonal – there would be a floating window re: opening earlier, or extending it. It would typically be around a 12 week operation depending on the weather.
- Q31: Great idea – we need to invest money into the community. It's more important to strengthen and unite our community first. It's necessary for us to come together and have a place where people can play together. Will there be notes from this meeting? Will we get a chance to comment again? There have been many concerns raised, what is the process from here?
- A: All the comments and concerns expressed at the meeting will be documented in a report and reviewed by the project team. During the fall of 2008 a series of Open Houses will be held at which time a refined proposed trail design will be presented.
- C11: If there is a re-evaluation of where it should go, there should be another community meeting to discuss that.

Q32: The park is a big draw, it's very unique. There has been a lot invested in creating it the way it is right now. It could take a little more cleaning it up, but I don't understand why after creating such an amazing area – why should you come in and compromise what has been created in a very successful area? Find a different location for the skate trail – great to have it, but not in a place that is already so amazing.

A: This particular park, Col Sam Smith, has always identified this as an opportunity.

C12: The idea started with skateboard park. That idea was put aside since everyone objected. Then the winter skating was proposed, more or less in the same site. There are conflicts of interest relating to the concession that will be going into the Power House. It should be a passive park. I think the trail could be relocated to Bailey Park, Prince of Wales on Third Street, or Amis Ways, and this could be left the same. The whole idea is based on the concession in the Power House. It is going to bring a lot of business to the Bernard Group – already has contracts with Toronto parks. Let's be truthful here, and let's say what lots of people know. It's about Big Business; nothing to do with recreation. It's all to do with making money. People that quit City council are working for this company, and this is why this park is chosen. It will be the students, separate school students – who love their cokes and ice creams who will make it a money making concession. It would be lovely in another location.

A: I cannot address the concession issue.

Q33: I've lived here all my life. Is it (the trail) under the Parks and Recreation department?

A: Yes.

Q34: Parks and Recreation will pay for it out of their budget. Wouldn't a community center make more sense?

A: No comment.

4 Next Steps

The meeting was brought to a conclusion by the facilitator. Susan thanked all for their participation and congratulated them on having a respectful and productive discussion. She reminded people to fill out their comment forms and submit them before leaving. Susan reminded participants that all comments received by June 12th would be incorporated into the summary report.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

AGENDA

Ice Trail Preliminary Concept Community Consultation for Colonel Samuel Smith Park

DATE: June 5th, 2008
Community Presentation and Discussion: 7:00 -9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Ken Cox Community Centre
(located in Father John Redmond Catholic High School)
28 Col. Samuel Smith Park Dr., Etobicoke, ON

PURPOSE(S):

- To introduce an alternate preliminary concept for an ice trail for Colonel Samuel Smith Park;
- To seek community feedback on the pros, cons and changes to the preliminary concept; and
- To address questions about the ice trail from the community.

Time	Item
7:00 p.m.	Welcome and Agenda Review
7:10 p.m.	Presentation of Preliminary Concept of an Ice Trail
7:30 p.m.	Moderated Discussion – Susan Hall/Sally Leppard, Lura Consulting
8:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Next Steps – Lura Consulting
9:00 p.m.	Adjourn

APPENDIX B

Concept Plan

APPENDIX C

Summary of Comments Received through Comment Forms and emails following the Meeting

5 Summary of Public Comments

This purpose of this appendix is to provide a summary of the comments which were received in the days following the first community meeting for the Ice Trail proposal in Colonel Samuel Smith Park held June 5th, 2008. Nearly 300 comments were submitted electronically or mailed to the City and Lura Consulting and the following paragraphs summarize the feedback provided. They are organized according to the questions found in the comment form. No attempt has been made to assess the scientific accuracy or basis of the feedback received. Detailed participant feedback is found in Appendix D.

5.1 Looking at the preliminary concept for the ice trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, what are the pros or benefits of concept? What are cons or challenges of the concept?

5.1.1 Pros or Benefits

Approximately 180 comments received highlighted positive aspects about the proposed ice trail concept for Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Key themes in the pros or benefits of the concept received through the submitted comment forms are presented below, prioritized according to the frequency they were mentioned by the public (highest to lowest in frequency).

In addition, nearly a hundred of the comment forms/emails received expressed that the ice trail concept was a great idea and only provided a checkmark or support statement to the project without further feedback.

- **Great activity for families.** Many commented on their excitement to take their children outdoors during the winter time and view the concept as great for families to enjoy and have fun together. (45)
- **Attraction site.** The opportunity to be an attraction site that offers something unique, fun and special in the community. This would attract people and positively improve the image and popularity of the area. (32)
- **Great for community building and creating a sense of community.** Bringing families, neighbours and friends together will help in creating a sense of community in the area. (19)
- **Great use of public space.** Many commented on their support of incorporating an ice trail in the park and that it is a great addition and use for the space. (17)
- **Great for health and exercise.** Many supported the idea of adding active hobbies for the public to enjoy that would be beneficial and lead to healthier living. Fits well with the City's *Get Your Move On* program to get residents of Toronto more physically active. (16)
- **Good for surrounding businesses.** Bringing more people in the area will be good for increasing commerce/retail in the area. (12)

- **Great for the “at- risk” youth.** Adding physical and fun activity for the youth to do and keep busy will help in reducing the prostitute/drug trades and other inappropriate behaviours. (10)
- **Nice layout and plan.** Satisfaction with the beautiful design plans and layout provided to the public. (10)
- **Great for neighbourhood revitalization.** Bringing life, people and attention to the area are important steps to revitalizing the area. (7)
- **Inexpensive activity.** Skating is an activity that is inexpensive and therefore all can take advantage and use it. (6)
- **Minimal impact on environment.** The trail will occupy only a small portion of the park and is intended to be part of the naturalized setting, amongst the trees and nature. (4)
- **Employment opportunities.** This concept could generate new employment in the area of retail (kiosks, vendors, etc.) (2)
- **Increase property values.** Residents indicated that this concept could increase the property values in the area

In addition, an email was received which contained a link to an ipetition in support of the ice trail concept for Colonel Samuel Smith Park. (www.ipetition.com/petition/icepath). A total of 53 individuals signed the petition to support the ice trail. A copy of the feedback they provided can be found in Appendix E, these are not incorporated in the summary report.

5.1.2 Cons or Challenges

Approximately 175 comments received expressed opposition to the ice trail concept or highlighted the negative aspects. Key themes in the cons of the concept received through the submitted comment forms are presented below, prioritized according to the frequency they were mentioned by the public (highest to lowest in frequency).

- **Environmental Degradation.** Loss of trees, vegetation and habitat for wildlife and birds, disruption to their patterns, paving of unpaved areas are strong concerns to the public. (47)
- **Financial Implications.** Many expressed concerns of high initial cost to build as well as concerns to the unknown maintenance and operating cost to a City already financially burdened. Risk that taxpayers will pay additional cost for this park was also expressed and fear that the City already neglects current parks and recreation facilities. (37)
- **There is no need for another ice rink.** Many expressed that Ward 6 has plenty of rinks and one mentioned that the 2004 Recreation Services Study states the area provides sufficiently for the skating needs of the community. Others mentioned that most in the community do not skate and that it does not address the need for the community. (26)

- **Love the park as it is now.** Many enjoy the passive, naturalized park that it is now and believe this concept will destroy or be detrimental to the park's community vision to keep it as a retreat. Suggestion was made for the park to evolve as an interpretive centre and natural park like Kortright Conservation area. (20)
- **Safety.** Concept believed to be a potential hazard (mainly at night) and possible accidents may occur because of the open trail (people/trees falling). Concerns about victim's compensation for damage and suffering and liability issues. (12)
- **Vandalism.** With long concrete areas left during the larger part of the year, fear was expressed that teens and skateboarders would be attracted to this quiet/isolated area and vandalism and graffiti would inevitably happen. Policing and supervision would be needed. (11)
- **Potential of further commercial development.** Opinions expressed against the idea of commercialization, concrete, concession stands (junk food) in the park as they are contrary to the current natural use and vision for the park. (8)
- **Energy consumption.** Great amounts of energy and fuel needed to keep a staking trail open during the unpredictable winter months. One mentioned the increased amount of energy needed since winters have been mild and another provided examples where the City could no longer maintain Peace Garden at Rotary Park and the pond by the bridge in Sam Smith Park due to high energy costs. (7)
- **Ice trail is only a seasonal use.** The plan lacks a 12-month, all-weather purpose. Participants expressed concern about what the concrete pad will become in the remaining months when it is not an ice trail. This single use does not allow for creativity or diversity in how the area can be utilized. (7)
- **Against the City's going green image.** This concept goes against the City's promoting virtues of going green due to large energy consumption.

In addition, a written letter was received which contained a petition against the development of an ice skating trail in Colonel Samuel Smith at this time. A total of 26 individuals signed the petition.. A copy of the feedback they provided can be found in Appendix E, these are not incorporated in the summary report.

5.2 Looking at the preliminary concept for the ice trail, what changes would you recommend?

The following summarize the suggestions that were brought forward to consider. Note not all comment forms received provided suggested changes.

- **Look for another location.** Although in full support of an ice trail, many requested to look for another location that could be more suitable given the various cons mentioned above. (23)

- **Make no changes to Colonel Samuel Smith Park.** There was a strong opinion that the community wants a naturalized park and do not want to see it developed for an active use such as an ice trail. (5)
- **Plan for full-scale project from the start.** If the trail is going forward, it's better to do it first class from the start than do expensive upgrade/expansions down the road. (3)
- **Increase ice trail parameters.** Increase length and/or width of the refrigerated tracks. (3)
- **Implement the project more quickly.** Would like to see the concept realized for this winter.
- **Provide a more transparent process.** Residents should not be asked to buy a development without an unknown price tag.
- **Add a first aid station**
- **Add lockers and bike racks.**
- **Remove the firepit in the design.**
- **Create a large more versatile community centre.** More details in Section 5.5.

5.3 What opportunities do you see for the ice trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park?

The following are the key opportunities identified by participants. Note not all comment forms identified opportunities.

- **Tourism attraction.** Great potential for the park to attract people and tourists to the area. It will give the area a positive image and make it trendier. (14)
- **New business.** The more people visit the area, the more the potential to increase the current business and also create new employment opportunities and/or new business interests. (10)
- **Hosting events.** There is an opportunity for the park to host events such as cultural festivals and/or run camps. (9)
- **Creating a Community Advisory Board.** Involving the community in the creation of a board that would help in developing and protecting the park. (5)
- **Revitalization.** A major step in making the neighbourhood livelier and healthier both physically and financially. (2)
- **Community Involvement.** Opportunity for community to take ownership of the trail with the help of volunteers, example to create an "ice patrol" group for injury alerts. (2)

- **Power House as Nature Centre.** Suggestion for the Power House to be developed as a “Nature Centre”. (2)
- **A “naturalized skating trail”.** To create “natural skating trail” which does not require concrete or chemicals or a zamboni such as the one in Kitchener.(2)

5.4 Would you be interested in participating in a Working Group for the Ice Trail?

The majority left this section of the comment form blank or did not make mention of it in the received emails. Twenty-three participants expressed an interest in participating in a Working Group for the ice trail. Of those who were not interested, some expressed it was because of lack of time, or because they feared only those opposed would become part of the group and take over.

5.5 Additional Comments

The section for additional comments can be categorized under the following main headings, from the most to least frequently mentioned.

- **Money could be better spent. (46)** The City is struggling financially and the money could be put towards other uses. The following are a few of the suggestions:
 - Frequent mention to repair and update the current facilities before entering into new projects.
 - Strong support for creating a larger more versatile community centre.
 - Creating a leash-free dog area.
 - Creating a skateboard park.
- **More transparency in the process and better public consultation. (25)**
 - Lack of transparency in the process with respect to the Grenadier Group’s involvement.
 - To hold a public meeting for the community to discuss their vision for the park.
 - Broken promise of creating an advisory committee to oversee any proposed changes to the park.
 - Residents feeling ignored.
 - Financial costs to be shared to the public.
 - Need comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for Ward 6.
 - A scale architectural model needs to be presented to the public so that impacts on surrounding areas can be better assessed.
 - Concerns regarding the apparent lack of consideration given to operating expenses and costs of the project.
- **Positive feedback/Grateful remarks. (13)** Comments gave thanks to Councillor Grimes for his efforts to beautify the Ward and bring it up to par with surrounding wards and areas. They expressed that this was a wonderful concept and loved the idea.

- **Rationale to not attending meetings. (7)** Did not attend meeting due to previous experience where they weren't able to voice an opinion, as others present at meeting monopolized the discussion period. Concerns that small organized groups opposed to the project will drown the rest of the community's feedback.
- **Leading to climate change. (2)** Relativism is a slippery slope and leading to accelerating climate change impact such as the relative measure for the potential disruption to the park wildlife habitat.
- **Encourage real responsible use of the Power House.** Suggestion made to request the College/Board of education to take responsibility of the Power House.

APPENDIX D

Detailed Participants Feedback

1. Looking at the preliminary concept for the ice trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, what are the pros or benefits of concept? What are cons or challenges of the concept?

PROS

I'm in favour of the skating trail. If you have ever been to the trail in Brampton we would see what a great thing this is where families can go for a skate and enjoy themselves. Councillor Grimes I think is doing a great job trying to get the community back on its feet and not staying the same. If you go to any community which has a waterfront they spruce it up for all to use. I hope this goes through. Like I said it will be a great thing for the community.

A great family activity for the area. Increased public skate time which takes pressure off of local ice surfaces. Takes advantage of a huge park with lots of green space. Good parking and public transportation available.

A lot of children and adults who otherwise could not afford to pay for skating can get outside and skate together. Kids who have activities to keep them busy will be less likely to find mischief.

A nice change for the community. (repeated)

A world class project that will give Toronto/Etobicoke/ Mimico a unique recreational facility. Minimal impact on the environment. Creates jobs. Increases physical activity and health. Utilizes an under used asset. Increases property values in area.

After having had discussions with family and friends in the area regarding the proposed ice skating trail through Colonel Samuel Smith Park, we would like you to know that we are in full favour of this project and feel that it would be great for the community. Thanks and keep up the good work.

As a member of the community, we feel that the skate park that is proposed to be put in place in the park at Kipling and Lakeshore is a very good idea. This skate park will give kids in the community the opportunity to get off the streets and have some fun. In the summer the kids can go to the park and play in the skate park while their parents are walking the family dog and in the winter it being a skating rink allows for parents to take their kids for a leisure skate without having to wait for public skating. We feel that this skatepark will make for a wonderful addition and will bring life to the community. We know being pet owners and parents that it would be a place that we would seriously consider visiting.

As a regular walker in the park, it appears to me to be vastly underused. Most of my friends in other parts of the city don't even know it exists. It's a shame that such a valuable urban park is used primarily by nearby residents to walk their dogs. We should welcome the rest of the city to enjoy the natural beauty of Colonel Samuel Smith Park.

As a resident of South Etobicoke and a father of two young daughters, I would like to voice my strong support in favour of the proposed skating trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park. The proposed trail is great for families and a positive feature for the Lakeshore.

At present time nothing exists in terms of events (repeated)

At a time when efforts are being made to revitalize the Lakeshore area a development such as this will only get more residents and families out in the winter time to enjoy the park and realize what the community has to offer. A leisurely skate through a treed area on a winter day truly embraces what it means to be Canadian, and the original intent of the naturalized park setting can be enjoyed by all!

Bringing family and community together in the winter. There isn't enough unique things to do with the whole family that is cost effective in the winter. This would be a great promoter for physical activity and quality family time and community time.

I am a Business owner/property owner - Owner/Landlord of apartment complex/commercial stores. It will help to rid the area of prostitutes/drug traders. It will provide family recreation at the community level; provide employment; and provide the ability to open concessions.

I support the concept or check mark indicated (repeated)

Children and parents can enjoy the outdoors together. They have the opportunity to learn about nature together. It will bring a sense of community and new business opportunity and people will be out more.

The trail is close to Power House for washrooms and changing, etc. and close to parking for people out of our area who drive to use this trail. Skating in and around the trees, outdoor skating is currently only available at limited times on rinks. When this is built I will be able to skate every day after school and all weekend. Schools can use this anytime without having to book ice time that is hard to get at City arenas. We could hold charity events like "skate for the cause" and have concerts there with local musicians and artists.

Enjoying the great outdoors. The family bonding together and socializing.

Excellent idea for parents and children. Very limited access to public skating in our community.

Excellent use of the park area, likely to increase usage by residents in winter when it tends not to be used. Since ice trail is not used in summer, park is still available for alternative summer uses. Limited space in Toronto is devoted to public skating.

Exercise for family and youth. Increased interest to business in South Etobicoke. Utilizes an under utilized area in South Etobicoke.

Exercise. Expand use of park.

Fabulous! I think that this will really help the area and unite us all!

Facility that can be used by all. It enhances the neighbourhood in terms of attracting visitors and would impact positively on local businesses. It is located well because it doesn't impact neighbourhood street parking, has readily available parking for visitors.

Fantastic idea. Will attract people from all over the city. Great use of a public space in the winter.

Finally children and families have a facility in the community they can enjoy outdoors. We do not have to drive outside or the community for our outdoor activities. Great idea, about time we have a new local facility.

Fits well with the City's *Get Your Move On* program to get residents of Toronto more physically active.

For families, children, seniors and the whole community. (repeated)

FUN!!

Good use of the area.

Good for the community. Bring more people to the park. Alternative to going to an indoor skating rink. Bring something special to the community.

Good recreational activity. Can create family time (family day in February). Good activity for teens. Good physical activity.

Great for the community, brings neighbours together and adds to the neighbourhood. Gives families activities to do, alternative to indoor or outdoor skating rinks. Not many communities could offer an ice trail.

Great Idea (repeated)

Great idea for everyone - young and old, toddlers in strollers, teens could enjoy good clean fun with little cost. Brings the community together. Gives the park to the people.

Great idea. Can't wait until it's open. It will bring the community together. Better build it.

Great idea. Limited family skating time available in our community. Bring more people into Lakeshore area, increase business.

Great use of park area that is rarely visited - great opportunity to bring more residents and their friends and families together in the winter as there is little winter activity in the city that is not costly.

Great way to bring a healthy activity to the community that will not cost a lot. There is nothing there in winter good way to bring other to our community and increase our popularity and improve our image.

Great winter opportunity for community as there are not enough winter activities for families - Great promotion of healthy activities for our young people - great opportunity to clone the Rideau and make winter festivities for community and surrounding area

We need something in our area to get our community young and old together.

I am a long time Long Branch resident and voice my support for the proposed skating loop.

I am a resident of south Etobicoke and I wanted to let you know I am in full support of the skating trail at Colonel Samuel Smith Park. I have three children and I think this would be a great idea for all families in the neighbourhood.

I am aware of the proposal for the Ice skating trail at Colonel Samuel Smith Park. I think this will be a great addition to the neighbourhood, and great for families.

I am emailing in regard to the skating trail. I think this is a brilliant idea for both family and community use. What a way to get the neighbourhood together. Great use of the area.

I am in favour of the proposed skating trail, I do worry about the impact on the environment but my concerns have been addressed.

I am in full support of your idea to create a winter skating path in the park directly south of my property located at Kipling and Lakeshore. This is an area that has needed massive upgrading for many years and anything that you can bring to the table will be an improvement over the current situation. The Humber development and rejuvenation of the old buildings has brought some new life to the area but we still have a long way to go. This proposed path will bring families and community together in a positive way both summer and especially winter, too what is currently a lifeless park. I look forward to using the path along with my kids Keep up the great work. Let's bring life back to the OLD Shore!!!

I am sorry that I was unable to attend your meeting at the Assembly Hall which discussed the proposed Skate Trail. The purpose of this note is to inform you that I do support this endeavour. The reasons are: 1) The park is currently being well utilized during the Spring, Summer and Fall; however, that does not appear to be the case during the winter months; 2) I consider the park to be a poor sister to other parks in and around Toronto; for example, Humber, High Park, The Beaches, etc. Putting in the Skate Trail would bring some prestige to the area.

I also have two questions: 1) assuming the trail does come in, would there be a refreshment/restroom facility installed as well? And 2) when is your annual recycling day going to be held?

I am writing in regards to the proposed outdoor skating trail for Colonel Samuel Smith Park. My entire household has heard of the plans to create this skating trail and we are completely in agreement for its construction. I think it would be a great addition.

I am in favour of using the park for recreational purposes such as this. It's a great idea. Why move it to other parks as some suggested when it's the kids in this neighbourhood that need things to do.

I fully support the new trail for Colonel Samuel Smith Park.

I just wanted to drop a note to say how excited we are about the proposed skating trail at Samuel Smith park. The area is currently underutilized and this idea is a winner for all the people in the area. I glad to see that progress is being made to revitalize an important area of the city.

I just wanted to let you know we are so impressed with the design for the skating path for Colonel Samuel Smith Park. My husband and I were both born in Mimico and have raised our two children here. In our opinion this is long overdue here in Etobicoke.

I love skating.

I see a great opportunity for the community and the students of Father Redmond. I look forward to using the trail myself this winter.

I think it's a great idea for the new skating trail through the Lakeshore area. I hope it will be seen this coming winter it sounds great.

I think it's a great idea to help people get out and enjoy winter. Go for it.

I think the skating trail is a wonderful idea for the community. Keep it up!

I think this is a great step in the right direction for the community. Great work Mark Grimes. Keep it up!!

This is a great opportunity to bring more people into this area, which in turn would increase revenue at local restaurants and stores. The trail is in walking distances of many local schools and could be used for part of the physical education curriculum or their daily physical activity (DPA). Schools could combine the outside skating opportunity with the outside nature experience. The park's location is very accessible by car or TTC and could be promoted as part of Toronto Tourism. I look forward to this exciting opportunity to spend more quality time with family and friends.

There are endless benefits to myself and family plus the community at large with such a facility that could be used all season in such a beautiful setting.

The outdoor and indoor rink schedule is very restrictive to public skating. One can only go skating on certain times during the weekend. An outdoor ice trail would give unrestricted accessibility to skating which would be great for all age groups.

I was reading the Etobicoke Guardian today and read about the skating trail in Colonel Sam Smith Park. Right away I thought this was an excellent idea! Coaching the tykes at Faustina Sports Club, I can see that there are not enough open areas available. Good luck on the project, you have mine and my families' support! I would love to have the skating trail in CSSP.

I'm in favour of using the park for recreational purposes such as this. That is what the park is for. Kids need a place to go in the winter, just like any time of year.

It has created a burst of excitement here in South Etobicoke, among our family and friends that you are working on a Skating trail to be integrated into Colonel Sam Smith Park. We are a family of seven, and in the past we have travel to the small skating park in Brampton, and to Gauge Park just for this purpose. I imagine that it will increase the use of Colonel Sam Smith Park by residents, and we think the inclusion of a skating trail would make a wonderful this great park. I really hope you can get the Mayor's support and appropriate funding in place for this needed project. We look forward to the expeditious completion of this exciting venture.

It's a lovely design.

Kids and family time, community cohesion, pure fun.

Kids need more play-stick activities in general. Very helpful for the community.

My family and I wish to add our enthusiastic support for this very worthwhile facility that is being proposed in the Lakeshore and Kipling area. We feel it is excellent use of the land, a truly unique idea and would be a benefit to the entire community. Our family urges the great City of Toronto to go forth with this idea and create the skating trail.

My family and I wish to add our enthusiastic support for this very worthwhile facility that is being proposed in the Lakeshore and Kipling area. We feel it is excellent use of the land, a truly unique idea and would be a benefit to the entire community.

My family and I would like to express our support for the planned skating rink at Colonel Samuel Park. We are very active in a variety of winter sports in the area and an outdoor rink in our area would be a wonderful addition, affordable for everyone. We believe that we can co-exist with nature for the benefit of all.

My family and I are truly excited about the new skating trail proposed for Colonel Samuel Smith park. We have two daughters, 6 and 3 years old who have learned to skate this passed winter. We look forward to going for a skate after school or on a weekend afternoon as a family activity. Given the current obesity crisis in our county innovative ideas like this will help get people young and old off the couch an enjoying a non- competitive healthy activity.

My family of five would love to go skating in Colonel Samuel Smith Park. What a wonderful way to encourage children to be active and enjoy an outdoor winter activity that is affordable for everyone.

My kids are going to love it.

My wife and I support the idea of an ice skating trail for south Etobicoke. Ourselves and our two boys would use this facility. As of now we often travel to Swansea to skate there in the winter.

Need some children and family activities in the area. Great idea.

Needed activity for our youth - good to keep them busy and active. This will open up opportunities for more cultural activities to have a venue in the winter! Perfect idea for stimulation activity in an otherwise desolate area in the winter!

New trees to be planted-place for families to have fun together-attract people to the area-help nearby businesses-place to be physically active.

Nice layout.

Oh yes, the trail would be lovely. The kids will love it!

Fantastic idea for a number of reasons: It is a one of a kind venue in the City of Toronto and would be a great asset to our community. What a wonderful way to draw people to this area to not only enjoy CSSP but also the shops and restaurants on the Lakeshore. We have been trying to revitalize the area. There are actually very few people I speak with outside of Ward 6 who know anything about CSSP and what a great place it is. This will provide a recreational facility for families to spend the day or an evening skating outside through the park. It concerns me that a small group of people feel that they have the exclusive right to dictate what happens at this park and are using environment and wildlife issues to again protest any alternative use of this "huge piece of land". I think the presentation was excellent and as with any business plan, there is still some work to be done but most of the issues relating to the park itself were addressed. On behalf of my kids and many of their friends I strongly support this skating park. Unfortunately they do not attend these meetings and in most cases would not be heard over the objections of the people who are so adversarial and consistently reject. Perhaps as part of this great debate...someone should attend at some of the schools in our area and ask the kids how they feel about this skating trail. Let their opinions be heard and counted.

Place for friendly skating for summer & winter fun.

Provide quality time with family.

Should be magic!

Taxpayer, resident property owner for the past 60 years. Brings family recreation and community involvement into the area. As this area is comprised of low income families which need community recreation and involvement. Not all families can afford to pay.

The presentation showed wonderful, carefully considered drawings. It looks like a special place for outdoor pleasure skating.

The proposed skating trail park will be a welcome and much used and appreciated amenity which will be enjoyed for decades. The funding is in place, the timing is right, Etobicoke wants and deserves improved parks and facilities. We urge the parties concerned to put aside any wrangling and move this project ahead and be proud of it. It is a good thing for kids and families.

The trail will be absolutely terrific, and will be a draw for all members of the community, and others. There is still a lot of undisturbed park land. I can understand though the organization's concern that should they accept the trail that would just open the floodgates for future development in the park; is there any way you could guarantee no further development for them?

This area has been mis-used for years. Kids need somewhere to interact with each other. Rather than being on the outside looking in- this will open up the entire area to everyone. The ice trail is conducive to family functions.

This community needs a "drawing card" and if done properly a skating trail amongst the trees could be absolutely delightful.

This is a great idea. I think the community will love it and will be envied by everyone. Build it!!

This was a well presented plan and I appreciate Mr. O'Bright's work.

This will let kids get some outdoor exercise during the winter (2)

The trail will only occupy 12% of the park, leaving the other 88% natural and not affected by the development of the skate trail. The path itself is intended to be PART OF the naturalized setting, which is what makes it so attractive.

Unique. Special to our community. Fun. Brings attention to the park.

We would like the skating trail installed in south Etobicoke. Our community would love it.

We support the proposal for the new skating trail. Please include the names of the following voters, who all live in our house:

What a great idea. It's about time we got an attraction in Lakeshore!

What a great idea. Our community needs more great ideas like this. It really brings together and families together to get to know other in the community. Exercise. How great is that!!

What I like about the plan is that it could provide good family recreation opportunities. Great. I've had lots of family recreation experiences due to facilities provided by Etobicoke Parks and Recreation as I raised my family in New Toronto since 1974.

The trail will provide some activity around the restored powerhouse in winter, may bring people from other areas to the area in winter.

I can't think of anything bad about this skating trail.

No cons because birds fly south in the winter, most animals hibernate.

CONS

I like the idea of outdoor skating, but we have Prince of Wales, which is 11 streets away, and could do with some improvements, big or small. I do skate at Prince of Wales. We do not need it at Sam Smith Park.

Will be a nice addition to Prince of Wales Park, where no trees will have to be removed and new ones can be planted, great view of Downtown Toronto from there, and well light has less security concerns

Energy costs will be too high. Fact: The City can't maintain what it has already built. Here are a few examples:

- * A Peace Garden at Rotary Park has been vandalized and never repaired, or replanted
- * The pond by the bridge in Sam Smith Park is filled

As a Long Branch resident, I believe the naturalized park we have in our neighbourhood is one of its greatest assets.

Further, with recent discussion is about a skateboard park, I wonder if in the non-skating months that this concrete path would become a skate board arena. Has any thought been given to this (safety, lighting, dual-purpose, etc.)?

I have heard that the trees are dying as they cannot tolerate the refrigeration. Eventually, the trees will need to be cut down.

Ongoing maintenance costs: Last year, the city did not have the money to open existing skating facilities on time, why would the city plan to increase that maintenance budget for the future?

There is plenty of ice for people to skate on in Etobicoke.

Loss of habitat for wildlife and birds.

There are more than enough ice rinks within the area, as well as other community facilities. With City funding at a premium, it's more the availability of programs that is the challenge for local families.

1) Why is the project is being bulldozed through just like the skate board park? 2) Why is the impact on the already stretched capital and current budget being ignored? 3) Why are no alternative sites mentioned? 4) Why put an active use into a passive park? The Hospital grounds were saved by the community as lungs not a place for creeping commercialisation. 5) Why are you wasting staff and the public's time on a frivolous notion? 6) Once these questions have been answered and staff stop playing politics there should be another public meeting. I have sent a copy to the Mayor as the process and the product is symbolic of a City that is not working.

And there enough rinks in the area to accommodate the residents who live here....if you ever came out to the public skating at Prince of Wales you would see that.

Another place to skate in Ward 6 does not meet the recreational needs of our community, and it is not a wise use of taxpayer's dollars.

As an active user of the park, I cannot provide you with any pros. However, I do feel there are significant environmental and financial cons.

As far as I am concerned, there are no pros to the proposed ice trail in Colonel Sam Smith Park. The trail, itself, is ill-conceived and ill-planned without initial consultation with the community. Colonel Sam Smith Park is a PARK. We were promised that an advisory committee of concerned and involved Lakeshore citizens would be formed to oversee any proposed changes to our "treasure" after the cancellation of the Skateboard Park. This has not happened. Until this committee is formed, I feel that any proposed projects are not in the best interests of the Park. I see no opportunities for the ice trail until local citizens have input into any plans that are proposed for the Park. Those are my comments in the simplest terms.

The park could evolve as a interpretive centre and nature park like Kortright Conservation Area. Let's build on what we have, the natural area, trees, and wildlife. The plan will destroy what we have. We need another meeting to answer our questions, not a letter or a report.

Because the implementation of a viable skating trail would necessitate the provision of bathroom facilities, additional benches, garbage cans, lighting, etc., we need to consider how vandalism will impact the costs associated with maintaining such a facility.

I don't believe only 5 trees will be hurt. Grading the land and paving it will damage and eventually kill the majority of the trees. Ask the Forestry Department.

Can a city already strapped for money afford to operate this?

Community has not been asked what their needs are and decisions are made in isolation.

Considering that I don't see Prince of Wales fully utilized, I don't think we need another rink close by, regardless of the proposed site of Colonel Sam Smith Park.

Considering the possibility of someone getting seriously injured while using the city-made skating oval, would the city then be liable to compensate the victim for damage and suffering?

Cost (repeated)

Costs to maintain and build will be over 2.5 million dollars, annual expenses are over 200K just for staffing with another 100K + for upkeep and repair. The information hasn't been presented because the costs are so high, there will be an artificial expense present once the numbers are fudged.

Damage to trees, concrete barrier running through park, will attract graffiti and teenager vandalism in spring/summer/fall. Energy consumption for refrigeration. Huge capital cost to cash strapped city. Additional annual maintenance cost to city taxpayer.

Disturbing established wildlife, trees and vegetation, noise (music), lights. Wrong vision for the park. Potential for more development, concrete, concession stands. There is already a "Williams" coffee shop nearby. No information on how much maintenance costs are.

Enough ice, already. We have plenty of rinks in Ward 6. If it must be done do not spoil a natural park, take a park that is already much of a wasteland, like on Third Street. There is room for a zamboni and the facilities need fixing up anyway.

Environmental - a few trees are lost to possibly a drainage issue with the flat concrete.

Environmental costs to build the trail: We currently have a wonderful green space. Why would a city that wants to reduce its carbon footprint want to replace green space with man-made development?

Expensive and time consuming to build.

First and foremost is that the community fought and worked hard to have Sam Smith a naturalized environment. Humber College is a gem in that it integrates with this concept. But there are no shortages of people who have little respect for community needs, urban 'wildlife' and most of all democratic principles. Not long ago it was a wind power generator next door and then the skate board park with a concession stand. Now it's an energy intensive intrusive skating trail promoted as a 'destination' by those who have little knowledge of what and how a 'destination' is created.

Generally speaking I would like to have a skating trail in the area but have concerns about the location, the money and the process.

If this is a natural rink, given the weather trends over the last few years do you think it will be warm enough to make it worthwhile? As well, given the current status of the current ice rinks (e.g. repairs and upkeep)?

Honestly, skating is not really that important to the community. Not very many adults and youth in my community skate. I work with the South Etobicoke Youth Assembly (SEYA), and we spent 2-3 months surveying our community going door-to-door concerning recreational needs. Not one person said that they skate.

I cannot believe that there is not a yearly budget to maintain this planned skating path. I cannot support this proposal until a budget is presented to the residents of this ward. I am concerned that this is the "Thin edge of the wedge" to develop Col. Sam Smith Park.

I do not like the concrete base. What is to become of the huge concrete pad for the other 9 months of the year? Again, it is an isolated, quiet location, and the City is only inviting vandalism. Even the skateboarders admitted they would come and use it.

I do not want the skating park in Colonel Samuel Smith Park nor do a majority of residents. It seems that your info card you wish us to fill in only points to your side which is that it's a done deal and ignores the residents wishes. As it seems Councillor Grimes is always behind this type of shenanigans. Again my vote is NO to the skate park.

I have deep concerns regarding the building of the outdoor skating trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, mostly environmental.

I see an opportunity for Grenadier Group to make money at the expense of the taxpayer (me), and at the expense of our community because we lose a wonderful piece of the park and precious green space so they can sell junk food to school kids and make a profit.

I'm hoping that a committee of many stake-holders and city planners will be able to discuss the needs of the community and provide the best possible solutions that will serve the Lakeshore in the long term.

It brings more cement into a pastoral setting.

It is the wrong location. It will not revitalize the Lakeshore. People will drive into the community and out and not spend any money. There is no Parks and Recreation "vision" for Ward 6. There is not enough parking for cars now and we don't want more paving for cars in the park.

It restricts the use of that area of the park - people tend to think that when a structure is in front of them, that it is for the single use of skating. This does not allow for any creativity or diversity.

It seems remotely conceivable that a progressive, responsible city would even consider a facility where conditions are artificially changed (outdoor ice made at a great and increasing expense) for our enjoyment.

It will disturb what little sanctuary is left in the park for wildlife - the reason the park was established and recently augmented to attract wildlife.

It will ruin the park. Work with the natural elements to enhance the park. Don't pave over it.

Lack of 12 month, all weather purpose: An outdoor skating trail is not a year round use.

Negative reaction by local residents affected. "NIMBY" attitudes there are cons to the area as a whole.

No estimate given on the operating costs. Possible security/vandalism issues. Initial cost of approx. of 2 million dollars.

Now I wish to point out that the City seems to have to spend my money on this while absolutely neglecting most of the installed recreation facilities it already has. Case in point, the Prince of Wales Park with its winter skating rink and a summer tennis court, both in destitute condition. No funds to revive it? None to keep it open? Rumor has it that the City will be closing this.

Operating the rink - I have lived in this community for more than 10 years. This city does not stay consistently frozen through the winter. The energy and fuel that will be required to keep the skating trail open will not be well spent.

Our household is not in favour of the skating trail being proposed for Samuel Smith Park. The park is a remarkable natural habitat and should be preserved as such for the quiet enjoyment of visitors now and for years to come.

Over 30 mature trees are growing in the proposed area and it's unbelievable that only five will be removed, false information as was lighting and noise factor presented. All of these factors lighting, noise, garbage, tree removal, cement, underground pipes, Concessions, restaurant, and development of the power station go against the original intention of this park which is a naturalized park to promote nature within a large metropolitan environment. Hyde park has its naturalization preserved, and Sam Smith Park is west metro's equivalent.

Paving over existing scrub and vegetation.

People falling.

Possible accidents because of open trail. Can't be run all season (weather). Could potentially be a hazard (mainly at night).

Safety concerns are also problematic.

The "vision" for the Lakeshore Grounds including Colonel Samuel Smith Park, formulated by the local community during the past 20 years, was for a "passive" naturalized park retreat where families could enjoy nature and an escape from the ravages of the big city.

The annual expense of maintaining this site was unknown at the meeting? What a waste of everybody's time. I can not imagine running my household like this! Or my business!

The annual expense of maintaining this site was unknown at the meeting? What will be the cost to maintain for a 3 month period of use?

The area around the power plant had the richest and most diverse colonies of frogs; bull frogs, leopard frogs, spring peepers, American toads. The frog activity at the viewing platform beside the pond was second, and the worst area for frogs was the viewing platform (now burnt down) near the marina. This told us that the frogs did better the further away from noise and built form they were.

The City cannot afford to staff and maintain the ice rinks it has now.

The City has also been promoting the virtues of going green. I ask you—how much energy is going to be used to keep this thing frozen and lit? How much parkland is going to be sacrificed for a past-time that is already well supported with arenas and rink.

The concern is to keep it as a naturalized park area which can be used for passive recreation and the opposition to the skate board park, for example, was NOT opposition to it being used for skate boarding per say but for this kind of usage which disrupts the plant and animal life in the Park, brings with it commercial development, such as concession stands and so on.

The mere presence of small debris on or imbedded in the ice surface, such as twigs, rocks, etc., constitutes a major safety hazard that would result in liability issues due to injuries.

The primary strength of this park lies in its natural habitat. A sound system and lights are disruptive to birds and wildlife.

The security is a problem. Path will be hidden from view, away from continual patrolled area. Need a police present constantly, as the park already has gangs hanging out in the evening doing and planning delinquent activities.

The trees would need to be removed from the site and because Zambonis are not designed to resurface ice littered with small debris on it, such as twigs, rocks, etc. That would likely lead to continuous (and expensive) maintenance issues due to ongoing damage to the zamboni. Artificial ice rinks do not encounter such conditions.

The undisturbed nature of the park far outweighs the need for yet another ice-facility in this neighbourhood.

Over the years, we have observed a great deal of vandalism at Colonel Samuel Smith which appears to take place in the evenings as a result of teenagers and youths who go down to the park to drink and party at night because the rather isolated location of the park provides a perfect environment for such activities away from the watchful eye of residents and police. We've seen portable toilets burned to the ground, smashed beer bottles throughout the grounds, wooden decks/lookouts burned to the ground (the one by facing the harbour and yacht club), trees broken off for fires and various other forms of destruction of property. We have also noticed less than desirable activities taking place in the parking lots at night including drug dealing and sex acts.

There is no doubt that paving that area will kill trees and habitat, and the introduction of large numbers of humans disrupting the peacefulness of the area will have detrimental effects on wildlife.

These ideas dreamed up by someone for Sam Smith Park many years ago need to be reviewed before spending more of our taxpayer's money on design and consultants and policemen! The sketches were pretty and glitzy and glam but not having the financials to back them up.

This proposal will have a negative impact on my family and the community at large. I am asking that you reconsider your plan. We do not need another SKATING RINK!! We need a REAL Community CENTRE.

Toronto's winters are now unpredictable. It could remain too warm to successfully flood and freeze the skating oval or it could be buried under 2 or more meters of snow.

Unknown maintenance costs Environmental degradation.

Very unlikely that the City will be able to operate and maintain this effectively on an ongoing basis - and it would be a disaster to the ecology of the park if this facility were eventually to be run by private interests.

We do appreciate the wildlife habitat in the park and the concerns about the security in the park at night.

We have a wonderful park in Colonel Sam Smith Park. One of the very special aspects is the peacefulness, which encourages birds and other wildlife to make this home. However, losing a small portion of the park to a skating trail is detrimental to the whole.

What I don't like about the plan is the process that brought it to this point. Our City Councillor Grimes, is doing this without asking for any public consultation on whether this is a good thing for the community.

What is to become of the huge concrete pad for the other 9 months of the year?

You need an active community group ready to participate to create a positive environment for young people and families to be together and share the park for a variety of outdoor activities. You need to recruit role model teenagers who are committed.

2. Looking at the preliminary concept for the ice trail, what changes would you recommend?

I feel that a concrete path of the nature described would be contrary to the natural park setting.

Trees will be lost.

A different location. Are there not any alternative locations? (repeated)

A First Aid station much like they have along the waterfront if someone falls and has a cut. The Parks & Rec Supervisors would be proficient in first aid to assist.

Cancel it and build a real recreation/community centre for the community.

City Council is now closing existing facilities due to lack of funds? How can it justify closures, and at the same time invest in projects with very limited use, for which even the carrying costs are a mystery?

Find a location that is not thriving park land and develop it there. There is another park along the Lakeshore (3rd street?) that already has some skating facilities. Expanding that area would improve that area and not detract from our existing parks.

I do not like the location, in a quiet, isolated, naturalized park - it is not the location.

I don't think that my comments will be much different from the resistance that you have been hearing among other community members. As a mother with a young child, I can appreciate that you wish to build a recreational facility for community enjoyment.

I have almost completely lost faith in the City of Toronto. Nobody wants this skating oval. The community has made it clear that we want a naturalized park—no more development in CSS Park!

I strongly protest the lack of transparency in this process. Would you buy a car if the manufacturer couldn't tell you how many km/litre it would cost to run it? Why are we being asked to buy a development with an unknown price tag.

I would like to see if perhaps expanded somewhat- if we are doing it, do it first class from the start rather than the expensive upgraded down the road.

I would recommend not building it.

I wouldn't make any changes. The concept seems like it is very suitable and will benefit many residents throughout the winter season.

Increase length of refrigerated track. Maybe wider.

The location of the park, which juts out from the shoreline, exposes it to more severe weather (high winds, blowing snow, etc.), which we have noticed creates uneven ice and snow along the trails making it difficult to walk on them during the winter months. That being the case, one would have wonder how viable it would be to maintain a smooth skating surface throughout the winter and how much it would cost to maintain throughout the winter months. Given that the city ceased the provision of outdoor natural rinks which used to be located in parks throughout the area because of cost cuts, would the cost of implementing and maintaining a skating trail, that would be less convenient to many residents than a natural rink in local neighbourhood parks, be significantly less than providing a number of natural rinks in parks throughout the neighbourhood? Also, in cases where inclement weather conditions created less than safe skating conditions, would there be a increased danger of liability for injuries, etc. to the City that could create another cash crunch and the reduction of other facilities?

Move it to another park. Or ask the community how they want their taxes to be spent.

Very unlikely that the city will be able to operate and maintain this effectively on an ongoing basis - and it would be a disaster to the ecology of the park if this facility were eventually to be run by private interests.

While we are thrilled to see an interest in improving the face of South Etobicoke for its residents, we are not sure that this endeavour would be the most favourable for this area.

Why does the skate trail have to be within an existing natural area?

Why does this have to be done on the waterfront, a wildlife reserve, when there are so many other spots on which a rink and skateboard surface could be constructed? Birmingham Street for example.

Why not a larger more versatile community centre?

You have four (4) skating rinks going in just up the street from this park. A Skating Trail???? Why not leave the natural habitat area for the birds and the wildlife alone already. We do not like your screwball ideas, just leave the Natural Park alone. Do not build there, nothing, nada, no way!

3. What opportunities do you see for the ice trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park?

A "natural skating trail" which did not require concrete or chemicals or a zamboni such as the one in Kitchener. Perhaps Parks staff could organize the volunteer staff required.

A place for young children to spend time with their families and learn to skate.

A place where future tourists would like to go.

Bring more attention to Mimico on a positive note. Mimico not viewed well by other municipalities. Attract new businesses to community and make it more trendy.

Community events could happen there. Charity events, learn to rollerblade and bike clinics. Schools could have skating marathons and events there too. Everyone can use it from little kids to seniors and everyone will get more physically active.

Could host events in the park.

Drawing families there in the winter that may use the park in the summer. Will draw from across the city spurring local business.

Events, give kids hanging out in the park something to do (repeated)

Excellent publicity for the Lakeshore area as the "new Beaches". Brings attention to other cultural events at the adjacent Assembly Hall and Humber College Theatre.

Family & youth recreation. City functions - Events (repeated)

For the City to recognize this is project is not in the best interests of the park, the community, and the city, and move on. Better still, look at how this project was developed and discussed, and decide to create a community advisory board for the park.

Have an advisory board for Colonel Sam Smith Park...the community needs and deserves it. Have a balance board with members from the community – taxpayers and ecological supporters, historical supporters, city officials and all users of the park (including athletes)

I see it as not only a winter skating trail but a summer walking/roller blading/skate board trail in summer as well. The boardwalk in the east end of Toronto has a great many people taking walks, skate boarding, rollerblading etc.

I see no opportunities for the ice trail until local citizens have input into any plans that are proposed for the Park.

I see opportunities for certain powerful interests to build the trail, and then to use its presence as the reason to install more and more “nature-unfriendly” concessions, parking areas, music, security personnel.

In relation to the park itself: a citizen's advisory committee.

In relation the skate trail in this location: none.

I would like a public meeting to discuss what we in our community think is the best use of funds being allocated for this project. Just because it was in the plans 12 years ago, doesn't make it relevant today. I think it is irresponsible of the city to begin a project when the cost of maintaining said project is unknown. There are many things this community needs and desires more than a skating trail: i.e.: a community centre, a skateboard park (as promised by our Councillor), how about a nature centre, and butterfly garden in the area? This would draw hundreds of people to the area for outdoor education. I don't want anymore concrete in the park.

Increased visitors will bring increased business to existing business in community. May even bring new business interests.

Major community involvement.

More people to the Lakeshore area

More people visiting the area. May increase the business opportunities which in turn increases job opportunities

New business opportunities - attract more people from surrounding area to Mimico - put Mimico on the map on a positive note.

Recreation, physical fitness, neighbourhood cohesiveness, and attraction to bring others to Mimico.

Colonel Sam Smith Park is a very successively evolving Nature Park, a unique attraction for all kind of animals humans included the way it is. To strengthen it, the powerhouse could be developed as a Nature Centre.

There are opportunities for kids to get jobs and for the city to build a good reputation for recreational activities.

Very limited entertainment in winter. I suspect a lucrative concessions contract and development agreement will benefit a few.

We need an Advisory Board for Sam Smith, with membership from all community organizations not just the ones that will support Mark Grimes.

We see the opportunity to have a true, open public consultation with the community and to plan for parks and recreation uses in response to the needs the community identifies. At the consultation the man who identified himself as the speed skater stated the City had contacted him and asked him to come down and support the proposal. We need another public meeting where our questions are answered in the open. Using e-mail and letters to communicate the answers does not allow people to hear their neighbour's thoughts, ideas and concerns.

Will bring people to our community and the existing business and cultural events will get more publicity

Winter recreation for all walks of life. (repeated).

4. Would you be interested in participating in a Working Group for the Ice trail?

Yes (23)

No (10)

5. Additional Comments

"Opposition Group" does not speak for the entire community, no matter how much they would like everyone to think that they do. This group likely represents a very small percentage of our community. However, it is a well organized group and I believe their concerns are being heard, while individual voices like mine are being drowned out. I feel it is very important to include as many residents in this process as possible and suggest that a vote, petition or survey take place prior to any final decisions being made.

A mechanism through which we can develop our own agenda for recreation facilities in this area and have a decisive say on what is required for this community, seems to me to be what is necessary.

A scale architectural model needs to be presented to the public so that impacts on surrounding areas can be better assessed.

As a final point, I was very upset by the manner in which the public consultation was held, which was that the proposal is presented as a done deal and we are to be consulted with, and listened to - if our answer is that we want it or want it with some revisions. We were never consulted before the proposal was developed, and this is not part of an agreed upon and approved development plan for the area. There is no mechanism for us to set or discuss the agenda. So we simply get plonked with fait accomplis. This will not do. There needs to be serious discussion and consultation on this project before anything proceeds. It does not have the support of the community.

As I understand it money originally earmarked for a community centre which would benefit the most vulnerable members of the community is being put toward a project which will obviously benefit a few people financially.

City has ~\$2 million to build a half a gym and an office so called community centre plus use of some other school facilities if the school is occupying them and now another \$2 million allocated for the Skating Trail. South Etobicoke Ward 6 is in desperate need of year round facilities for the youth as well for all the other age groups, an open house all day long for everybody. The centrally located, abandoned Lions Club Arena is waiting for new users as Maple Leafs are moving to new Four Pad Arena.

Colonel Sam Smith Park is a PARK. We were promised that an advisory committee of concerned and involved Lakeshore citizens would be formed to oversee any proposed changes to our "treasure" after the cancellation of the Skateboard Park. This has not happened.

I am disgusted with the way the Friends of Sam Smith Park lobby to be the sole voice in South Etobicoke.

Don't put concession stand in Sam Smith park to steal costumers from local restaurants that are struggling. If you want to help revitalize the area for the businesses, install Christmas decorations in the dull strip between Kipling and Ninth St. work with all businesses, not just the BIA.

Due to the many unanswered questions that were posed to the City of Toronto representatives and consultants at the public meeting on June 5, 2008, it is imperative that a follow-up public meeting be convened so that the unresolved issues can be properly, and thoroughly, addressed to the community's satisfaction. It is beyond belief that so many financial questions regarding the proposal could not be answered – yet the City of Toronto is intent on proceeding with the proposed project anyway. This is unacceptable, particularly in light of the City already requiring an additional \$900,000 for the "Ken Cox Community Centre" - which is not even built.

Etobicoke is in dire need of additional recreational facilities-- My family and I leave the area now in order to find these facilities.

Etobicoke Lakeshore area is deficient in green space for its population levels. To remove or harm existing green space is unconscionable. The City should be working to improve existing and provide more green space – not less.

Great initiative!

Hire a parks and rec staff to do Tai Chi in the parking lot by the power house, Run camps out of it in summer, March Break, etc. Perhaps TDSB, TCDSB might be interested in developing it as a nature study centre much like the facility on the Toronto Island. It has the Lake Ontario shore line, ponds, meadows etc.

I did not go to the meeting because it's always the same people there shouting about themselves and not thinking about the community.

I love the idea and think there is room in that huge park for park the skaters and the bird watchers, especially because they are different.

I strongly encourage you to scrap the plans for the skating trail. This community needs a facility that can be used all year long and not for only 12 weeks. This trail will only be accessible to families, seniors and youth who can skate and /or can afford skates. So the trail also has a limited appeal.

I think this trail is going to a waste of money for the City of Toronto, and an unnecessary spending for the parks and recreation department. I have been lobbying for a recreation centre in my community for years now. I am sure you are aware of our concerns over the lack of space Father John Redmond has for our community needs. I do believe that the money that was going to be used for the trail should be redirected into a more positive use within the community.

I was unable to attend the meeting last week but do want to share my comments and thoughts. I have lived in this community since 1993 and regularly use Colonel Sam Smith Park. I am a home owner, tax payer, and voter.

I would like a public meeting to discuss what we in our community think is the best use of funds being allocated for this project. Just because it was in the plans 12 years ago, doesn't make it relevant today.

If there is room for this kind of facility in the budget, should we not consider if these funds would be better spent on a few natural outdoor rinks placed strategically throughout the area or some other form of recreational facility that would be beneficial to a broader spectrum of residents?

It's important to note that the president of the Lakeshore Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) did not have authorization from the BIA membership to speak in support of the proposal. His comments in support of the skating trail proposal were personal only (as indicated initially), and were not representative of the BIA membership – who were never consulted on the matter for their input and direction. As a member of this BIA, I know this as a matter of course. The Lakeshore Village BIA has a long history of ignoring its members and their concerns and operating mostly 'in secret'. It must also be noted that the BIA president is not a resident of the community where the skating trail is proposed, so it will not affect him in any manner.

It is nice to see out City Councillor and associates inviting feedback on and demonstrating interest in improving and enhancing South Etobicoke.

It is very discouraging that the city ignores the pleas of the community and just plows ahead with

the condescending message of "We know what's best and how dare you question".

It would be a great idea to interest younger kids/teenagers to appreciate the outdoors.

It's not as if the City is not experiencing severe financial problems and can afford to waste taxpayers' money on frivolous expenditures (though that never appears to stop the City from doing so anyway). There are severe deficiencies in existing local recreational facilities and infrastructure that are long overdue for attention. The skating trail is an abundantly wasteful use of our money.

It seems residents that have only been here a short time are for it - they don't seem to understand the history and unique qualities of this park to say? From all over will come it is absurd - It's not a tourist attraction. One gentleman mentioned speed skating use - this proposal layout is not an oval. A speed skating oval is not surrounded by trees and speed skating is what it is; speed/ if these skaters use this facility at speed skating speeds you might be scraping these skaters off the trees. Speed skating and leisure skating are two different things. Think speed skating and leisure skaters on the trail at the same time? Train wreck!!

The lack of consideration given to operating expenses is very concerning

The lack of vision and lack of respect for green space. Why does he feel the need to destroy the natural beauty of the park? The most distressing to me is that he and many others don't recognize the incredible value of natural space, both for wildlife and for the citizens who learn from and enjoy it.

Let's do it!

Let's have a public consultation meeting where we as a community with our Councillor can come up with a whole vision not piece by piece for New Toronto. A skating trail will have minimal effects on the businesses on the Lakeshore. We need an overall plan for New Toronto. Let's spend our money wisely.

We do not need another skating rink, spend \$ on recreation centre at Lions Arena.

Our City administration has increased our taxes to help balance our city budget, why are we spending money on new projects instead of maintaining what we already have in our community?

Our community NEEDS a fully-functional recreation centre for our beautiful young people who are often neglected and overlooked.

Please consider using this money along with the funds proposed to expand Father Redman gym expansion to retrofit the Lakeshore lions Arena into a full gym, and community for the youth of Lakeshore south Etobicoke. The Daniels group has provided over 1 Million towards a community center and giving this money to TCDSB doesn't comply with the original agreement for the use of these funds.

Please recognize that there is support from the community. Those not in favour represent an older demographic - clearly. Those not in support are very organized and opinionated. They do not represent the whole community at all.

So the obvious question is why can't the money being allotted for this Skate trail be put instead to something which has been clearly identified as a social need in the area and which would also be a place which could bring people together so that discussions on other developments in the area could be carried in a calm and thorough manner.

Some current infrastructure is in need of improvement and some additional facilities or programs would be more useful than the skate path even for bringing people down to the area.
example - Amos Waites Pool needs replacing, The rink\tennis court at Prince of Wales park would benefit from Shade Sails or some such to adjust light melting ice in winter, provide sun protection in summer and to keep water off the summer surface. This pad is poorly drained and unusable for days after a rain. The community would like a full gym recreation centre. The gazebo at the park at Long Branch could use an overhaul - the paint is caked in spots and what could be a charming focus point is unimaginatively treated to white slapped on paint - imagine what a few thousand dollars could do to improve this structure - pretty colour scheme, some gardens around. I could go on and on but you get the drift.

Thank you for your continuous efforts to improve Mimico's image.

The best thing to do, considering all the opposition to the concept put forward by reasonable, intelligent and concerned citizens, is to stop the building of the skating trail until the community has had a thorough visioning process.

The City needs to fix that so priorities line up where they should, FIX WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE SPENDING ON SOMETHING NEW!

The community is still waiting for a Colonel Sam Smith Park advisory committee, made up of residents and members of community associations, to work on solutions acceptable to the majority; why isn't this happening?

The June 5th meeting was a sorry excuse for a public meeting; where a project manager was the only City representative available to answer myriad questions from a concerned group of residents.

The marginalized families need a recreation centre. This issue is polarizing the 'haves' against the 'have-nots'. It could become a very destructive to the vitality of the Lakeshore community since the marginalized families and then promise of a 20,000 sq ft. facility negated by local planners is being ignored.

The money could be used to fix, maintain and staff what we have. Why not use the money to fix Amos Waites pool and upgrade the playground equipment. Why not use the \$1.9 million to increase the size of the half-gym to a three-quarters gym, or even a full gym?

The meeting was not informative as no technical or budgetary information was presented.

The need for a recreation/community centre has been expressed repeatedly for many years in this area. There is no dearth of places for those who wish to ice skate in this community to do so. To propose that money be borrowed to build a skating trail (which will be available for use 12 weeks of the year at best) through a beautiful passive park, when there are facilities in the area (including an outdoor rink) that are in dire need of maintenance, seems ill-advised at best.

The people have clearly stated that the area needs a real "Community Center" with programs for kids, seniors, adults, servicing a wider need in the community. When we have these needs, we can only hope when we are looking at a limited amount of money we would put the funds towards servicing a 12 month facility optimizing the space and promoting a healthy attitude in the community.

The residents have been promised a proper community centre; they expect pools and outdoor rinks to be operational for a full season and would like to be able to play tennis on decent courts.

The speaker continually used the word, "evolve" in clauses like, "as the plan evolves". Now my understanding of evolution is that natural selection is operative, where good ideas flourish and bad ideas die quickly. What does evolution mean in this case?

The youth need a Community center to direct their energy into positive activities.

There is not much point going to community meetings - my husband and our neighbours don't bother to go because they are just filled with people who want to shout down anything positive. Some people should remember they are not on council anymore.

This is a masterful plan and will benefit all.

This is a wonderful opportunity for families and the community.

This is needed and wanted prostitutes and drugs (etc) closed down.

This type of park can only promote a positive atmosphere in an area that has been branded negative. It will give the community the pride they have been lacking for so long.

Those opposed to this appear to be special interest groups that do not enjoy outdoor physical activity native to Canada i.e. skating.

We need another public meeting where the questions raised at the June 5th meeting and in the comments are answered in a public forum.

We need places to walk. If you want to do something constructive and healthy for the residents of Lakeshore, please get up to speed with Mississauga and GIVE US A LEASH FREE AREA!!!!

We share the skateboarders surprise and dismay that the City concedes that Colonel Samuel Smith Park/the Hospital Grounds is not the right place to pave over for a skateboard park, and then two years later concludes it is a good place to pave over for a skating trail. We believe the skateboard park Councillor Grimes promised to the community two years ago, needs to become a reality. The

City needs to work with the Ward 6 skateboarding community to find a good location and design and start building it. A skating trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park/the Hospital Grounds is a mistake that the community will pay for with a loss of a piece of a unique passive park. If the City must build the skating trail. Find a more appropriate location, one that a skating trail will really fit into. Don't ruin a wonderful, unique park.

What this community needs is a proper recreational facility that can be used by a diverse group of people for diverse purposes

Why is there no comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for Ward 6?

Wrong idea to build an artificially chilled trail at this time when we should adhere to Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change and reduce greenhouse gases.

APPENDIX E

IPetitions and Resident Petition (August 5th, 2008) Comments

IPETITION COMMENTS AND SIGNATURES

The petition

Mr. Stephen OBright C.E.T., O.A.L.A.,
Project Manager - Capital Projects,
Parks Development and Infrastructure Management
Metro Hall 24th Floor,
55 John Street,
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3C6

Dear Mr. OBright:

We the undersigned are FOR the proposed Ice-Skate Trail being located in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Etobicoke. We urge you to proceed with the proposed plan as soon as possible.

The naturalized ice-skate path will only occupy 12% of the park and is intended to be PART OF the naturalized setting, which is what makes it so attractive. This is a great opportunity for the community allowing residents to use the park during the winter months. Passive leisure skating among trees and nature is only one of MANY reasons Colonel Samuel Smith Park is the perfect location.

Its time for all voices from the Etobicoke Lakeshore Area to be heard on this matter.

Sincerely,

#	Name	Comments
1	Tracy Gibson	The "Opposition Group" supports the "idea" of the skate path, just not its location. We feel Colonel Sam Smith Park is the ideal location! The Power House has already been fitted with the garage to house the zamboni; and while it is in a beautiful naturalized setting, it is right on the edge of the park, close to a coffee shop, a high school, and a college. Therefore it is easily accessible by foot, car and public transportation and there is plenty of parking. The alternate locations that have been suggested just don't make sense. Prince of Wales Park at the bottom of Third Street would be open to the winds of Lake Ontario which can be very cold in the winter, there is not enough parking and is not as accessible by TTC. This naturalized ice skating path will only occupy 12% of the park and is intended to be PART OF the naturalized setting, which is what makes it so attractive, being able to skate amongst the trees and nature. This is what makes Samuel Smith the perfect location for this path. This skating path could not possibly have anywhere near the impact on the naturalized setting as the bike path does. All along the waterfront, very close to the pond, hundreds of people bike, walk, roller skate and skateboard, all summer long, yet no one

complained about that? The Ice Skating Trail in Colonel Samuel Smith Park is a fantastic opportunity for our community and we don't want to lose it! At a time when such efforts are being made to revitalize the Lakeshore Area a development such as this will not only improve the area and the enjoyment of the park, but strengthen our sense of community as families join together to enjoy this path and this park. There are thousands of families looking for healthy activities to enjoy together, as well as opportunities for their children to meet and play with other children in a healthy, safe environment. A leisurely skate through a treed area on a winter day truly embraces what it means to be Canadian, and the original intent of the naturalized park setting can be enjoyed by all! Having a facility that exists solely for the purpose of leisure skating in the winter is exactly what our community needs, and Colonel Samuel Smith Park is absolutely perfect for it! Let's ensure that all individuals of this community are heard! Pass this petition on to all your neighbors and friends!

2 Julian Gibson I think an Ice Skate Trail would be great! I could meet new friends and have lots of fun! I could skate with my mom and my aunt and we would have lots of fun too! This would be way better than playing on the road, much better skating in the trees. How long before its ready!!

3 Anonymous This is a great idea. Lots of family fun.

4 Tammy Heaney-Quick

5 Jen Magnus I attended the open house for the skate trail a few weeks ago to learn more about it. I has thought that since the project had been be approved by the City that it was a done deal. To my surprise I learned that there was a small very organized group opposed to the development in the park which was holding up the process. Like many of us I had heard about the project and was excited about a new attraction in our community and that it was designed mostly for winter use. What a great idea! People actually using the park in the winter. However, to my disappointment I learned that the trail may not be built due to the opposition of this group. If this project is to have a future in our community those that support it need to speak now! This is a great opportunity for our community. Currently there is opposition to the project which may jeopardize its future. Residents in support of the project need to rally together before the community loses this development and possible future projects. I have e-mailed my detailed comments to the Mayor and Mark Grimes as well as others. Please send them your comments as well. It's not too late to make this happen.

6 Lucy R.

7 Abby I totally support the skating trail. Change is hard but it is a great idea for this

		park that is not presently being used by the community.
8	T.	Yes I am in favour of the trail. Get it done!
9	Mike Thompson	As a young adult, my friends and I loved going to "Little Switzerland", an ice-skating park built by a private enterprise in Scarborough. We skated along winding lush tree-lined paths lit by old-fashioned lampposts. There were park benches spread throughout the trail and an area to buy hot chocolate and sit in a rest area. Man, was it a popular, fun spot to go with your wife, girlfriend/boyfriend or buddies in an idyllic setting with piped-in music playing on hidden speakers. If we can capture just a bit of that warm, fuzzy feeling with this new park it will be a hit with residents and visitors alike. We are so glad you have asked the quiet majority to be heard over the very vocal minority. The "Friends" and "Good Neighbours" seem to have their minds already made up to be against almost everything that comes along - to the point where meetings are unpleasant in which to participate. Thank you for starting this petition.
10	John Scheffer	A great project that will put our city on the map as a destination.
11	John Scheffer	A most imaginative project for a park that is very little used in the winter. To make it a real "destination" we need a Km at least
12	Theresa Thompson	Thanks for putting this petition together. I didn't know how I could get my voice heard over the 'loud' opposition. The Ice-Skate Trail will become a destination feature for our area.
13	Sharon Hamilton	This skating trail is a much needed asset for our community youth and families. I attended the meeting on June 5th and I think the concept is a wonderful addition to the park with minimal impact to the environment.
14	Sharon Hamilton	This skating trail is a much needed asset for our community youth and families. I attended the meeting on June 5th and I think the concept is a wonderful addition to the park with minimal impact to the environment.
15	Allan	I live near the park and go to school there. There is nothing to do down there so me and my friends don't use this park. This would be great and give us something to do. Thanks for giving us a chance to hear our side.
16	Hugo von Levetzow	
17	Sharon Hamilton	Please join this group as well in support of the skating trail...we need this for our community! : http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=15412489228 Spread the word and tell your friends and neighbours to join too! We need to speak loud and clear to the City that we want this in our neighbourhood!

18	Anonymous	I think a destination activity in New Toronto for the residents of Toronto will bring much needed exposure for the revitalization of the Lakeshore. The proposed plan looks amazing and the area would be more naturalized than it currently is.
19	Jenn Weatherall Larson	
20	Jennifer Sue	
21	Sandra Rasile	I think the skating rink is a wonderful idea mainly because it's in a setting of a park. It would make for a nice attraction and a lot of fun for the community.
22	Emily Grogan	
23	Jane Longo	
24	Adam Hughes	I think this is a very exciting plan for the park and the whole area, my family would be very happy to skate and ask friends to the neighbourhood to join us. I understand the objections to this plan but feel that with proper management and monitoring this could benefit the entire park and surrounding area(s).
25	Suzy Broderick	
26	Brian Booth	This is the second time that a loud minority has tried to prevent a recreation initiative. I believe that an environmental straw man argument is being used to prevent what is a social agenda. They don't want the lakefront to change in that area, but I would challenge any one of them to go anywhere near that area after dark.
27	Keith Hart	With great respect to parties wishing to preserve the natural character of the park, I support this compromise to bring more recreation to our area and more positive interest.
28	Rocco LiCalzi	
29	Bonnie Weatherall	This is a perfect route for residents of all of Toronto to be able to enjoy Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Yes, it will be great for Etobicoke, but once the word gets out regarding the fabulous location of the ice skate path, the whole city will be able to enjoy the great outdoors. After all what is better for the citizens of Toronto - to sit and watch television in the winter or be able to go along the ice path which will be partially protected from the winds off of Lake

		Ontario enough so that they can enjoy the location. Colonel Samuel Smith Park is the only location which must be considered.
30	trish gibson	i think its an excellent idea.
31	Anonymous	
32	Anonymous	
33	Scott Waddell	I think the skating trail will contribute to the great appeal of this area as the best place in the city for year round outdoor recreation by the lake. Local businesses will benefit, and I think that many more will be drawn to the community. I expect that as presented in the community meeting, the City will deliver on its commitment at the meeting to work with and add to the existing green space.
34	Ike Mahilum	This is taking up such a small area of the park, it is not effecting the natural environment but allowing residents to enjoy it and get exercize in the winter as well as the summer. Lighting will be no more than what is already used along paths and the road. Music is not required
35	Kenny	Yes to the trail in Col. Sam Smith Park
36	Mike	It seems no matter what comes up that is good for the community there is a small group that wants to fight it. I question their purpose. This is a good idea
37	Guy Robinson	
38	Lynda Magnus	Great idea! Good family fun.
39	John Grogan	
40	Beth Denley	We need more green spaces instead of development everywhere
41	carole	I agree with the trail at this park
42	Audrey	there is enough room on the grounds for everyone to be happy
43	Anonymous	Support physical activity for our next generation. With child obesity at its highest, any community support to encourage outside physical activity should be embraced and not challenged.
44	Lynn	Please, send this to your friends and neighbors, talk it up and gain support for this project, if we lose this we may not see another opportunity in our area. It

		takes a lot of money to plan, present and progress on these projects and if this community is always just a waste of time...they will stop trying to send these opportunities to this neighborhood.
45	George Demkiw	
46	Patricia Isaac	I do not understand the opposition - I cannot skate (probably break something if I tried) - but this sounds like a great idea and one that should be encouraged at all levels.
47	Anonymous	
48	Anonymous	
49	Cindy Gibson	What a great way to enjoy the park, get active, and appreciate our unique setting. Great idea!
50	Anonymous	
51	Cheryl Hauser	This would be a community asset. I support it completely.
52	Anonymous	My wife and I would to get out and enjoy the winter months more and a skating path would be the perfect venue for that. The cost to the habitat would be minimal and in fact would get more people to enjoy and then help to protect the environment. If Miller doesn't spend the 1.9 million in the south lakeshore area, he most certainly find some other place to spend it.
53	Figen Smith	It seems only the "nay sayers" are getting heard. This is a great idea provided it is properly planned, executed and managed. Let's support Etobicoke Lakeshore growth!

RESIDENT PETITION AGUST 5TH, 2008 COMMENTS AND SIGNATURES

4 Dominion Road,
Toronto, Ont. M8W 1J1
Aug. 5 / 2008

To whom it may concern,

Dear members of Lura Consulting;

On June 5th I attended a public meeting re the proposed construction of a skating trail in the Col. Samuel Smith Park in south Etobicoke. At the meeting we were asked to hand in a sheet stating our opinions. I strongly objected to this project since it would require the removal of trees, the disturbance of tree roots in order to level the trail and artificial refrigeration which would be costly and would have to be constantly inspected to make sure it wouldn't leak chemicals into the ground, and eventually into the lake.

The zambone, lighting and music would frighten the wild animals and the many species of birds that inhabit the park, driving them away, and maybe even causing wild animals to invade neighbouring gardens and prey on domestic pets.

The proposed hot chocolate concession would result in litter throughout the park.

Much of the park has been lost to large buildings and the small area left should be left in peace.

The following petition has been signed by friends, acquaintances and neighbours of mine. They either did not receive a notice of the meeting or were unable to attend. Apart from myself, none of them to my knowledge have previously voiced their opinions, and do not belong to any organized group opposing the trail.

Copies of this petition are being sent to –

Mayor David Miller

Steven O'Bright, project co-ordinator

Lura Consulting

Councillor Mark Grimes – Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ward 6

Councillor Peter Milczyn – Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ward 5

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker – environmental advisor to Mark Grimes

-Adelaide Bell (Ms.)

June 17th, 2008-08-20

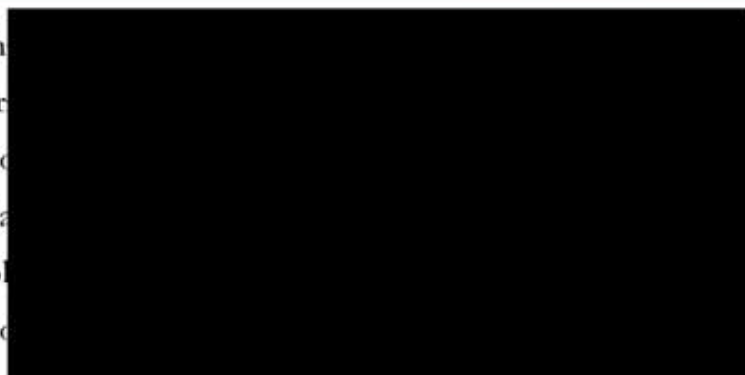
PETITION

We, the undersigned, wish the Colonial Samuel Smith Park to remain a natural wildlife sanctuary and strongly object to the construction of a skating trail on this site.

**NAMES CONCEALED
TO PROTECT
PRIVACY**

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APPENDIX F

Urban Forestry Review

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Brenda Librecz, General Manager

Urban Forestry
50 Booth Avenue, 2nd floor
Toronto, Ontario M4M 2M2

Tel: (416) 392-7384
Fax: (416) 392-7277

Stephen O'bright
Project Co-ordinator
PDIM Branch

June 20, 2008

Greetings Stephen-

Further to your June 19, 2008 communication to Brian Mercer, of our Tree Protection and Plan Review Section, this is to confirm the following:

1/

The Urban Forestry-TPPR comments provided to you on October 4, 2007, included both an attachment from Brian Mercer, titled "*Proposed Ice Skating Trail – Colonel Samuel Smith Park - Potential Tree Conflicts*", as well as some summary comments from myself related to our Sections' likely position, should this proposal proceed further.

2/

The general information provided to you by myself included "general acceptance" of the proposal, as provided to us in a conceptual plan; and included a potential mandatory tree replacement ratio, that would be required to be secured from the applicant in a form of financial security acceptable to Urban Forestry.

3/

The information provided to you was provided as internal comments for your information, based on the information provided to our group at an earlier site meeting and subsequent conversations. It included our requirements of adequate site supervision to be provided by others, as well as confirmation that the applicant would be required to perform the proposed tree removal and tree replacement work.

4/

Should this project proceed, please provide Urban Forestry with details of the final design being proposed, so that Urban Forestry can review our preliminary requirements.

Regards,

Mark Procunier
Manager, Tree Protection and Plan Review
Urban Forestry Branch
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Proposed Ice Skating Trail – Colonel Samuel Smith Park

Potential Tree Conflicts

