

Walk-through of the future site of the Waterdown Platinum Jubilee Treaty Forest

March 2nd, 2022

10:45am

In attendance: Councillor Judi Partridge, Veronica McMullen, Eugene Kahgee, Cindy Kahgee, Lorne McArthur, Garry Flood, Shelly Hill, Caleb Gibbons, Kara Bunn, Jennifer DiDomenico, Dave Lester, Rachel Poulton, Jacob Zrostek, Shaylene Gray, Serena Shepherd-Pereira, Amelia Zanatta, Ruby DuPreez, Peter deBoer (Hamilton Fire Department)

1. Introductions. Nathan Tidridge provided a brief overview of the project and informed team that representatives of the Mississaugas of the Credit will tour the area at a later date.
2. Nathan brought forward the news that if the dedication ceremony is held on June 18th we will be able to include more dignitaries, including some representatives of Commonwealth Nations. We agreed that the dedication ceremony will be held on June 18th, 2022, and will include the ceremonial planting of trees.
3. Group did a walk-through of the location, selecting a location for a centrepiece tree (possibly planted by the Prince's Trust Canada). The suggested species is a White Pine (will confirm with the Mississaugas of the Credit).
4. Eugene Kahgee and Shelly Hill determined a location for the Sacred Fire, facing east. Map will be updated & run past the Mississaugas of the Credit. Eugene & Cindy Kahgee took Shelly Hill and Peter deBoer to visit the Souharissen Natural Area.

Actions:

- The dedication of the Platinum Jubilee Treaty Forest will be **11:00am on June 18th, 2022**. This event will be open to the public and include members of the Mississaugas of the Credit Giima and Council, City of Hamilton officials, and other dignitaries (T.B.D.).
 - A private reception will be held for students and VIPs beforehand at 8 Mays Crescent at 10am (coffee and refreshments provided).

- Students will be extending a personal invitation to the Giima and Council, as well as the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.
 - Veronica McMullen will co-ordinate invitations to City Officials.
- Students will begin their committee work as determined by Student Chair Marissa Izzo.
- Lorne McArthur (Superintendent Forestry, City of Hamilton) has given Nathan a list of the tree species available for planting by the City of Hamilton. Species selection needs to be done by students (with Mississaugas of the Credit) by March 31st, 2022.
 - Trees will be planted in phases over the spring, culminating in a ceremonial planting of the White Pine (if approved) on June 18th, 2022.
- The central tree has been selected as a White Pine (which was the original species that inhabited this region before settlers arrived). This selection needs to be approved by the Mississaugas of the Credit.