

Use of West Channel Watercourse - Stakeholder Meeting Results

Date: October 2, 2017

To: City Council

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 14 - Parkdale-High Park and Ward 19 - Trinity-Spadina

SUMMARY

At its meeting on September 26, 2017, Executive Committee directed the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to meet with the stakeholders to determine if there is alternative resolution and report directly to City Council on October 2, 2017. This report provides the results of the meeting.

The stakeholders agreed to share the West Channel during CNE based on the hours they need in a manner that minimizes impact to all parties. The agreed hours of use will be incorporated into appropriate license agreement or permits and will be reviewed annually. There will be no additional motor towed events in the West Channel outside CNEA use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that City Council delete Executive Committee recommendations 1, 2 and 3, and adopt instead the following:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to issue a license agreement to CNEA and permits to other users, for use of the West Channel waterway based on the hours attached and review the needs of stakeholders annually, and that no other motor use of the West Channel waterway be allowed as the above noted schedule exceeds the Council directed limit of 10 days.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2014, through PE28.1, City Council voted to restrict the hosting of motorboat-towed competitions and events within the West Channel to a combined total maximum of 10 days per calendar year, including all days which interrupt public use, so as to ensure access to and quiet enjoyment of the surrounding parkland by residents.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PE28.1>

At its meeting of September 27, 2017, through EX27.7 Executive Committee directed the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to meet with the Canadian National Exhibition Association, Exhibition Place and appropriate stakeholders to determine if there is alternative resolution and report directly to City Council on October 2, 2017.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX27.7>

COMMENTS

On September 29, 2017, a meeting was convened by Parks Forestry and Recreation with stakeholders of the Marilyn Bell Park West Channel Watercourse. Attendees included representatives from Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR), Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA), Argonaut Rowing Club, Sunnyside Paddling Club, Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club, Great White North Dragon Boats, West End Beaches Stakeholders' Association (WEBSA), Toronto Sport & Social Club, Dragon Boat Canada, Councillor Gord Perks' Office and, the Mayor's Office.

The intent of the meeting was to address the needs of the stakeholders pertaining to scheduling of events, supporting infrastructure and safety concerns in the West Channel during the CNE. The CNEA annually hosts motor-towed boating events beginning the second week of August through to Labour Day weekend of early September. These events limit and have the potential to conflict with flatwater users.

Current Water Channel Users and Activities

There are four permitted users of the West Channel:

CNEA: Presents annual waterfront programming, including motor-towed shows, for an 18-day period (the "CNE Period") during CNE. CNEA requires access to West Channel for set up and removal before and after the CNE. Setup for these events begins on the second weekend in August. The four days leading to the opening and the opening day of CNE requires rehearsal time by the Motor-Towed Show participants. After the CNE opens, two shows are presented each day and are approximately one-half hour in length. Show start times are 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. In some years, they host additional flat water events such as wakeboard and waterski events in partnership with Use of West Channel Watercourse - Stakeholder Meeting Results

various sport organizing bodies such as the World Wakeboard Association and possibly other entertainment and cultural organizations. The wakeboard and waterski events have been reintroduced the waterfront program after a hiatus of approximately 25 years. This was made possible by the improvements to the channel as part of the TO 2015 Pan and ParaPan Am Games.

Argonaut Rowing Club: Provides day camp programming from 8:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M. throughout weekdays through the third week of August. Programming time and weeks overlap with CNEA boat shows. Argonaut RC annually host a regatta known as Hogtown Heat on the 2nd or 3rd Sunday in August. Additionally, members of the club and passive users frequently practice during the weekdays from 5:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.

Sunnyside Paddling Club and Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club: Members of these clubs and passive users practice during the weekdays from 5:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. and weekends from 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Great White North: Hosts annual Great White North Dragon Boat Challenge. The 2018 Dragon Boat Challenge is scheduled to start 10:00 A.M., September 8, 9, with set-up beginning on September 4, the Tuesday after Labour Day.

Shared-use Principles

At the meeting on September 29, 2017, the parties agreed to share the West Channel with minimal impact on all parties' activities. In addition, all parties agreed to a meeting prior to the CNE as well as a post-CNE debrief to evaluate the success of the arrangement.

Setup & Installation of Docks and Ramps

CNE opens on Fridays. CNEA needs to install docks and ramps and allow the Motor-boat towed participants to rehearse for 4 days in advance of the Friday opening. CNEA has agreed that all installation of docks and ramps is to be completed during the weekend prior to the waterfront show rehearsals, weather permitting. For 2018, this will be the August 11, 12.

Docks and/or ramps are to remain in position (i.e. not moved to the wall unless required for servicing or a temporary conversion is required for a competitive event) for the duration of the CNE. Flat water users paddling near the wall and ramps tied to wall would be a hazard.

The CNEA agreed that if a dock is to be installed at the western end of the West Channel, as a means to reduce wave action, that in hours when it is not used, it will be pulled back to a position parallel with the shore wall.

All docks, jumps and ramps are to be illuminated at night as well as one hour after sunrise, and one hour before sunset, with lights that are a minimum of 1200 lumens.

CNEA Boat Shows Rehearsal

CNEA will be granted use of the West Channel from 8:00 A.M to 6:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. for rehearsals in the four-five days leading to the opening day of the Use of West Channel Watercourse - Stakeholder Meeting Results

CNE. The rehearsal days will have the greatest potential for conflict and will be monitored for 2018 to determine impact. Rehearsal days for 2018 are scheduled for August 13, 14, 15, 16 and until the start time of the initial motor-towed boat show on Friday, August 17 and will conflict with a week of camp where registrations are highest.

CNEA Motor-towed Boat Shows

CNE has two motor-boat towed shows per day. In order to accommodate day camps which end at 3:00 P.M., CNE agreed to move its shows to 3:30 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. start times to ensure safety and full access to West Channel for Argonaut Rowing Club's day camp participants. Motor boat towed shows for 2018 are scheduled August 17 to September 3, inclusive.

CNEA has agreed to communicate to motor boat operators associated with their event on a new turning protocol at the west end of the channel. It is agreed that softer turns, including boats coming to a full stop prior to turning, will reduce the amount of waves that are directed towards flatwater users west of the channel.

In the event there is interest by media to film prior to the scheduled start time, CNEA will notify WEBSA in advance.

Dragon Boat Challenge

Great White North annually hosts a Dragon Boat Regatta event on the weekend after Labour Day. In its 25th year, the event will be held on September 8th and 9th, 2018. This event does not conflict with CNE with set-up beginning on September 4, the Tuesday after Labour Day.

Hogtown Heats Regatta

The Argonaut Rowing Club annually hosts The Hogtown Heats Regatta. This volunteer run event, that has a 31 year history, will be given priority scheduling for future years. For 2018, the event is scheduled on Sunday August 26 from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Communication and Signage

In addition to the scheduling compromises, Parks Forestry & Recreation is committed to working with stakeholders to improve signage during the event that will clarify event schedules and activities during the peak programming times. This will include large signs placed on the breakwall and on the shore wall where flatwater users can be appraised of the times of the motor boat towed competitions and events so that the flatwater users can safely avoid the area when shows are underway. There will be an issues resolution process including contact information for parties using the West Channel for any issues.

Meetings

Parties will meet prior to the CNE during the week of rehearsals and immediately after the CNE in September for an evaluation on how the shared use of the West Channel worked.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the meeting, the participants agreed on a shared use that minimizes impact to parties. As the motor boat towed events during CNE use exceeds the 10 day limit, no further motor boat towed events will be permitted in the West Channel for the remainder of the year.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table of Scheduling Framework for CNEA License Agreement and West Channel Permits

Attachment 1: Table of Scheduling Framework for CNEA License Agreement and West Channel Permits

Week/Date	Permit / Licensed Times	Activity
Weekend before CNE - CNEA Use	9:00 A.M – 12:00 A.M.	Installation of docks, ramps and jumps.
Weekend before CNE - Other Users	All day	Available for Permits and public and clubs recreational use outside docks set up area
4 weekdays before CNE Opens - CNEA Use	8:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. 9:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.	Boat show rehearsals.
4 weekdays before CNE Opens - Other Users	6:30 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.	Public and clubs recreational use
Opening Friday of CNE - CNEA Use	8:00 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.	Boat show rehearsals.
During CNE -CNEA Use	3:15 P.M - 6:45 P.M. 9:00 P.M - 12:00 A.M.	CNE Boat Shows. CNE Night Programming. 6:45 - 9:00 gap for public recreational use.
During CNE - Argonauts Use	8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.	Daily Camps
During CNE - Hogtown Heats Regatta One Sunday in August during CNE	7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Argonaut Rowing Club Hogtown Heats Regatta
CNE Move out and Dragon Boat Challenge Set Up (Day after CNE closes)	All day	Available for public use recreational use outside set up areas
Week after CNE	All day	Available for Permits and public and clubs recreational use
Weekend after CNE Dragon Boat Challenge	6:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M.	Dragon Boat Challenge Permitted Use