

Bandshell Park - Stage 1 Archaeological Study

Date: June 19, 2017
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Dianne Young, Chief Executive Officer
Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

A Request for Proposal for a Stage 1 Archaeological Study of Bandshell Park (including the Rose Garden) was released on September 9, 2016 (RFP No. 9176-16-1771). The study was required as part of due diligence prior to any construction or land alterations on the property. Three proponents submitted proposals with the successful proponent being AECOM Canada Ltd. AECOM recently completed its final draft report on Bandshell Park (Attachment 1) although, as required by Provincial legislation, this report must still be reviewed by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports. This Stage I report provides a comprehensive assessment of the property from an archaeological perspective. It finds that while some areas within Bandshell Park are deeply disturbed and would not require additional archaeological assessment, some areas retain archaeological potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place receive this report for its information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no negative financial implications of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Exhibition Place 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan has a Recognition and Public Understanding Goal to reaffirm and enhance the profile of the Exhibition Place cultural mandate and as a Strategy enhance our archeological understanding of the site through assessment and development of heritage plans.

COMMENTS

The requirements of the Request for Proposal included the following objectives:

- determine the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites;
- determine the original environmental setting of the site;
- determine the nineteenth and twentieth century development history of the site;
- determine the Aboriginal archaeological resource potential; and
- determine the Euro-Canadian archaeological resource potential.

All activities were to be carried out in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports' 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTC 2011). AECOM undertook extensive background research using documentary sources (including *A Master Plan of Archaeological Resources for the City of Toronto*, 2004), historic maps, detailed mapping and satellite imagery. It also conducted a Stage 1 field review on January 31, 2017.

The results of the Stage 1 assessment indicate that some of the lands within the study area appear to have been disturbed by past development and require no further archaeological assessment. However, there are large portions which are disturbed but which still retain archaeological potential. This is based on the presence of the Fort Rouillé site, the potential for a cemetery related to Fort Rouillé, the designated historic Scadding Cabin, the proximity of historical events such as the Battle of York during the War of 1812 and certain physiographic features, such as Lake Ontario. Due to landfill within Bandshell Park, especially the area between the flagpole and the Fort Rouillé monument, the archaeological potential in some portions is possibly deeply buried and would be subject to a Stage 2 assessment prior to any future construction disturbances. This would include test pitting in areas near built structures if those areas cannot be avoided during construction activity.

See attached report, Section 7, Figure 6 for a map indicating areas which should be subject to test pitting and a Stage 2 archaeological study (marked in green), areas that are deeply disturbed and require no further archaeological assessment (marked in red), and areas where monitoring would be required prior to any new construction in the area (marked in orange) and where a Stage 2 assessment may also be required.

CONTACT

Hardat Persaud, Chief Financial Officer & Corporate Secretary, 416-263-3031,
hpersaud@explace.on.ca

SIGNATURE

Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment "A" - AECOM Canada Ltd., Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of Bandshell Park, Exhibition Place, RPF No. 16-072-67201, May 26, 2017