



# TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

# REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities  
**DATE:** 07/03/2016  
**SUBJECT:** Blyth Greenway Trail Lease Extension and Amending Agreement #2  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Draft Lease Extension Agreement, G to G Huron County Report #5

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby direct staff to prepare an authorizing by-law to sign the Lease Extension and Amending Agreement #2 between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure and the Township of North Huron for the land used for the Blyth Greenway Trail.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This land lease was originally signed in June 2007. This is the second extension of the current lease agreement. The new lease will run from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2021 (five years).

Attached is a copy of the lease extension and the most recent report from Huron County on the G to G Trail initiative. This is provided as background information for North Huron Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Province owns the lands of the former Guelph to Goderich Rail Line running through the Town of Blyth. The area described in the lease is approximately 22.614 acres which are mapped out in Schedule A of the lease agreement, to be used for the Blyth Greenway Trail.

Specific updates or changes in the new agreement include the following:

- The rent is increased from \$200 per annum to \$325 per annum.
- The mapping of the leased lands was updated to reflect more accurately the actual lands used by the Blyth Greenway Trail
- The local North Huron Snow Mobile Club uses part of the trail for their groomed trail system in the winter. This was an understanding between the municipality and the snow mobile club, however there is no record of this being formalized. The new lease extension now permits the Township to enter into a sub-Agreement with any member club of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs allowing for access to the leased premises for recreational snowmobiling purposes. This permits the Township of North Huron to negotiate the terms of that usage, and formalize that in an agreement. The Township is liable for usage of the trail by the snowmobile club, so a memorandum of understanding, transferring liability and outlining insurance requirements is recommended.
- The bridge (the Arch) at the east end of the trail will be required to undergo bridge inspections as per the *Standards for Bridges, O.Reg. 104/97*. The Province has permitted the Township to delay the first inspection to 2017 to coincide with the Township's regular bridge inspection schedule. The estimated expense for the inspections are \$500 for inspections every two years, and \$250 alternate years for safety review. Should repairs be

required to keep the bridge open for pedestrian or snowmobile use, the Township has the option to close the access to the bridge or perform the repairs. Should repairs be required for safe use under the bridge for pedestrians, the Township will be required to perform the repairs or find a suitable alternative satisfactory to the Province (i.e. re-route the trail).

- The lease extension acknowledges that the Province is negotiating with the County of Huron to consolidate all recreational leases along the G to G trail with the County as the Tenant. The Province will have the right to terminate this lease, in favor of the County. The County will be permitted to enter into a new agreement permitting use of the trail system.
- Administrative changes relating to contact details for the Provinces' representative.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The increase in rent of \$125 per annum plus the bridge inspection expense of approx.. \$500 in 2017, 2019 and approx. \$250 in 2018 and 2020.

### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

At this time, the Province has leased out the unleased portions of the Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail to G to G Inc. in order to perform work and open sections of the trail as they are able. Simultaneously the County is working with the Province and G to G Inc. to take over the entire lease. During the time of this lease renewal period, events will likely play out that will impact the terms of use of the lands currently being used for the Blyth Greenway Trail. Staff anticipate that options will be presented in the future to either transfer the trail operations to the County or to negotiate a sub-lease agreement with the County to continue to operate the Blyth Greenway Trail. Council will be kept informed on the progress of any negotiations that we are made aware of.

Staff are working on setting up a meeting with the representatives of the G to G Inc. group to communicate progress on opening sections of the trail that bookend the Blyth Greenway Trail, and to keep communications flowing between all the parties. This is a proactive step so that Blyth will benefit from any event or maintenance on the portions of the trail leased by G to G. Council will be kept informed.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Our community is attractive to new businesses and residents.  
Our natural environment is valued and protected.

“original signed by”

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Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and  
Facilities

“original signed by”

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Sharon Chambers, CAO