

**FINANCING THE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT:**

Funding of \$172,500 under the Federal Millennium Partnership Program was approved in the Spring of 1999. This represents 1/3 of the project cost of \$517,500. City Council approved a matching \$172,500 as part of the 2000 Capital Budget. The remaining 1/3 is to be raised from the community through corporate donors, special events, service clubs and individual donations. To date, more than \$40,000 has been raised from the community. This relatively low fund raising amount can be attributed to the number of other worthwhile fund raising campaigns ongoing in the City and some uncertainty of the status of the trail due to concerns raised by residents residing adjacent the trail.

**COMMENTS FROM NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS:**

A Public Open House was held on the Millennium Trail at the Niagara Falls Public Library on October 27, 1999. Since that time, the City has received some 45 objection letters and comment sheets from residents living adjacent the Millennium Trail. Many of the objections received are from residents living in the areas between Drummond Road and Dorchester Road and from Royal Manor Drive and Strathmore Crescent (Phases 3 and 4). The concerns were addressed in Report R-99-75 entitled Proposed Millennium Trail along the Ontario Hydro Power Canal - Summary of Resident Comments. A copy of this report was provided to Council previously. There has been letters and comment sheets received since the preparation of Report R-99-75. An updated list of residents living adjacent to the trail and those indicating opposition or concerns are as follows:

**Phase 1 - Whirlpool Road to Thorold Stone Road**

- No residents adjacent to the trail.

**Phase 2 - Thorold Stone Road to Portage Road and Morrison Street**

- There are about 7 residential properties located along the southerly portion of the trail along Portage Road near Morrison Street. One objection has been received.

**Phase 3 - Drummond Road to Dorchester Road**

- Carolyn Avenue - there are 18 residential properties that are adjacent the trail and 11 are opposed.
- Carisa Court - there are 4 residential properties that are adjacent the trail and 3 are opposed.
- Woodside Drive - there are 6 residential properties that are adjacent the trail and 3 are opposed.

**Phase 4 - Royal Manor Drive to Lundy's Lane**

- Windsor Crescent - 10 residential properties are adjacent the trail and 6 are opposed.
- Strathmore Crescent - 11 residential properties are adjacent the trail and 10 are opposed.

**Phase 5 (Revised) - Lundy's Lane to McLeod Road**

- no residential properties adjacent the trail.

**Phase 6 (Revised) - McLeod Road to Dorchester Road**

- a proposed change is for trail to be located on the west side of the Ontario Hydro Power Canal rather than the east side.
- no residential properties are adjacent to the trail on the west side.

Total residents adjacent to the trail is 56 and number opposed based upon letters and comment sheets received on the trail is 34.

A Public Meeting was held on March 1, 2000 at the Niagara Falls Public Library. This meeting was scheduled to hear from people who had questions and concerns on the trail. There were approximately 100 people who attended the Public Meeting. In addition to the area residents who were opposed to the trail, there were people present who were supportive from the City's Trails & Bikeway Committee, City's Recreation Commission, Heart Health, Track Niagara, Niagara Parks Commission and local citizens.

**IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:**

Due to low amount of funds raised through sponsorships and donations to date, it is recommended that development of the Millennium Trail proceed south of Lundy's Lane to Dorchester Road (revised Phases 5 and 6). This area consists of a very wide and natural corridor with no physical limitations with the development of a trail. There has been interest in developing the area between Lundy's Lane and McLeod Road as a paved trail and this possibility is being investigated. In continuing the Millennium Trail on the west side of the Hydro Power Canal south of McLeod Road, a pedestrian bridge will be necessary to connect with Dorchester Road. The pedestrian bridge is a feature that will be planned in the longer term because of the current funding situation. The major positives in developing the southerly portion of the trail in the near future are as follows:

- it will enable the City to start the Millennium Trail with the monies that are now available.
- it will enable the City to monitor the use of the trail and record any incidents or problems.
- in seeing the trail being physically developed, it will assist in the fund raising efforts to build Phases 1 and 2 of the trail.

Following the development of the Phases 5 and 6 of the trail, it is recommended that Phases 1 and 2 be developed from Whirlpool Road to Morrison Street.