



INCORPORATED 1855

# TOWN OF WHITBY REPORT

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

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<b>REPORT TO: Operations Committee</b>	<b>REPORT NO: CMS 59-12</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING: 1 October 2012</b>	<b>FILE NO(S):</b>
<b>PREPARED BY: Community and Marketing Services</b>	<b>LOCATION: Intrepid Park</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE/SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Intrepid Park and "Camp X"</b>

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### 1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Community and Marketing Services Report CMS 59-12 be received;
2. That Council authorize Staff to issue a Parks Permit(s) and Film Permit(s) to address the proposed occupancy at Intrepid Park for the archaeological and re-enactment portions of the filming planned by the History Channel regarding a television series on "Camp X"; and,
3. That Staff report back to Council regarding the installation of the Parks Canada plaque designating "Camp X" as a National Historic Event once details are available, and on the proposed Town of Whitby park sign(s) for Intrepid Park.

### 2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Community and Marketing Services Report CMS 59-12 summarizes some of the initiatives proposed to assist in the promotion of Intrepid Park and the designation of "Camp X" as a National Historic Event. Further, the History Channel has approached the Community and Marketing Services Department regarding the production of a television series on "Camp X". The History Channel is seeking approval to access the site in the Fall of 2012 and in 2013.

### 3.0 ORIGIN:

At the Council meeting held on March 26, 2012 the designation of "Camp X" as a National Historic Event was raised under New and Unfinished Business. Community and Marketing Services staff were directed to investigate means of publicizing the designation and the importance of the site and to advise Council. The Community and

Marketing Services Department has just been contacted by the History Channel interested in researching and filming a television series on “Camp X”.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND:**

“Camp X” was a training school for secret agents during World War II. It was located on the Whitby-Oshawa border. Portions of the former training site lie within what is presently Intrepid Park in Whitby.

Although “Camp X” was decommissioned, the operation of the training school for secret agents and of the Hydra Communications hub in the Allied war effort makes it a defining historic event. Between 1941 and 1946, the British Special Operations Executive under the leadership of Sir William Stephenson—known as “The Man Called Intrepid” - trained recruits from several Allied countries. “Camp X” was also the location of an advanced communications centre, referred to as Hydra, where top-secret intelligence communications were handled between Canada, the United States and Great Britain.

In March 2012 Parks Canada designated “Camp X” a National Historic Event.

#### **5.0 DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:**

The following provides a brief summary of some of the activities surrounding Intrepid Park, “Camp X” and the Parks Canada designation.

A press release was forwarded to the media in March 2012 to coincide with the Parks Canada announcement. The release was also posted on the Town’s website.

The Municipality is currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Town’s waterfront parks and open space. Phase 2 of the study is now complete in draft and is available for public comment. A public workshop will be held on October 2, 2012 to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the consultant’s Phase 2 findings. The Town’s consultant is very much aware of the significance of “Camp X” and the final draft Waterfront Parks and Open Space Master Plan will include recommendations on how to increase the interpretive and tourism value of the site.

##### **History Channel Filming**

Community and Marketing Services Department Staff have been contacted by Dr. K. Hull, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Services Inc. and Alexander McIntosh of Yap Films. They are preparing a project on behalf of the History Channel. The project would involve a 4 part television series regarding “Camp X”. The program would focus upon archaeological work proposed to be undertaken at the site (Intrepid Park). The television series would also provide historical background through re-enactment. The archaeological investigation would cover the following items:

- Attempt to locate by scanning former escape tunnels and excavate a typical cross section
- Identify by scanning the foundations of the main buildings
- Send a camera into foundation voids if they exist
- Examine some of the explosives craters on site, and
- Use side sonar to investigate the waters off the shoreline especially for a lost mini-submarine

The team from the History Channel wish to begin in early October with the initial scan of the site. It is noted that the scan is non-invasive and does not require digging.

This is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Whitby and Intrepid Park. Firstly the television series would heighten awareness of the site and its significance. Secondly, with respect to economic development, filming over a prolonged period of time and works at the site would result in expenditures in the local economy. Finally, Staff have requested that if the project moves ahead, that the film products be possibly made available to the Town for municipal use, be it tourism, education or economic development.

The History Channel would have great interest in the former "Camp X" building located on the lands owned by the Town of Whitby and occupied by the Town's Animal Services on Thickson Road. The building is the only remaining structure from the original "Camp X" site. LACAC has recommended the building be relocated in the future to Intrepid Park, to be used possibly as an interpretive centre. There are no plans to relocate the building currently.

The History Channel initiative would be subject to the Town's film location permit policy and parks permit. All of the necessary safeguards would be required, including insurance, hold harmless agreement(s), safety controls during work and filming, financial security for restoration, notice for disruption/interference of park service, etc. The film work would be undertaken in two portions with permits required for both. The first would involve the non-evasive works planned in October. The second would involve filming of excavation sites as well as filming of re-enactment on site, primarily in 2013. If the History Channel intends to also film at the location of the remaining "Camp X" building, the Town's Film Permit would as well include the Thickson Road site.

#### Park Sign Replacement

Intrepid Park was identified by an old style park sign. The sign was in poor repair and there were a number of complaints about its condition, considering the significance of the site. Operations Staff removed the sign based upon the complaints. Staff will order a new park sign consistent with the Council adopted park sign design. This can be replaced in the spring of 2013 in the next round of park sign replacements.

The standard park sign lists the park name and the establishment date. However, the standard sign would not convey any information about the significance of this historic site. Staff are recommending that an additional sign(s) be placed below the standard sign to denote that this is the site of the former "Camp X".

CMS Staff will consult with Planning Staff and the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee with respect to appropriate information for the additional sign. The final proposed sign(s) would be presented to Council for approval.

#### Parks Canada Plaque and National Historic Event

Staff have been in contact with Parks Canada. Parks Canada will be preparing proposed wording for a commemorative plaque for the site. The wording is reviewed by a Parks Canada panel as well as the host municipality (Whitby). Once approved, Parks Canada will produce a bronze plaque. The plaque should be located in Intrepid Park. There would be an unveiling event held once the plaque is installed. Discussions with Parks Canada indicate that this would not occur until 2013. The proposed location of the plaque and development of Intrepid Park as an enhanced tourism site would flow from the Waterfront Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Staff will bring forward a recommendation to Council on the location of the plaque as part of the sign recommendation noted above.

#### QR Vignette

Community and Marketing Services Staff met with Tourism Staff from the Region of Durham. Town Staff enquired as to the possibility of filming a vignette to highlight the significance of Intrepid Park. The suggestion was developed for two principle reasons. Firstly although the Waterfront Parks and Open Space Master Plan will make recommendations regarding the site, due to budget and the setting of waterfront capital priorities, improvements may be some time off. Secondly, due to the prevalence of hand held devices which can access the World Wide Web, Staff felt that a Quick Response (QR) Code could be posted on a sign to provide easy access to web based material. Not only would this be relatively inexpensive it would also make use of the new technology.

At the same time, the Region of Durham Tourism Section was able to provide funding for filming of a clip which could be accessed by this means. The film producer retained by the Region filmed portions of the Doors Open tour at Intrepid Park. This was produced into a 7 minute vignette. This film vignette is available for use by the Town as a promotional opportunity.

#### **6.0 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS/PLAN:**

A communications plan would be developed for the installation of the Parks Canada plaque.

## **7.0 CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **A. PUBLIC**

The initiatives discussed in this report would increase the public's awareness of the historic events which occurred at "Camp X", as well as the fact that a portion of the original site is available for public access at Intrepid Park.

### **B. FINANCIAL**

There are no immediate financial implications to the Town. The new park sign would be undertaken within the annual Parks Development Capital Budget. Future development of interpretive elements at the site would be addressed through the Waterfront Parks and Open Space Master Plan and all budget items contained therein, as well as their priority and timing are subject to future Council budget approvals and adoption of the Master Plan. The potential relocation of the remaining "Camp X" building located on Thickson Road would also be part of a future budget and subject to Council approval.

### **C. IMPACT ON & INPUT FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS/SOURCES**

The film permits required by the History Channel would be issued by the Clerks Division.

### **D. CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Whitby Community Strategic Plan Strategic Action 2.1

"Identify and promote the conservation and management of heritage and natural resources."

## **8.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Community and Marketing Services Report CMS 59-12 updates Council with respect to actions being planned which would promote awareness of the significance of "Camp X". That Council approve the issuance of Park Permit(s) and Film Permit(s) for the proposed filming of a television series on "Camp X" by the History Channel.

## **9.0 ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

For further information contact:

Steve H. Edwards, Manager of Parks, Marina, Long Range Planning, Tourism and Culture, Ext. 7424

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Peter LeBel, Commissioner of Community and Marketing Services, Ext. 4319

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Robert Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer, Ext. 2211