
For Immediate Release

Groff Mill Creek Work across Galt Country Club Completed On Budget and Ahead of Schedule

Cambridge, Ontario. October 23, 2008... Work to alleviate flooding damage from Groff Mill Creek onto local properties including Dumfries Conservation Area, Coronation Boulevard and the Galt Country Club is complete in the first phase and area residents are remarking on the success of the project.

The estimated \$1.7 million construction plan was needed as a result of two extreme storms in 2005/06 that impacted the Groff Mill Creek watershed and resulted in flooding and damage to public infrastructure and private property. A Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study was quickly initiated in the fall of 2006 to investigate the causes of the problems and develop various solutions, in consultation with the community.

Ed Kovacs, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works says, "The City has moved with unprecedented speed to address the damages caused to private and public property."

By spring 2007, a plan to address the flooding potential within the Groff Mill Creek Watershed was prepared and presented to the Cambridge citizens. The primary elements of the flood management strategy included: widening and naturalization of the watercourse through the Galt Country Club with a bio-engineered channel; construction of a earthen flood control berm upstream of the Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) railway within Dumfries Conservation Area; and reconstruction of the Coronation Boulevard culvert.

Following approval of the Class EA, detailed design of the study recommendations was commenced in late summer. The City of Cambridge tackled the project through an interactive process of design involving key partners such as the Grand River Conservation Authority, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, abutting residents and the Galt Country Club. This permitted approvals to be complete in mid-2008.

The City of Cambridge tackled the work in three stages. The first phase of construction involved the channel works across the Galt Country Club. These works were tendered in July and awarded in August 2008, with construction beginning the first week of September 2008. The project was substantially completed October 15, 2008, ahead of schedule and on budget. The contractor, R & M Construction, completed the work under the direction of Philips Engineering Ltd. All parties have been extremely satisfied with the

outcome which now has substantially improved the capacity of the watercourse, while also improving its overall ecological function.

The second phase of construction will go before Cambridge City Council on Monday, October 27th, 2008, for consideration. The proposed contract for \$516,620 will cover the construction of the Flood Control Berm. Cathy Robertson, Director of Engineering Services, says "Construction of the berm provides the second important piece in the puzzle to prevent future flooding of the creek."

One further phase of construction relating to Groff Mill Creek improvements, namely the reconstruction of the Coronation Boulevard culvert, will be undertaken by the Region of Waterloo in 2009.

Groff Mill Creek, a tributary to the Grand River, is a highly urbanized creek which drains a large portion of commercial and industrial lands south of Highway 401. It flows through the Dumfries Conservation Area and ultimately winds its way through the Galt Country Club, before discharging to the Grand River.

The project is part of a larger initiative that the City is undertaking to create a forward looking Storm Water Management Master Plan. This study, initiated in late 2007, involves completing a City-wide investigation of water courses, piped storm sewer systems, and storm water management ponds, to identify and prioritize structural and capacity improvement needs. The study is also updating the City's Storm Water Management Policy, investigating the impacts of climate change and identifying opportunities for improved water quality. A second public information centre will be held in early spring 2009. Robertson states, "By taking a big picture, long range approach to storm water management, the City is able to focus limited resources to address our most significant priorities and improve the environment."

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