



## **BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT**

A meeting of the Board of Park Management will be held on **Monday, May 5, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Games Room** at the Rotary Complex.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Hanly, Vice Chair Richardson Maureen Cocksedge, Carolyn Cuerden, Craig Machan, Sheri Maguire, Councilor Bonnie Henderson. Parks, Forestry & Cemetery Manager Quin Malott

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Councilor Brad Beatty.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Quin Malott, Parks Forestry & Cemetery Manager.

### **AGENDA**

#### **2858. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:**

*The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of a local Board of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of The Board and to otherwise comply with the Act.

#### **2859. MINUTES:**

**Objective:** The minutes from the April 7, 2025, meeting provided for approval.

**Suggested Resolution:** **THAT the minutes of the February 3, 2025, meeting be approved.**

**Mover:**

**Seconded:**

**Carried.**

#### **2860. SWAN RELEASE DECISION:**

**Objective:** Continuation of April 7, 2025 Item #2855. Councilor Henderson to present resolution from CBEAC regarding restoration of swan release to parks operations.

**Background and Analysis:** Historically, the release was centered around the welfare of the swans and best practice in restoring them to nature. The circumstances surrounding the event were expanded through STA to capitalize on garnering interest in

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Stratford during the theatre off-season beyond of the community event practice. Two letters of origin have been provided for the Board's information and reference.

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Board concerns were raised regarding the sizes of groups attending from outside of the community and the lack of awareness and regard for decorum and safety practices paramount to the best interests of the swans and attendees. Overcrowding and encroachment on the swans as they move towards their nesting destination was disquieting for staff and volunteers cordoning the herd.

Benefits of restoring the release to park operations versus an advertised event include opportunity to engage in best practice in restoring the swans to nature when the ice is off the river providing access to their appropriate food source and water. Water levels are restored by UTRCA when the weather and environmental conditions are appropriate, best practice release of the swans for their welfare is optimally guided by these conditions versus an advertised fixed date. Interested parties may still observe the release but the focus of the release is on the welfare of the birds. Smaller more controlled numbers of attendees should also promote safety for staff and volunteers.

**Suggested Resolution: THAT the annual release of the swans from winter quarters return to park operations.**

**Mover:**

**Seconded:**

**Carried.**

### **2861. FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEAREAN GARDENS – GOVERNOR GENERAL VISIT:**

**Objective:** Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens Chairman Reg White advising of the group's consensus to invite the Governor General for a formal visit of the Shakespearean Gardens.

Other unique Canadian Gardens have organized similar invitations with the Governor General. The Mayor asked The Chairman to provide historical threads regarding the history of the Gardens. The Mayor will oversee protocols of such a visit.

The event is in the planning stages only and is brought to the Board for its awareness.

### **2862. BIRNAM WOOD LABYRINTH:**

**Objective:** John and Leslie Wright advised staff via email on the progress of the project.



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Have met with architect Robert Ritz and Touch of Dutch to determine sizes of paving stones, drainage and various details about the construction of the labyrinth. Mr. Ritz forwarded detailed drawings along with an artistic rendering of the project.

Construction plans have shifted with the decision to initiate construction in the spring of 2026 to facilitate fundraising and adequate planning. The Wright's intention is to direct Mr. Ritz to have all permits, documents and filings approved and prepared so that they can start construction in a year from now and invite the Board to advise if this meets with expectations.

### **2863. OTHER BUSINESS:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, May 5, 2025.

**Motion to adjourn.**