



Message from Greg Taylor, Chair, Sturgeon Point Park Restoration Committee

Dear Sturgeon Pointer,

I wanted to update you on the progress we have made on your behalf for a refurbished community park.

To remind you, our Committee was tasked with the following request by the SPA board: propose a plan, by December 29, 2007, to improve our community park on Irene Avenue, to reopen in time for the Summer of 2008.

Survey Results

Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond to the community park survey, and to Jalyn Anderson and Lisa Vehrs, the Committee members who designed the questionnaire and compiled all the results.

We had over 70 respondents to the survey—a good response from the community—some representing individuals, others entire multi-generational families and repeat guests. Villagers aged 60+ were the majority of respondents, followed by 30 to 39 year olds. Most had used the park and the majority of respondents were currently using it with grandchildren and children.

In short, here's what you said: *Keep it simple, safe and natural.*

Make it a safe, compelling place to meet and play primarily for children but organize some multi-generation activities. Upgrade the existing equipment where you can. Purchase new, safe equipment. Leave the back-woods untouched. Move or demolish the building.

Based on your input, we have identified the following priorities:

1. Children's Playground Equipment
 - ✓ Swings (repair & replace)
 - ✓ Slides (new)
 - ✓ Monkey bars/climbing apparatus (new)
 - ✓ Sandbox (new)
 - ✓ Basketball net (existing)

2. Community Equipment
 - ✓ Multi-court surface for basketball, shuffleboard, etc. (new)
 - ✓ Community notice board (replace)
 - ✓ Comfortable benches (new)
 - ✓ Picnic tables (new)
 - ✓ Trash & recycling bins (new)

3. Other

- ✓ Existing building (remove)
- ✓ Woods behind park (leave untouched)

Overall, we were given a lot of very useful input in consideration of the SPA budget and go-forward plan.

Grounds Survey

In addition to the community survey, we also undertook a grounds survey and properly surveyed the park with the help of the engineer on our committee, Simon Aspinwall. Together with Simon, we walked the park, took stock of the terrain, and the quality of the existing structures.

Safety is a critical issue. As a committee, we studied the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Playground Standards and Safe Kids Canada mandates to familiarize ourselves with current standards and best practices. Given the age of the existing Park equipment, most of it does not meet current safety standards, thus becoming a legal liability. The standards not only pertain to the equipment itself, but to the material underneath and around the structures to provide safe landings. Dirt underfoot is no longer up to today's code! Landing construction is an incredibly new and sophisticated requirement of today's safe playgrounds. Debra Taylor, as part of the Committee, has helped us identify certified playground equipment suppliers to ensure that any units installed conform to today's safety standards.

Next Steps

The Committee and SPA Board remain committed to reopening the park this summer. Our next step is to develop a detailed workplan in order to bring to life our vision: a simple, safe and natural park in the woods that supports our unique lakeside community.

In addition, there will be an announcement made shortly about the Park Fundraising Program which is so necessary to accomplish this community project. Please stay tuned.

We hope you will support the progress we have made on the Park Restoration on your behalf and would especially welcome your feedback to sturgeonpointpark@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Greg Taylor