
News Release

Federal Gas Tax Fund Supports Improvements to Otonabee River Trail in Peterborough

Peterborough, Ontario, May 20, 2010 – Residents of the City of Peterborough have an increased opportunity to get active and enjoy the outdoors thanks to a \$1,290,000 investment from the federal Gas Tax Fund. The funding was used to construct a critical section of the Otonabee River Trail that will link Millennium Park to Del Cray Park along Peterborough’s waterfront. The waterfront will be made accessible and attractive for public use and enjoyment.

“This government is proud to be part of projects such as this one, designed to enhance the beauty of this great city and create economic and recreational opportunities for residents,” said MP Del Mastro, Member of Parliament for Peterborough. “Local infrastructure projects are at the heart of the federal Gas Tax Fund, which will help to stimulate the local economy, provide jobs and serve citizens for years to come.”

“The Otonabee River Trail will provide direct, convenient access between Millennium Park in the downtown core and Del Cray Park, which hosts various events including the Little Lake Musicfest,” said Mayor Paul Ayotte. “Linking these two premier parks provides better recreational access, as well as serving to draw visitors into the downtown core for an added economic benefit.”

This is a two-phased project. Phase I of the project included shoreline stabilization and the installation of an accessible pedestrian trail along the edge of the Otonabee River, which is wide enough to accommodate pedestrians and people with disabilities, as well as cyclists and in-line skaters.

Phase II, planned for Fall 2010, includes walkway links to Millennium Park and Del Cray Park and incorporates an accessible pedestrian bridge over Jackson Creek. Lighting and area planting will also be components of Phase II.

The increased functionality of the trail will support the city’s green infrastructure initiatives by acting as an environmentally friendly option for commuting. The completion of the project will make the trail significantly more appealing for

people to use alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and in-line skating.

“The federal Gas Tax Fund acknowledges that all orders of government must work together to address the pressing need for infrastructure investment in Ontario,” said Peter Hume, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). “The funding is supporting thousands of important infrastructure projects and is critical to job creation, Ontario's competitiveness and environmental sustainability.”

The federal Gas Tax Fund provides municipalities with a stable and predictable source of funding for environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure. Funding is also available for planning projects that contribute to the sustainability of communities and regions.

The Government of Canada extended the Gas Tax Fund to 2014 resulting in \$746 million in funding annually for municipal infrastructure in Ontario. Between 2010 and 2014, the City of Peterborough will receive over \$18.3 million from the Government of Canada's Gas Tax Fund.

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