



**Presentation by the Rotary Clubs of North Bay
Re: Downtown Waterfront Master Plan**

March, 2017

Your Worship & Members of Council,

The family of Rotary Clubs in North Bay (the Rotary Clubs of North Bay and Nipissing, the Rotaract Club of North Bay-Nipissing) have participated in the development of the February 2017 final draft of the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan. Members of the 'Rotary Commons' Planning Committee have attended the June and September Design Workshops which were facilitated by the Consultants. In addition, the Planning Committee (on behalf of our respective Clubs) also presented our joint Proposal Briefing to the Consultant Team and held our own version of a community stakeholder design discussion in July, 2015. Our connection to potential projects for the former Rail Lands and Waterfront dates back to approximately 2007 and the original concepts for both a Splash Pad and a Childrens' Safety Village.

The Planning Committee has reviewed the February 2017 Final Draft Plan. We wish to compliment the Consultants, Council and Municipal Staff for a document that pulled together a large number of previous studies in an intelligent fashion. There is also a strong connection in the Plan to the work of the team from Baylor University around community prosperity and innovation. The Plan offers a future vision for this significant area of the community that can be implemented by a variety of stakeholders over time as priorities and resources permit. The Plan re-affirms the importance of this neighbourhood of the city as an integral part of our history, our identity and our future.

The final draft Downtown Waterfront Master Plan makes eminent sense to us in a number of ways. First, is the adoption of a multi-year, multi-phase approach to implementation, which means that the City and its partners can work on this project over a long period of time. Second, the identification of "sub-neighbourhoods" within the former Rail Lands/Waterfront

and Downtown areas can allow the Municipality and community partners to prioritize specific elements for attention. Third, the Consultants use of high level order-of-magnitude costs is useful both as a planning tool for strategic public/community partner investments AND as a potential for FURTHER private sector 'spin off' investments as they see market opportunities develop. Fourth, the Plan gives Council and the community a chance to engage in a conversation about the future of our community – not just for the immediate future or a term of Council, but for generations to come. Finally, adoption of this Plan by Council will send a positive signal to our residents, businesses and the larger region that North Bay sees itself as not only progressive, but values a high Quality of Life and Quality of Place, as well as a vibrant Downtown and Waterfront. It will also show that we embrace our location as a 'Winter City'.

The Planning Committee is particularly pleased to see several elements identified by the Consultants on the former Rail Lands which the Rotary family is strongly interested in bringing to fruition, centred on and around the proposed Splash Pad facility. We see this project as a catalyst to spur the development of other elements on adjacent lands. The two Rotary Clubs in our community have already identified a financial commitment of approximately \$250,000 to help implement this kind of project. The Rotaract Club of North Bay – Nipissing is also interested in participating in such a project, in accordance with its resources and abilities. Subject to final approvals from our respective Boards of Directors, we anticipate the opportunity to work with Council and Municipal Staff in the very near future to further explore detailed design, costing and implementation details to help the community kick off this signature project in the heart of our community.

Between the three Clubs, we represent approximately 130 business and professional persons across a broad range of ages and occupations. We have a mission to serve, a deep understanding of our community, and the ability to influence, advocate and marshal resources. We look forward to an early opportunity to help make this type of legacy project turn into reality.

Submitted by,

Mr. C. Verge, President-Elect, Rotary Club of North Bay

Ms. M. Maille, President-Elect, Rotary Club of Nipissing

For: the Rotary Clubs of North Bay, Nipissing, and the Rotaract Club of North Bay-Nipissing