



News Release

Update on Canal Beach Revitalization Project (Update #1)

16 August 2022

ST. GEORGE – Work is progressing on the Canal Beach Revitalization Project at the popular public beach located on Lake Utopia, approximately 5 km north of the Town of St. George.

“The Town of St. George wants to thank JD Irving Ltd for engaging with our Town to produce the cooperative land use agreement that made the Canal Beach improvements project possible. Over the last year, the Town of St. George managed the work for the beach improvements, and we all feel proud of what it has achieved.” said Mayor John Detorakis. “The project manifests the strong connection between the Town of St. George and the Parish of St. George along the Magaguadavic River; the two have always maintained a robust historical relationship that goes back to our Town’s inception in 1786 as one of the original parishes in Charlotte County.”

The \$360,000 project is being entirely funded by the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) provided to the Province of New Brunswick for eligible recipients in unincorporated areas.

“While we were originally expected to start construction in the fall of 2021, a number of delays relating to permits and supply issues caused the project start up to be pushed further and further out.” said Jason Gaudet, CAO for the Town of St. George. The project started in May 2022. “Now that we are underway, we are making good progress and that is owed to the good work by a number of project members and contractors.”

In addition to a new canteen building with 2 exterior washrooms and outdoor shower, a new parking area will be developed and the installation of several park features will be added. The old canteen building will be repurposed as a storage and maintenance shed.

The project is being engineered and managed by Silk Stevens Ltd. The Landscaping and parking area is being completed by EJ Excavation Ltd. Building construction is being completed by Jeff Cooke Renovations, with plumbing by Griffin Plumbing and electrical by GNE Garth Neves Electric. A retaining wall is scheduled to be finished this week by Fundy Contractors Ltd. and additional concrete walkway work is being done by Beaver Harbour Concrete.

“This project was inspired by the vision of a constituent for ‘what could be.’ Canal Beach has historically been a local gathering place and now it will be enhanced to assure future use.” said Andrea Anderson-Mason, MLA for Fundy-The-Isles Saint John West. “It was a privilege to work with the previous council to get this project launched and much appreciation goes to the current council for seeing it through to completion.

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“The last two years have really emphasized the value of outdoor, accessible spaces that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors. Projects like the Canal Beach Project contribute to the physical, mental and social well-being of a healthy community. It will be a welcoming space for people of all ages and abilities along with opportunities to contribute to the local economy.”

Once completed, the Town of St. George (Eastern Charlotte) will request proposals from interested vendors on a long term use agreement for the new canteen building. The call for proposal is expected to be made in the fall or early winter.

Canal Beach has been a popular public beach area for over 40 years and operates from June to September. The beach is one of only a few fresh water public beaches in southwestern New Brunswick. The beach and boat ramp area are made possible through a land use partnership between the Town of St. George and JD Irving Ltd.

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