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TOWN OF SYLVAN LAKE
A Town For All Seasons

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

SYLVAN LAKE RCMP BUILDING SITE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sylvan Lake, June 13, 2007: Sylvan Lake Council has directed administration to examine the feasibility of locating the future RCMP Building on part of the CP Trail. The potential site, which is located directly north of HJ Cody High School, would front the RCMP Building onto 50th Street.

Originally envisioned as a joint use facility with Emergency Services and Town Administration, it was determined, due to the stringent security needs of the RCMP, this was not feasible.

A consultant conducted a needs assessment with stakeholders (including the RCMP, Mayor & Council, Municipal Enforcement and Fire Services) to ascertain site criteria that needed to be met. The consultant searched Town owned lands and determined four potential site options:

1. Present RCMP Facility Site;
2. Railway Park Promenade (east end adjacent to 46th Street near the arena)
3. Four Seasons Park;
4. CP Trail Right of Way at 50th Street.

The favored location, Railway Park Promenade was evaluated and found to be deficient for parking and would also require substantial relocation of underground services.

Locating a new facility at the present RCMP Facility site would require the purchase of additional land and displace the staff during construction - both of which would have a significant impact on the final budget.

The location of this facility in Four Seasons Park would reduce the recreational sports facilities and conflict with the two elementary schools in close proximity (one which is currently under construction).

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Although Council has received great support for the CP Trail Right of Way location from the High School as well as the School Division Council still recognizes the importance of the CP Lands to the trail system and natural beauty of the Town.

A functional planning study, currently underway, will review traffic patterns and site access options. The study will provide detailed site plans, including parking layout and routing options for the major trail system. Any plan for this site will have to maintain the recreational integrity of the CP Lands as well as provide an ideal location for a central park or plaza to be used as a community meeting place. If the functional planning study is favorable for this location, Council will seek extensive public opinion prior to making a final decision.

For any questions regarding this project please contact Dennis Krill, Director of Protective Services, at (403) 887-1136.