

Development set to sail this summer

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by **Stephannie Johnson**

PARRY SOUND - Sail Parry Sound, a non-profit corporation formed in 1997 offers sailing instruction—especially for youth, seniors and the differently abled—is moving its home base to Belvedere Wharf Point, near the Old Town Beach at the end of Waubuno Road.

Progress report

The sailing school has a long-term lease for the property with the Town.

Sail Parry Sound's vice-president of operations, Larry Wohlner, spoke to council at its January 24 meeting to give an update on the group's progress.

"I come bearing great news to start our 2006 sailing season. You're well aware that we've been working hard to make the new Sail Parry Sound public park and sailing centre for Parry Sound a reality," said Mr. Wohlner. "We're ready to award the first construction contract for the first part of the development, which includes rebuilding the old wharf, constructing a dinghy launch ramp, and leveling the site for parking and our future storage building. We'll also be roughing in the Sunset Trail, installing lighting and putting up our dinghy enclosure."

The sailing school has completed 75 per cent of its local fundraising initiatives for the \$535,000 redevelopment, which is expected to be completed by this summer. This year and last year, the group has also received grants from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the Trillium Foundation.

"Our fundraising initiatives will continue until we've reached 100 per cent, so that in the fall of 2006 we can construct our storage building, and finish the Sunset Trail, complete with benches and picnic tables."

The contract was awarded last week, with construction to start immediately.

Councillor Rita McWhirter offered her congratulations to the sailing school, even though she said she was suspicious of the project at first.

"We've looked forward to this for so long, and I'll admit I was a little bit skeptical, but it's come along much faster than I'd ever dreamed – well done," said Ms McWhirter.

The facility will also be open for public use by local sailing enthusiasts such as councillor Conrad van der Valk.

"This project has always been near and dear to my heart, being a small sailboat user myself," said Mr. van der Valk.



This illustration highlights the planned redevelopment of Belvedere Wharf Point by Sail Parry Sound. The group is hopeful to have much of the work completed by the 2006 summer season.

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