

Breaking ground

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PARRY SOUND – Sail Parry Sound marked the groundbreaking for its sailing centre and public park recently. At the site of the former Belvedere Hotel Wharf, the \$525,000 facility, just south of the Old Town Beach at the end of Waubuno Road, will be in use this summer.

“FAD Group was awarded the contract for site design and project management. After calling for tenders, the contract to rebuild the wharf was awarded to Weber Engineered Construction, and the contract for site preparation was awarded to Hall’s Construction,” said Larry Woolner, operations VP of Sail Parry Sound.

The Town of Parry Sound leased the Belvedere Wharf Point to Sail Parry Sound, Inc. for 20 years.

“This has been a vision for such a long time; today, with the help of the community, it is a reality,” said Marianne King-Wilson, Sail Parry Sound president.

New park

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation has already announced an investment of \$176,200 in the multi-purpose public sailing centre, including a new park and wharf to accommodate the Sail Parry Sound Sailing School and regattas.

Ontario Trillium Foundation funded the dinghy ramp for launching small sailboats safely. Further funding announcements are anticipated.

Sail Parry Sound chief financial officer Larry Barnes said, “Carling, the Archipelago, and Seguin townships have already contributed to the sailing centre. They see that residents and ratepayers from the whole area take sailing lessons and volunteer in Sail Parry Sound regattas and other events.

Now, businesses and individuals from all the municipalities are excited about the sailing centre being built. They are making contributions and long-term pledges.”

The plans for the sailing centre and public park include landscaping and parking, wheelchair access to the wharf and the trail extension called the sunset promenade, a gently sloping dinghy ramp, an enclosure for the sailing school’s dinghies, improved lighting, and an attractive building.

Sail Parry Sound, Inc. is a not for profit volunteer group, founded in 1998 to restore the sailing heritage to the area by inviting sailors to sail Parry Sound and by offering sailing instruction to people of all ages.

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The key players celebrating the groundbreaking for the sailing centre and public park. From left, Larry Woolner, Brenda Ryan and Matt Ryan, Marianne King-Wilson, executive vice-president Terry Johnson, Larry Barnes, and Adrienne Kolbuc.

Submitted photo