

Local sailing school to redevelop historic Belvedere Point

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by Sarah Bissonette

PARRY SOUND – With the announcement earlier this month that the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHF) is providing Sail Parry Sound with a \$176,200 grant, the organization plans to go to the Town’s January 24 council meeting to get permission to start construction on the redevelopment of the Belvedere Point.

If permission to go ahead is granted, construction on the first phase of the sailing school’s \$535,000 redevelopment plan for the historic Belvedere Point will begin immediately and be available for use this summer. In the end, the plan calls for a new sailing school, boat ramp, and public park.



Belvedere Point is seen here in an aerial photo taken in 2005.

North Star photo

Belvedere Point near the old Town Beach, which is located at the end of Waubuno Road.

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

“Sail Parry Sound is delighted to have such a large investment from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation,” said Sail Parry Sound president Marianne King-Wilson in a press release. “Added to our fundraising from local business and other supporters, NOHFC’s funding will help us develop a better site—for the sailing school, for future regattas, and a great improvement to the old Belvedere Wharf Point.”

Fundraising chair and chief financial officer Larry Barnes said that a further \$45,000 has been raised through donations from the sailing school’s supporters. He expects public fundraising initiatives will start if the organization gets permission to break ground.

“Sailing enthusiasts near and far, and local businesses are giving generous donations and multi-year pledges toward the sailing centre and public park,” he said in the press release.

Sail Parry Sound was given a grant from the Trillium Foundation late last year. The organization has also applied for FedNor funding.

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