




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 9, 2023
SUBJECT:	Pier 4 Park – Tugboat Structural Assessment and City Response (ES23010) (Ward 2)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 2
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

This update is to inform Council and the community about the structural assessment of the tugboat play structure at Pier 4 Park as well as action that has been taken by staff.

Overview of the Situation

The tugboat play structure at Pier 4 Park is at end of life and needs to be redeveloped. Staff are currently working on the design for improvements to the tugboat with the aim of constructing the playground and spray pad improvements in 2024. The funding for this design project was approved by Council as part of the 2023 Capital Budget.

A structural assessment of the tugboat was performed by the City's consultant, Arcadis IBI Group, on June 8, 2023. The preliminary finding from the visual inspection part of this assessment was that the upper deck is unsafe and should be closed to the public immediately. The lower deck can remain open to the public.

City staff closed access to the upper deck of the tugboat on June 8, 2023.

History of the Tugboat Playground

The tugboat was installed in Pier 4 Park as a play structure in the early 1990s. McKeil Boat Works added the pilothouse of one decommissioned tugboat (the Cape Transport) to the hull of another (the Bayport) and donated this amalgamated structure to the City of Hamilton. The Bayport was built in 1944 for the second world war although was too

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**SUBJECT: Pier 4 Park – Tugboat Structural Assessment and City Response
(ES23010) (Ward 2) - Page 2 of 2**

late to see military action. Research indicates the boat mostly operated in the waters of Halifax Harbour and Georgian Bay. The Cape Transport was built in 1947 and spent many years sailing the great lakes and later the Caribbean.

Next Steps

The City's consultant will submit a structural assessment report detailing the visual inspection and ultrasonic survey of the tugboat structure. The City will inform Council and residents if this report recommends further actions need to be taken.

Staff will continue to work on the design for the Pier 4 Park tugboat playground and spray pad improvements so that construction of the improvements can proceed as planned in 2024.

Should you require further information, please contact Meghan Stewart, Manager of Landscape Architectural Services, at (905) 546-2424 extension 5653, or Cynthia Graham, Director of Environmental Services at (905) 546-2424 extension 2337.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A