



Near North District School Board
David Thompson, Chair
963 Airport Road,
P.O. Box 3110
North Bay, ON
P1B 8H1

January 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Thompson and Trustees,

The Treetops Community Forest Committee in partnership with the Town of Parry Sound is proposing the purchase of a property adjacent to the new Parry Sound Public School. It is intended that this naturalized park be set aside for outdoor exploration featuring a simple looped trail and a number of natural features that make it prime for youth outdoor experiential education and development opportunities. We feel that the creation of such a park would be a significant asset to the Parry Sound Public School. The intent of this letter is to inform you of our fundraising efforts but moreover, to seek a financial contribution from the board toward the purchase of the property.

Past discussions with staff and board members from Near North District School Board have identified the potential benefits to both Parry Sound High School & Parry Sound Public School students and teachers in having convenient access to a natural area where a range of student learning objectives can be augmented. Teachers who have been approached see numerous benefits to students including:

- opportunities for natural heritage education – bridging science lessons with ‘real’ world-hands on experiences;
- demonstrating and encouraging ‘active’ living lifestyles (i.e. we are currently planning a snowshoe hike fundraiser on the property for February);
- A natural amphitheater that exists on the property provides opportunities for creative exploration of arts and literature;
- Time in the outdoors provides students with opportunities and space that promote personal growth through reflection and mental health breaks.

We are excited to inform you that the community has approximately \$90,000 of funds committed toward the goal of \$200,000. The initial fundraising stimulus started with a considerable donation from the Fynn Bywater Outdoor Explorers Fund in memory of Fynn, a student of Humphrey School, who passed away in April of 2015. Fynn’s parents wanted to support this initiative since it is consistent with Fynn’s love and passion for outdoor play and exploration. Accordingly, a small trail is planned for the property that will be named Fynn’s Trail.

Subsequent fundraising efforts have seen numerous donations from the community through a range of fundraisers. More recent efforts have seen support from businesses and municipalities; clearly, there is an interest and wide-ranging support for what is being proposed. Concerted and focused efforts continue.



We invite you to explore our website at www.treetopscommunityforest.com to explore the detailed proposed plans for the property and keep up to date on the initiative. We are also open to making a presentation to the Board should you wish additional information and background on the project.

The Town of Parry Sound has established a trust fund for donations to this project and will be the purchaser of the property. Although Treetops Community Forest has the right of first refusal, time is of the essence. Substantial Sponsors and Donors will be thanked publicly over radio, website and by newspaper and through signage at the property once it is purchased. We hope that the Near North District School Board will consider a contribution toward this worthwhile project; a contribution to the present and future students of Parry Sound Public School.

Contributions can be made payable to **Tree Tops Community Forest -
c/o The Town of Parry Sound, 52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, ON P2A 1B4**

If you have further questions, please address them to treetopscommunityforest@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours in service to the community,

On behalf of the Treetops Community Forest - Organizing Committee

Zack Crafts
Nicole Collins
Margaret Wallace
David Bywater
Greg Mason