

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DCS 26-2024

Council Meeting Date: December 3, 2024

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council

FROM: Ashley Farr, Director of Community Services

RE: Rotary Club of Grand Bend Donation for Accessibility Improvements

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DCS 26-2024 regarding the “Donation from the Rotary Club of Grand Bend for Accessibility Improvements” be received;

THAT the Municipality accepts the donation from the Rotary Club of Grand Bend of the Mobi-Mats, Mobi-Chair, and Mobi-Deck through Corona Canada’s Accessing Paradise Promotion.

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the Municipality accepts a donation from the Rotary Club of Grand Bend to improve accessibility at the Grand Bend Beach through new Mobi-Mats, an amphibious wheelchair (Mobi-Chair) and Mobi-Decks.

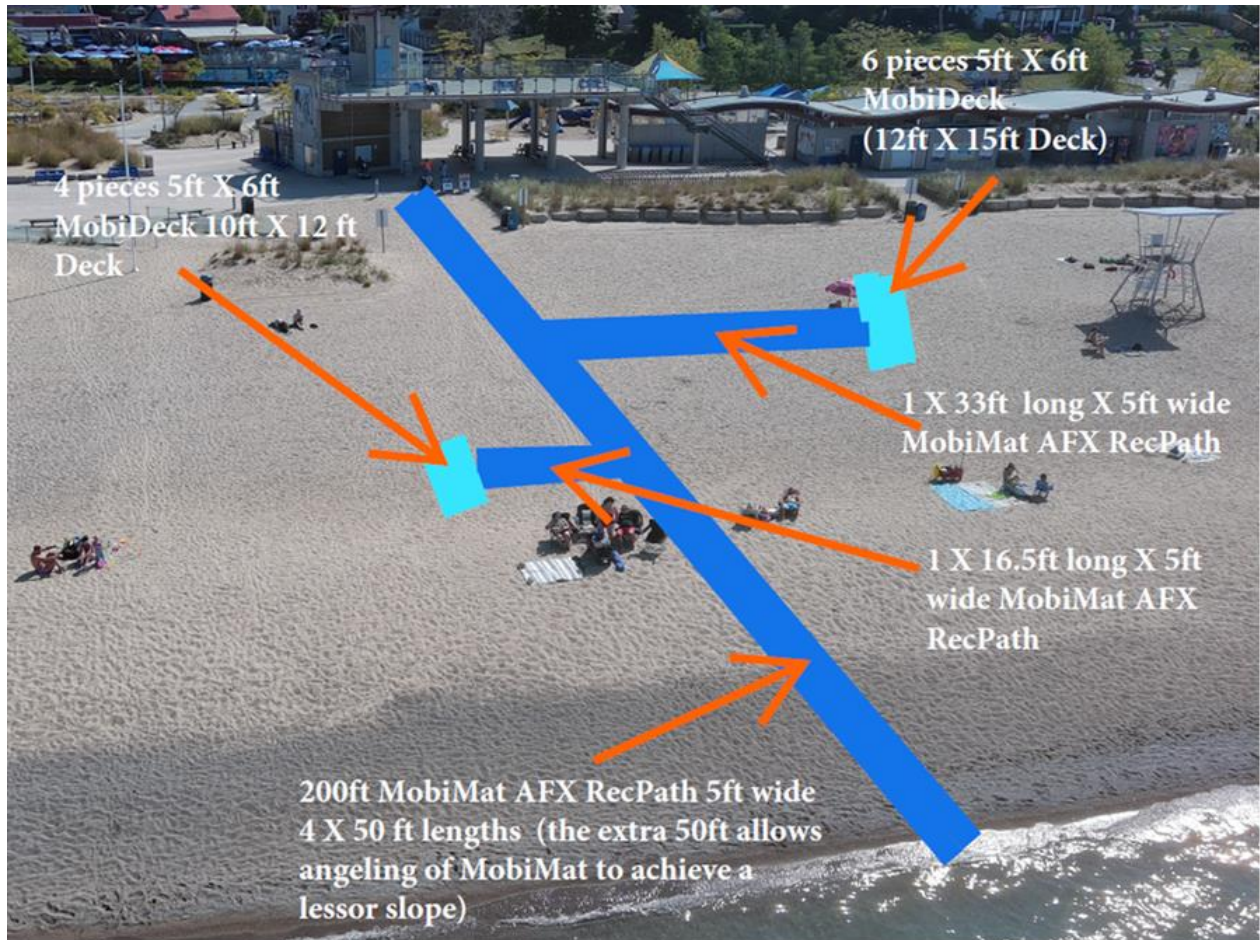
BACKGROUND

Corona Canada has made a pledge to donate mobility equipment to six select beaches across Canada. The pledge, known as the Accessing Paradise Promotion, aims to make more Canadian beaches accessible to persons with disabilities. To fulfil this pledge Corona, working with Mobi-Mats, is donating and installing Mobi-Mats, Mobi-Chairs, and/or Mobi-Decks at no cost to improve accessibility at Canadian beaches. These products provide durable high quality accessible walkways, sitting areas and wheelchairs designed to be used on a beach. Through Watts Accessibility Consulting, a Mobi Canadian Representative, Corona has successfully installed Mobi products at four beaches across Canada, helping them meet accessibility goals as well as fulfilling Corona Canada’s pledge. Public input collected on Corona Accessing Paradise website has shown that Grand Bend Beach has been one of the highest recommended beaches in Ontario to be the next beach to receive a donation to improve accessibility.

The Rotary Club of Grand Bend has partnered with Watts Accessibility Consulting and Corona Canada to bring this project to fruition in Lambton Shores. The physical assets are being donated to the Rotary Club, who will in turn donate the items to the Municipality. The donation will include Mobi-Mats, a Mobi-Chair and Mobi-Decks. The

total value of the project is \$30,000. The Municipality can choose to install a small recognition sign if desired at the installation location. The mats and other donated products will not be branded. Once the donation is received, the Municipality is required to store, maintain and install/remove the items annually.

The Municipality has been provided with a draft concept for the mats to be installed adjacent to the Blue Flag on the Main Beach (see below). The proposed design provides the best possible accessibility for visitors coming to Grand Bend Beach, however, may need to be altered slightly once beach conditions are known during installation. With these products being modular the Municipality can change the design as needed to best suit operational needs. Accessibility mats that were originally in this area can be repurposed in other areas of the main beach to better support accessibility. The amphibious wheelchair will be available to use for free through the existing lending program at the Grand Bend Beach information booth.



This donation will help Lambton Shores enhance accessibility in outdoor spaces as outlined in its Accessibility Plan. It will also give Grand Bend Beach its first “to the water’s edge” mobility mat to be installed making the beach and water more accessible for everyone to enjoy. The Lambton Shores Accessibility Committee has been

consulted on the project and are supportive of the initiative. It is anticipated that the installation of the new mats and decks will occur in June 2025.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

There are no alternatives presented. The donation aligns with the Lambton Shores Accessibility Plan and is supported by the Lambton Shores Accessibility Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The recommendation is to accept the donation from the Rotary Club of Grand Bend for Mobi-Mats, Mobi-Chair and Mobi-Decks for Grand Bend Beach.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no direct cost associated with accepting the donation. The materials will be listed as municipal assets. Maintenance and replacement of the assets will be the Municipality's responsibility.

CONSULTATION

Brendan Gowan, Waterfront Manager
Janet Ferguson, Director of Financial Services
Rotary Club of Grand Bend
Lambton Shores Accessibility Committee

Attached:

1. Letter of Commitment and Donation Agreement – Rotary Club of Grand Bend