



Date: March 27, 2013
MTE File No.: C33035-100

Transportation Association of Canada
2323 St. Laurent Blvd.
Ottawa ON K1G 4J8
-by email-

Ms. Katarina Cvetkovic

**Re: TAC Technical Award Nominations
City of Kitchener – Huron Road Reconstruction**

Huron Road is a secondary arterial road serving the Southwest portion of the City of Kitchener with a long history, dating back to native settlements some 6000 years ago. In the 1800's a village straddled Huron Road in the vicinity of Strasburg Creek. Circa 1827, John Galt was commissioned by the Canada Land Company of London to establish a transportation and trade route between Guelph and Goderich which formalized the Huron Road corridor.

Since colonial times, Huron Road has been slowly upgraded from a pathway to a conventional tar and chip concession road. This design functioned adequately until suburban development began to stretch into the lands to the southwest of the City core. Recently, studies have been completed to transform Huron Road from an early pioneer road to a modern suburban arterial.

In 2008 a major archeological discovery was unearthed nearby along Strasburg creek; this discovery was located within a kilometer of the school. The discovery was the remains of an aboriginal village that included about ten long houses and assorted artifacts. The village itself was about 500 years old with some artifacts dating back 9000 years.

In support of required upgrades to the road, a Schedule 'C' Class EA study was completed in 2008, some of the recommendations for the improvements to the Huron Road Corridor included:

- Widening the roadway to four lanes from two;
- Major geometric improvements to the vertical profile;
- New roundabouts at two intersections; and
- Multi-use trails in place of conventional sidewalks.

One of the new roundabouts is located at the intersection of Huron Road and Strasburg Road. As a three lane roundabout, it is one of the largest in the Region and was designed and built to accommodate future development in the south end of Kitchener.

Huron Heights Secondary School is located at this intersection. Prior to construction, the school had an entrance feature to the school yard at the existing signalized intersection. The new roundabout encroached in the area occupied by the existing pergola entrance feature necessitating its removal. Because the feature was included in the schools site plan approval, City urban design guidelines required that the feature be replicated.

With the existing school feature requiring replacement, an opportunity presented itself to involve faculty and students from the high school to assist in the development concepts and the design of the new feature and to acknowledge the significance of the First Nations heritage find.

The design for a new feature commenced in March 2011, the design team included two of the schools teachers of the Native Studies program, their students from this program, and the City of Kitchener's consultant.

The feature design that was derived from this collaboration had to meet the following criteria:

- Acknowledge the First Nations heritage;
- Interpret the First Nations heritage;
- Be at least 3.6 m in height to be visible when moving along Huron and Strasburg Roads;
- Be of similar size and quality as the existing feature;
- Create a 'gateway' to the school;
- Follow Crime prevention through environmental design principles;
- Not to conflict with vehicles and pedestrians;
- Consider the existing stone amphitheater;
- Be low maintenance;
- Not change existing drainage patterns; and
- Encourage the use of sustainable and/or recycled materials.

The design captured and considered each of the developed criteria. The team of students, faculty and City consultants worked together to develop the design. Please refer to the attached Design Concept Philosophy.



New Feature



Small bowl with 'shadow' of eagle



The feature was constructed as part of the 2012 construction phase of Huron Road and now stands at the northern quadrant of the Huron and Strasburg Road roundabout.

One White Pine tree stands next the longhouse; this tree was an important symbol in the First Nations culture. The school is looking at having subsequent graduating classes plant a tree a year to continue this project into the future.

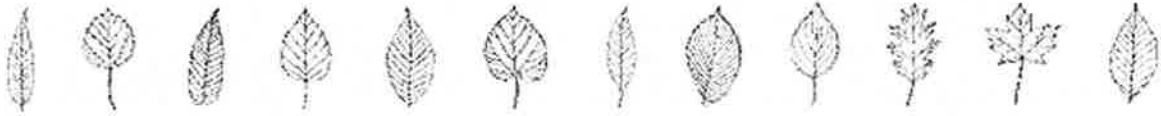
This project is an excellent example of a collaborative educational effort that directly involved local high school students as part of their educational program.

Yours truly,

MTE CONSULTANTS INC.

Chris Spere, C.E.T.
Project Manager

CLS



HURON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT MEMO #3 May 5, 2011

HURON + STRASBURG HHSS FEATURE
Design Concept Philosophy

There were a number of themes that continually recurred through the design process. These are:

- The White Pine tree with 4 roots
- The Dish
- Wampum Belts
- The Longhouse
- The number Seven
- The Eagle
- The Condolence Cane
- The Bow and Arrow

A small **Dish** is central to the design. The Dish is the vessel from which we eat. It also represents southern Ontario, the land in which we live and which sustains us. This larger Dish is represented by the armour stone circle of large armour stones. This larger circle creates seating options as well as space for classes or small assemblies to gather.

Bisecting the larger circle are two bands of concrete pavement. They are oriented west-east and resemble a **Wampum Belt**. Wampum Belts were made to symbolize many different ideas and concepts. Here the Wampum Belt represents the two parallel paths of the First Nations culture and the newly settled European culture. The sun rises from the horizon in the east and sets below the horizon in the west. This symbolizes the cycle of life; we are born from the earth and return to the earth. Between the paths are seven armour stone seats. These offer a connection between the cultures.

Two short paths, one pointing south and one pointing north run through the small dish and terminate at the armour stone circle. The south path points to the surrounding community, to the houses, businesses, roads and parking lots in which we presently live. The north path points to the future, towards the school.

The paths fit within the **Longhouse**. The longhouse was the place in which families of the community lived. It also represented Canada stretching from east to west, within which two parallel paths run. Only the framework of the longhouse is represented in the design. It is to have panels made of metal, wood and other composite materials suggesting enclosure, but remaining primarily transparent. Materials are to be recycled to the greatest extent possible. Some of the panels will have symbols cut out of them. In particular, the symbol of an **Eagle** in flight will allow the sun to shine through, and at a particular time of day at a particular time of year, the eagle's sun 'shadow' will pass through the small dish.

There are seven longhouse poles on each side of the paths. The **number seven** is reflective of the seven virtues. The Iroquois considered seven generations ahead in their planning and decision-making.

One **White Pine** tree stands next to the longhouse. The white pine was an important symbol in First Nations culture. In the pre-European settlement forests it stood above the canopy of the other trees. Its wood and leaves have antiseptic and healing qualities. It is also the provincial tree of Ontario. The school is looking at having subsequent graduating classes plant a tree at year to continue the project into the future.