



Muncaster
Environmental
Planning Inc.

September 19, 2022

Ms. Melissa Côté, MCIP, RPP
Director, Land Development
Taggart Investments & Tartan Homes
3187 Albion Road South
Ottawa, ON
K1V 8Y3

Dear Ms. Côté:

**RE: Natural Environmental Update
1650 Shea Road**

To update our Environmental Impact Statement and Tree Conservation Report of February 25th, 2016, I reviewed the lands associated with 1650 Shea Road and adjacent lands on June 24th, 2022. The field review took place from 06:10 to 07:40 under clear skies with fog patches, a light air, and an air temperature of 16°C. The results of the field review are grouped under three headings; existing tree cover, unevaluated wetlands, and on-site dug channels.

1650 Shea Road is located in the east portion of the Stittsville South – Area 6 expansion area, which was added to the Urban Area to accommodate projected growth to 2031. The site is bordered by Shea Road to the east, developed urban residential portions of Area 6 to the west, and Fernbank Road approximately 170 metres to the north.

Existing Tree Cover

The site has been cleared of trees and grubbed (Photo 1). No trees at least 10cm diameter at breast height (dbh) were observed on the site in June, 2022. The current vegetation on the site would be described as a combination of regenerating cultural meadow (Photo 2) and thicket communities (Photo 3). Regenerating woody vegetation includes areas of trembling aspen stems less than 10cm dbh, with small ash stems also present. Shrubs in the thicket habitat include glossy buckthorn, red raspberry, slender willow, and Bebb's willow.

Canada goldenrod, dominant in areas, tall goldenrod, white bedstraw, chicory, June meadow grass, reed canary grass, orchard grass, timothy, colt's-foot, wild carrot, common dandelion, tufted vetch, white clover, bladder campion, blueweed, ox-eye daisy, bull thistle, Canada thistle, common burdock, wormseed mustard, field horsetail, and purple loosestrife are representative of the ground flora in the cultural meadows and thickets. Broad-leaved cattails are in lower areas left by tire ruts and other disturbances.

Unevaluated Wetlands

The unevaluated wetland (2011) layer on geoOttawa shows the southeast portion of 1650 Shea Road as unevaluated wetlands. No wetlands were observed on the site during the field reviews for the 2016 EIS/TCR. From north to south the vegetation communities in the 2016 EIS/TCR were described as cultural meadow, cultural woodland, and upland cedar coniferous forests. As indicated above, the vegetation communities regenerating on the disturbed site are a combination of cultural meadow and cultural thicket. Although very small areas, less than 100 m², of cattails are present in lower lying areas, these areas are too small to be mapped as separate communities. Elsewhere, ground flora with wetland affinities such as purple loosestrife and reed canary grass are outnumbered by species representing upland vegetation.

Dug Channels

The 2016 EIS/TCR states that a dug pond to the west of 1650 Shea Road has been filled in and no flowing water was observed in dug ditches leading to or from the former pond area. According to the former landowner, the pond was filled in as the lands were no longer used for pasture. Historical aerial photography indicates the pond, inlet, and outlet was dug between 1976 and 1991.

The dug channel leading south from Fernbank Road (Photo 4) was first diverted around Phase 1 of the residential development to the west and then again for Phase 2, per approvals from MOEE as part of the subdivision designs. Once the approved stormwater management plan for the lands to the north is implemented by others, the dug ditches will be filled in as they will no longer be required. The stormwater management plan for the lands to the north includes the capture, entombment, and diversion of the upstream flows from the dug channel on and adjacent to the site. The dug ditches lack aquatic habitat characteristics due to their recent dug nature, typical trapezoid ditch cross-section with a lack of diversity in morphological forms, and lack of natural features such as riparian woody vegetation, coarse substrate, woody debris, low flow channel, or undercut banks.

The dug channel leads to a roadside ditch on the west side of Shea Road. As part of the Fernbank Community Design Plan, the roadside ditch was sampled on the west side of Shea Road between Fernbank and Flewellyn Roads on May 9th, 2007. No fish were observed or netted at three sampling sites. In many areas the channel is poorly defined among reed canary grass and muck dominates the substrate.

Flowing water was observed in the dug ditch during the June, 2022 survey. Although there were no visual observations of fish (detailed fish sampling was not completed), if there is water present during the removal of the ditch, prior to removal the wetted portions of the ditch are to be de-fished by a qualified biologist. A sampling permit will be required from the MNDMNR and the permit has taken up to one month to obtain.

Summary

No wetland communities or trees at least 10cm dbh were observed on the 1650 Shea Road lands. If water is present in the dug ditch at time of removal, sampling must be completed by a qualified biologist to ensure any forage fish are safely relocated to aquatic habitat in the Faulkner Drain system to the south.

Please call with any questions on the above natural environment update.

Yours Sincerely,
MUNCASTER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INC.



Bernie Muncaster, MSc.
Principal

\1650 Shea Update



Photo 1 – Current site conditions on the south portion of the 1650 Shea Road lands, south of Cosanti Drive. View looking south from Cosanti Drive



Photo 2 – Cultural meadow habitat dominates the central and north portions of the 1650 Shea Road lands. View looking north from Cosanti Drive with off-site trees on the north side of Fernbank Road in the background



Photo 3 – Cultural thicket vegetation, including regenerating poplar stems in the north-central portion of the 1650 Shea Road lands. View looking north.



Photo 4 – West -east section of dug channel at west property line of the 1650 Shea Road lands, View looking west to recent residential construction