

J. B. Tudhope Memorial Park Buildings, Initial Assessment

At the entrance and visible from the highway and within the park itself there is a diverse collection of buildings that reflect the history of the site and the range of community recreational activities and facilities that have occupied and continue to occupy the park today. There seems to be two quite distinct families of park buildings which include the following;

1. Early Concrete Block Park Facilities

There is a variety of buildings throughout the park that reflect its evolution over time. There are foundations and intact buildings from the time it was used as a camping site and later. These utilitarian, painted concrete block structures have been adapted for uses today that include washrooms, a boat storage facility for the Rowing Club, park storage and maintenance.

2. Contemporary Park Facilities

There is a varied collection of more recent structures that include the recently updated and renovated washroom building next to the children's play area and beach, the Curling club restaurant and arena building, the tourist information building, the memorial sign, and the ice cream vendor building.

A master plan approach to the entire park provides the opportunity to assess the long-term value of these two families of park buildings. The first family of structures, the early concrete block buildings that are scattered throughout the park, appear to generally be maintained and in serviceable condition. Given their construction date and history of use of this popular park their functional/mechanical/service adequacy and capacity should be assessed. Though their appearance is coherent with steep pitched roofs and red-painted concrete block, there is little craftsmanship, heritage or architectural character to support their preservation. The most significant problems that these early buildings represent include;

The second family, the more contemporary park structures definitely have more long-term value to the community and the park itself. The Curling facility and restaurant is used throughout the year and is a valuable asset and should be integrated into the upgraded park design. The Visitor Information Centre, is also an asset to the park. The beach and children's playground washroom and change facility has recently been renovated and could be the architectural model and language that is repeated in various forms for any new facilities in the park. The roofed memorial sculpture/sign, might have been erected in a more prominent location to mark the entry to the park, but it is a well designed asset to the park. The Ice Cream Hut is incongruous and inappropriately located at the entrance to the park. The selling of ice cream etc. could be relocated closer to Moose Beach and the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion along with the incorporation of other seasonal products for sale.

In conclusion, the master plan design process is the opportunity to determine the long-term value and utility of the two groups of current park buildings. The current Parks building are a resource for the community and any alternative strategies for their continued use in the future, their retention, reuse or removal and replacement, must be considered in the context of future planning, economics and sustainability. Though it is difficult to measure the impact of consistent good design on people's experience of a place there is general agreement that it is an important factor in how people enjoy, feel, remember and return to parks and urban spaces. Well-designed and crafted park facilities, with a consistent architectural character can increase year round community use as well as special events like Mariposa and can become the 'brand'.

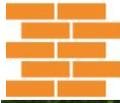
1. Early Park Structures



Park / Mariposa Festival Storage Building



Washroom Building



Parks / Mariposa Festival Storage Building



Rowing Club Boat Storage Building



Washroom Building, Rowing Storage Building



Rowing Club Storage Building

2. Contemporary Park Facilities



Beach Washroom and Change Facilities



Trans Canada Trail Pavilion



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Kids for Turtles Environmental Education Centre



Kids for Turtles Environmental Education Centre



Barnfield Point Recreation Centre, Curling Facility and Restaurant



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Ice Cream Hut