



# *Delta Waterfront Project*

*For the Community by the Community*

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## Vision



***“Delta is a vibrant community rich with heritage and natural amenities. Delta will leverage its assets to foster a mixed community that supports families, seniors, youth, and visitors through sustaining and developing local services.”***

**Delta is Ontario's next destination of choice. Located within a region with two UNESCO designations and a national historic site, the community of Delta has come together to leverage its heritage and natural assets to create an authentic sense of place.**

## Objective

*To create a vibrant commercial and accessible cultural hub for guests and citizens to enjoy.*

## Goals

- Revitalize the waterfront park into a cultural accessible hub
- Enhance and grow the commercial core of the historic village
- Continue to support existing and new businesses, events, and traditions that are part of the community's historic fabric.

The Village of Delta is centrally located in the heart of Rideau Lakes Township within the Counties of Leeds and Grenville in Eastern Ontario. It is a short drive to the major urban centres of Kingston, Brockville, Smiths Falls and Ottawa with an estimated population circumference 1.2 million.



## *Rich historic roots*

Delta is located on traditional Anishinaabe territory. In 1794, Abel Stevens, a United Empire Loyalist from Vermont, was granted land from the British government. He later brought family and friends to settle the area. Originally Delta was referred to as “Stevenstown”, but in 1815 the name was changed to “Stone Mills” after the stone merchant grist mill that still stands and operates today. The name was changed in 1826 to “Beverley” after Chief Justice John Beverley Robinson. In 1856, the village was renamed “Delta” because of its geographical location. Delta prospered as a farming and industrial village, which also supported pioneer trades, general stores, blacksmiths, hotels, churches, carriage works, a distillery, brickyard, foundry, cheese factory, tannery, newspaper and even a hospital.

## *Community assets and vitality*

Delta has a beautiful natural rural landscape that is very rich in heritage and located in the centre of the UNESCO Frontenac Arch Biosphere between the pristine lakes of Lower Beverley and Upper Beverley.

The 1810 Old Stone Mill is a National Historic treasure and one of the earliest surviving grist mills that continues to grind locally grown organic Red Fife Wheat and sells the flour. Volunteers from the Delta Mill Society are a strength for the community and have been instrumental in raising over \$1-million for the Mill’s restoration. They continue to offer interpretation, create exhibits and annually employ local summer students while also providing direction to many other volunteers that manage the operations of the Mill, the Old Town Hall and the Mill Drive Shed.

Complimentary heritage commercial buildings are in close proximity to the Mill including the 1888 Jubilee Business Block that was built in 1888 and named in honour Queen Victoria’s Jubilee.

This community is known for having Ontario’s oldest agricultural festival, the Delta Fair that began in 1830. This 4-day gathering has been the foundation for many other traditional cultural events such as; the Maple Syrup Festival that began as a centennial project in 1967 and celebrates spring and local food the third weekend in April; the Delta Harvest Festival that celebrates the Harvest in the fall at the end of September; and December brings Celebrating the Season. This event for the past 15 years has seen the village and Lower Beverley Park beautifully lit with holiday lights bringing in thousands of visitors to enjoy a meal at the United Church, a wagon ride through the Park and a visit to the Mill and Old Town Hall.

The volunteer strength of this community is vast and dedicated, they come together as one, and as such is the success of these major events and fundraising efforts.

Additional community assets include:

- Lower Beverley Lake Township Park - accommodations, nature trails, beach, and other facilities
- public boat launches on both the Upper and Lower Beverley Lakes
- walking tours of the village
- paddling on Upper and Lower Beverley Lakes
- cycling routes through the scenic countryside
- facilities and organizations supporting Delta - the United, Baptist and Anglican Churches, Branch 207 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Delta Fire Station

Within the Township of Rideau Lakes there are five historic lock stations which are part of the Rideau Canal, a National Historic and UNESCO World Heritage Destination. Services also includes include Country Roads Medical Centre, and Pharmacies.

## *Creating the Hub for the Community by the Community*

When the last restaurant closed within the commercial Jubilee Business Block, it was recognized that steps needed to be taken to reverse the community decline.

In 2014, the Delta Community Improvement Committee (DCIC) was formed utilizing the strength of its volunteers in coordination with the Township of Rideau Lakes.

The group secured funds from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to complete a First Impressions Report. It recognized Delta was a quaint, historic village with key amenities such as the post office, grocery and liquor store. The Old Stone Mill was a striking building that set the tone for the community. The report identified the need for infrastructure improvements, stronger web and social media presence and better wayfinding signage.

From this report, the brand **DO Delta, Ontario** was formed along with the website [www.deltaontario.com](http://www.deltaontario.com) and Facebook page.

The Township of Rideau Lakes Strategic Plan focuses on hamlet vitality and highly supports DCIC and the Delta Waterfront project. Committee members also met with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Economic Development Office who also recognizes Delta's potential with its authentic historic assets, a strong dedicated community of volunteers and the opportunity to create a unique commercial and cultural hub.

## *The Opportunity – Millside Park*

Millside Park has been identified as having all the requirements needed to create a truly authentic cultural, accessible hub connecting the Village's waterfront with its historic Mill, Old Town Hall, Drive Shed and the commercial block. The park will bring a welcoming ***sense of place*** to the centre of the community.

The property will provide guests and local residents:

- amphitheatre that will host music events and theatre
- stabilized docking for various types of boats - small fishing vessels, pontoon boats, canoes and kayaks
- accessible walkway to ensure all levels of mobility can enjoy the waterfront or access a boat
- artwork will adorn the walkway creating a cultural connection to the community's rich historic roots, traditional events and a new performance space for increased animation and vibrancy.

## *Planning for Millside Park*

With Township approval, DCIC put out a request for proposals, and out of three local landscape designers Riverview Design from Maitland, ON was selected for their experience in the Prescott Harbour and Brockville Waterfront Developments and their plan to keep the heritage of the community in their design.

Riverview Design presented two conceptual options. Since this project is ***for the community by the community***, an open house on September 15, 2018 was held. Approximately forty people came through and voted unanimously for Option Two.

## *Project Details*

The Millside Park development has been broken into seven phases, multiple sequential phases can occur should funds be available. These costs are estimated, in-kind donations to the project are welcome.

**Phase #1 - \$45,000 – funds confirmed, Township of Rideau Lakes (2019 budget)**

**Survey and Shoreline Stabilization**

Survey, CRCA permits and approvals and landscaping (underway – summer 2019)



# Delta Waterfront Project

## **Phase #2 – \$75,000**

**Excavations, Rough Grade, Granular Pathways and Boardwalk and include underground servicing for Lighting**

**Funds confirmed - \$5,000**, Five B Foundation, Long Sault, ON. *(Representatives from their Foundation visited the area last fall and agreed it was a worthwhile project.)*

## **Phase #3 – \$50,000**

**Dock and Canoe / Kayak Launch Area**

## **Phase #4 – \$40,000**

**Gazebo Footings, Handrail Footings, Signage Footings and Element Bases and Lighting**

## **Phase #5 – \$65,000**

**Steps, Planters, Boulders and Hard Surfaces**

## **Phase #6 – \$35,000**

**Topsoil, Fine Grade, Sod, Soft Surfaces, Trees and Gardens**

## **Phase #7 – \$70,000**

**Features and Elements includes lighting standards**

**Total Projected Cost: \$380,000**

## ***Benefits and Impact***

- A community and multi-generational hub that is accessible to all levels of mobility. The Township of Rideau Lakes has 38% of its population - 65 years old and above, as compared to Ontario with 20%.
- Improved community livability and walkability levels between residential, commercial business and public spaces.
- A public green space that is revitalized and enhanced in the heart of the village for learning and the celebration of arts, artisans and cultural activities with a tiered amphitheatre.
- A vista to sit by the water and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the 1810 Old Stone Mill National Historic Site with the Mill Creek running through it.
- Increase visitation and patronage by guests and local and seasonal residents to the hub will support the revitalization and growth of the “Jubilee Business Block”, located in the middle of the community and directly across from the park.
- Boaters will once again be able to come up the Mill Creek and dock their boats to access the local businesses, community services, and heritage destinations.
- A stronger tourism infrastructure to support increased visitation from boaters and the rubber tire markets.

## *The Future*

As one of Ontario's next authentic destination of choice, you will begin to hear more about Delta as goals are achieved. A revitalized waterfront is underway along with the enhancement of the commercial "Jubilee Business Block". All units have now been purchased and starting renovations. Additional buildings in the village welcome entrepreneurs, especially those that support local service needs.

Now just imagine one day soon going for a tour of the Old Stone Mill and a visit to the historic Blacksmith shop. Then take a short walk to the potential bakery across the street to the newly restored Jubilee Block to pick up a cup of freshly brewed coffee and a warm just-out-of-the-oven cinnamon bun made with the Old Stone Mill flour.

Then just a short walk back across the road to sit on a bench overlooking the Mill Creek where you can listen to the birds singing, watch the water flowing through the Mill, smell the wonderful aroma of the coffee and taste the cinnamon; read and touch the heritage plaque that may include your name as one of the donors and then give thanks for this beautiful, peaceful place.

Delta celebrates its cultural heritage, and is percolating towards a vibrant future with its authentic assets for locals and thousands of visitors to enjoy.

## *Donor Recognition*

Major contributors to the Delta Waterfront project to rejuvenate Millside Park into a cultural hub will be identified on a heritage plaque that will be prominently located at the park. The plaque will complement and keep with the heritage setting of the village core.

## *Community Leadership and Partners*

### *Delta Community Improvement Committee*

Joanne van Dreumel – Chair	Museum and Arts Management / Hospitality / Health & Safety
Doug Cowley - Vice Chair	Management – Marketing / Finance / Administration
Cathy Livingston – Secretary	Twsp. of Rideau Lakes, Councillor / DC Inventory Mgmt.
Liz Priebe	Human Resources / Employment Counsellor / Librarian
Moel Benoit	Electronic Technologist
Gus Brown	Banking Management / Financial Planner
Colleen Myers-Hickey	Human Resources Mgmt./Organizational Development





# Delta Waterfront Project

## *Making a difference*

The Delta Community Improvement Committee in consultation with the Township of Rideau Lakes is charged with raising funds to complete all phases of the Delta Waterfront project. Signage has been located at the site to build community awareness starting in the summer of 2019.

The Township of Rideau Lakes has a separate dedicated budget line to the Delta Waterfront Project. Any funds donated and expenses incurred will flow – through the account. The Township will issue tax receipts when applicable.

Making the Delta Waterfront Park a reality requires all levels of contribution. Major gifts can be in the form of in-kind products and services or contributions over a three-year period, recognizing the phasing of the park development.

In addition to the private and business contributions, the Committee is actively seeking government funds that can further leverage your contribution.

The Delta Waterfront Project is an investment in the creation of a community hub that builds an authentic sense of place that has existing heritage and natural assets with a community that is committed and passionate about its youth, families, seniors and guests from around the world.

## *Contacts*

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*Thanks so much for your consideration and support!*





# Conceptual Drawing

SCALE 1 : 100





**Option 2 – Overhead View 1**



**Option 2 – Overhead View 2**





**From Historic Information Sign Toward Amphitheatre**



**Option 2 – Accessible Ramp**





**Overhead from Street**



**From Boardwalk Toward Amphitheatre**



## Who Will Use This Area?



**Small Boats will be able to dock on the new stabilized docking that will include a canoe and kayak launch.**



**The Delta Waterfront Park  
will be available & accessible to people of all ages**



*The Township of Rideau Lakes  
&  
The Delta Community Improvement Committee*