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Port Hope resident awarded funding to promote proposed vision

PORT HOPE -- Port Hope resident Chris Wallace, on behalf of the Pier Group, has been awarded federal funding to participate in the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Cameco's proposed Vision 2010.

The \$10,000 grant, which will be shared with Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, is awarded through the Participant Funding Program administered by the Canadian Environmental Agency to assist the groups in the upcoming comprehensive EA study process, including the review of the study report.

"We're going to fight like hell to keep them," Mr. Wallace said of Port Hope's historic pier buildings.

The Vision 2010 redevelopment project involves a comprehensive redevelopment of Cameco's Port Hope conversion facility on Lake Ontario. The project consists of decommissioning and demolishing approximately 20 old or under-utilized buildings, including the historic buildings which reside on the pier.

Until last year, the 'pier buildings' were not part of the EA. Mr. Wallace said he first requested funding to participate in the EA in 2008.

The Pier Group had requested funding in the amount of \$10,000 to study, "Three, three-inch thick binders with 20 pounds worth of stuff," said Mr. Wallace. It is now up to the group's legal and technical committee to identify any heritage impacts related to Vision 2010.

"The list of acronyms and abbreviations at the back is six pages long," he said, describing the weightiness of the issue.

But there's one acronym that stands out to Mr. Wallace: VEC (Valued Ecosystem Component). For the Pier Group, the pier is a VEC.

What the group wants to look at is the potential impact of Vision 2010 on Port Hope's cultural heritage resources and socio-economics. According to Mr. Wallace, Cameco is looking at a number of options to rid its operations of defunct and buildings

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Groups work together to save pier buildings

To the editor:

Re: 'Pier Group aims to save historic buildings', Feb. 18, 2011.

While I greatly appreciate the coverage that has been given to the Pier Group's efforts over the last years, I would like to provide a bit of clarification to the recent article.

I applied for funding on behalf of the Pier Group for the simple reason that an unincorporated group or organization like the Pier Group is not allowed to apply for such funding, but an individual may apply on their behalf. One hundred per cent of this funding must go towards the cost of outside consultants being retained by us to assist in the Environmental Assessment process.

Not one penny will remain in my hands or those of anyone else on the Pier Group Steering Committee. In fact the group has collectively contributed literally thousands of hours without compensation, and expects to continue doing so for a long time to come.

I'd like to also point out that we want to work with the Municipality, the Harbour Commission and Cameco, not against them. In the past there's been a bit of acrimony between the different sides and we're working behind the scenes to change that. We do understand that the onus is on us to demonstrate that saving the pier buildings will be a

that at one time were used to refine uranium.

The process is complex, and no matter which way it's done, it involves the removal of contaminated soils, building materials and stored historical wastes, and the construction of replacement buildings.

"They're not allowed to demolish the buildings unless they've been perfectly cleaned," said Mr. Wallace.

Vision 2010 (Plan A) calls for the removal of the pier buildings once they've been sanitarily restored.

"But there is a Plan B," said Mr. Wallace. And that would be to keep them, and respect them as an integral part of Port Hope's economic past, he said.

The Pier Group aims to have its comments on the EA back to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission by March.

positive benefit to this community, and we're using the resources available to us make our case to them.

Chris Wallace

Port Hope