

*Please join us for a COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE about*  
**The Vision for the UTOPIA CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Saturday February 2 • Sunday February 3**  
**10am – 1pm**  
**Utopia Hall (8396 6<sup>th</sup> Line, Utopia)**

In recent months, the *Friends of the Utopia Mill & Park*, with the supportive input of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Area and Essa Township, have been working on the development of a Master Plan for the Utopia Conservation Area to help guide its direction in the years to come.

The development of this Master Plan for the Utopia Conservation Area occurs at an important milestone for the parkland, reflective of the achievements that have been realized through years of devoted care and investment by the *FRIENDS OF THE UTOPIA MILL & PARK (Friends)*, the community stewards and lessors of the property, and the supportive oversight by the *NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA (NVCA)*, the property owners and conservation stewards.

Working together, the organizations have been able to retain the parkland as publicly accessible, naturalized greenspace. And contained within this property, the unique Bell's Gristmill, the 155-year old heritage building, has incurred significant investment, having undergone extensive structural stabilization and aesthetic exterior renovations (known as Phase I of the gristmill's restoration).

With the Gristmill's Phase I now completed, *Friends* realizes the opportunity to review the full property from the perspective of its current and future potential to conserve and enhance the naturalized parkland for ongoing enjoyment and usage within the vision of environmental and conservation stewardship.

***The natural tranquility and beauty of the Utopia Conservation Area cannot be understated. The naturalized greenspace and wetlands, the abundant biodiversity, the inspiring heritage gristmill and its story across generations within the community --- all set in a place called UTOPIA – form the present-day elements and realities for which the vision and future direction of the Utopia Conservation Area is based. Preserving, protecting and enhancing these elements is fundamental, offering exciting complementary recreational opportunities which are becoming evermore in demand.***

**PLEASE JOIN US DURING THIS OPEN HOUSE**  
**LEARN ABOUT THE VISION • PROVIDE YOUR INPUT**  
**WE WELCOME YOUR INVOLVEMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Susan Antler, chair, *Friends of the Utopia Mill & Park*  
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