

Sept 23, 2015—Jury Lands Trail Donated by Halminen Homes

It's the first step in saving Camp 30 in Bowmanville.

Clarington resident Hannu Halminen, owner of Halminen Homes, donated funds to construct a 1,000 foot trail from Sprucewood Crescent to Concession 3, which traverses the historical site. St. Mary's Cement is providing the material for the limestone trail and D.G. Biddle & Associates are providing the engineering services.



*A new trail at Camp 30 is the first step in remediation for the property, from left Willie Woo, Larry Tracy of D.G. Biddle and Associates, Steve Brough of Broz Excavating, Mike of St. Mary's Cement, Mayor Adrian Foster and Hannu Halminen, owner of Halminen Homes.*

Together the philanthropists acted quickly and the project which started two weeks ago will be completed within a week.

Camp 30 is designated as a National Historic Site located on Lambs Road and Concession Street in Bowmanville. Over the years the 112 acre property has been a boys' training school, a German prisoner of war camp (during World War 2), and a private school. Currently the property is owned by two developers who are trying to organize a plan for the area.

For years the property has been deteriorating due to high levels of vandalism. Last year the Municipality of Clarington funded a consultant to report on how to deal with the area and how much remediation

would cost. It will cost millions. But there are ways to address the monumental task and it starts by reducing the property's propensity to vandalism.

Mayor Adrian Foster said it is "important to get people walking down here."

Marilyn Morawetz chair of the Jury Lands Foundation said, "It is well proven in other areas that when you have good people doing good things on a site the vandals move away."

Once the trail is open, residents and visitors to the area will be asked to stay on the trail system and not trespass on any other portion of the land or enter the existing buildings. The public will be asked for their "word of honour" or "ehrenwort" to stay away from the buildings and respect their historical significance. By walking the trail, residents will be following in the footsteps taken by prisoners over 70 years ago. A well-researched book by Daniel Hoffman, a former Executive Director of Clarington Museums, documented the stories of prisoners detained at Camp 30. During their time at Camp 30, prisoners were allowed to sign themselves out to go swimming, cross-country skiing, or to work in the fields on their "ehrenwort" or "word of honour" that they would return and not escape. Prisoners were bound by "ehrenwort" to follow the rules and not jeopardize this privilege for others.



*Camp 30 has been the victim of vandalism for many years.*

"The ultimate goal is that the site is accessible to the public, that its history and significance is preserved and can be enjoyed by all residents," said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster.

Halminen stated that he wants to "give back to the community, and this project is outside the normal projects that the council does. The Jury Lands Foundation is in fundraising mode and this will help." The

Jury Lands Foundation has been working since 2009 to save six historical buildings on the site. Morawetz said she is very “encouraged” by this recent donation of a trail.

Martin Vroegh, Director of Environmental Affairs for St. Mary’s, said the material the company is donated is sourced locally and that they are “more than happy to be a member of the community and help out where we can.”

Regional Councillor Willie Woo looks forward to having a “circle of green” around Bowmanville with connected trails, “this is part of that dream.”