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South Shell Park Oakville, Ontario

APPLICATION: Parking Lot LOCATION: Oakville, Ontario LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Cosburn Giberson Landscape Architects INSTALLED: May, 2009 LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR: DDR Landscape Contractors Ltd. FIELD: Eco-Optiloc[®]

As part of the "Green Movement", The Town of Oakville decided in 2008 to design and construct a park with permeable paving. The need to implement a permeable parking lot was first identified by the Environmental Strategic Plan Advisory Committee in 2008 and South Shell Park was chosen as the pilot project. The Town had adopted a new Official Plan which included a "Livable Oakville". According to Frank Loconte, OALA, ISA and Landscape Architect with Oakville, "the plan pays special attention to Storm Water Management". For example, the plan states that Stormwater Management Techniques shall be used in the design of new developments to control both quality and quantity of storm water run-off. The use of permeable surfaces and soft landscaping shall be encouraged where possible.

Oakville hired the firm of Cosburn Giberson Landscape Architects to design and oversee the construction of the parking lot. The parking lot is considered a pilot project for the Town and since it is located on sandy soils adjacent to Lake Ontario, the application seemed perfect. Cosburn Giberson selected Eco-Optiloc[®] due to its permeability factors, strength and performance features and proven track record. The colour selected was Terra Cotta with Double Holland[™] border to indicate parking lines. Series 3000[®] in Black Granite and Brussels Block[®] in Sandstone colours were also used in pedestrian areas adding to the dramatic impact of the hardscaping in the park.



The permeable paver system was completed in May of 2009 and considering the many storms we have experienced this year, Mr. Loconte said the drainage system has performed flawlessly with no standing water, even minutes after a major storm event.

South Shell Park is used year round, so to provide extra drainage insurance, a catch basin was installed along with curb cuts. A large storm pipe was very close by minimizing costs to install the catch basin. The Town wanted to ensure if the sub-grade was to freeze up , or the CB became blocked with ice, there would still be positive drainage. There were minimum slopes to achieve positive drainage and maximum infiltration using 2 inches of HPB on top of compacted granular A base. In a recent discussion, the contractor in the summer of 2009, DDR's owner, Domenic DiRisio, the Town and Consultant were very pleased with the overall result. Loconte went on to say that he does not believe that residents are aware the parking lot is permeable, but have had comments on the "attractive" appearance of the parking lot, which is rare.

The Town of Oakville believes the South Shell Park parking lot has been a success, given the purpose they were trying to achieve. For example, significantly reducing the amount of rainwater entering the municipal storm system, reducing site run-off and eliminating the need for a traditional storm system. The added benefit is a long term life cycle cost analysis. The interlocking stone will significantly outlast the traditional asphalt paving surfaces which is a factor rarely considered when examining the options of paving surfaces.

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