



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**Tourism and Culture Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Planning Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	December 1, 2015
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Interim Continuance of former Hamilton Historical Board Volunteer Advisory Committee Budget (PED15193) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Christopher Redford (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4688
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the budget of \$14,340, provided annually to the former Hamilton Historical Board (VCHMHB – 300323) be used to continue implementing annual heritage presentation programs from past years pending Council direction.
- (b) That the former Hamilton Historical Board budget of \$14,340 be transferred to the Tourism and Culture base budget to continue implementing heritage presentation programs, pending Council approval of a long term strategy for heritage presentation projects developed through public consultation.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 10, 2015, Council approved the dissolution of the Hamilton Historical Board (HHB) as a volunteer advisory committee to Council.

Since municipal amalgamation in 2001, the HHB has evolved from a volunteer committee advising Council on heritage matters into a working committee delivering heritage presentation programs (e.g. publications, events, and awards). The HHB received an annual budget to deliver those programs, with the assistance of City staff and in partnership with community groups.

At the July 10, 2015 meeting, Council directed Tourism and Culture Division staff to consult with a community working group consisting of former members of the HHB and other heritage advocates, and to report back to the Planning Committee on a strategy to

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continue public involvement in heritage presentation programs. Staff will be reporting to Council with recommendations on this matter in Q2 2016.

However, in the absence of the budget, public involvement in these heritage presentation programs will cease at the end of 2015 prior to a decision being taken as to their continuing value, and before a sustainable plan has been developed. Some events and programs which take place annually, early in the year, are already in development. Tourism and Culture staff could work with former members of the HHB to deliver the programs as an interim measure, if funding was available.

***Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable***

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** Staff is requesting the Hamilton Historical Board's base budget of \$14,340 be transferred to the Tourism and Culture Division Budget. A report to Council with the results of the public consultation on how best to continue the former Advisory Committee's presentation work will determine future budgetary requirements.

**Staffing:** N/A

**Legal:** N/A

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Through discussions with the Hamilton Historical Board (HHB) and Tourism and Culture Division staff, it became apparent that the HHB had evolved into a working group delivering public programming rather than an advisory committee. Working with a Council approved budget and with the assistance of staff, the HHB has hosted special events, commemorative activities, and heritage awards, and has developed historical publications and educational material. While this work is valuable and enhances the quality of life in the City of Hamilton, it is outside the mandate of an advisory committee reporting to Council. The Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee (a legislated committee) continues to advise Council on heritage issues.

As a result, Council approved the dissolution of the HHB as an advisory committee, and directed staff to report to the Planning Committee respecting the creation of a working group (consisting of current and former members of the HHB, as well as members of other heritage groups). This group is to work with Tourism and Culture Division staff to develop a strategy to support heritage presentation programs in the City.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

There are no policy implications or legislated requirements associated with the recommendation in Report PED15193.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Former Hamilton Historical Board members were consulted and have expressed keen interest in continuing the consultation process and continuing heritage presentation work in some manner on an interim basis.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

In recent years, the Hamilton Historical Board developed and, with the assistance of City staff and community partners, implemented a number of programmes which interpreted and communicated Hamilton's rich heritage. The four main on-going projects were:

- Heritage Day Volunteer Awards: An annual award ceremony held each February in Council Chambers, honouring volunteer service in Heritage. Has been co-sponsored by the Hamilton Historical Board and the Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Association.
- Historicity Magazine: An annual or biannual heritage / historical publication on topics in Hamilton's history.
- George Hamilton Day: Council established the Civic holiday in August as George Hamilton Day in the City, and the Hamilton Historical Board budget and volunteers have, up to now, covered the cost and labour involved in celebrating the day.
- Famous Hamiltonian Contest: An annual contest which offers citizens the opportunity to vote for a Famous Historical Hamiltonian of the Year, with educational programs and lectures offered about the winner throughout the year (for example, Rapid Ray Lewis was voted 2015 Famous Hamiltonian from among a group of six famous sports figures of Hamilton's past).

In addition, the HHB worked with staff and partners to administer a web site, a Speakers' Bureau, ward fact sheets and various smaller, unique events. The budget which has been required to mount these four core programmes has been \$14,340.

In the absence of funds for 2016, the programs will cease at the end of 2015, prior to any final decision on the future viability of the work. City staff could work with former members of the HHB to deliver programming on an interim basis if funding was available. The request for continuance of funding would be for one year only to allow

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the heritage presentation programming to continue uninterrupted while the consultation process is completed.

The proposed spending plan for 2016 includes:

Heritage Day Volunteer Awards	\$2890
Historicity Magazine	\$6900
George Hamilton Day	\$2300
Famous Hamiltonian Contest	\$500
Printing	\$500
Consultation	\$1250
Total	\$14340

After consultation with the working group of former HHB members and other heritage advocates, staff will make recommendations for the future of these or similar programs in Q2 2016.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Not applicable

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Strategic Priority #1**

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

*WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

**Strategic Objective**

- 1.3 Promote economic opportunities with a focus on Hamilton's downtown core, all downtown areas and waterfronts.
- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

**Strategic Priority #3**

Leadership & Governance

*WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.*

**Strategic Objective**

3.2 Build organizational capacity to ensure the City has a skilled workforce that is capable and enabled to deliver its business objectives.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable

CR/ro