



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

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 1, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Transfer from Reserve for Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site (PED16126) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Michael McAllister (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4797
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That \$35,000 be transferred from the Reserve for Various Museums – Reserve Number 104080 to Capital Project 7201258705 - Hamilton and Scourge Radar System to offset the cost of radar surveillance system relocation to monitor the *Hamilton and Scourge* shipwrecks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present location of the radar surveillance security system is no longer effective. Staff in consultation with ASI Group Ltd. (ASI) (sole service provider) deemed it necessary to move the system 3 kms closer to the archaeological site. The project will be completed this Summer. Funds are required to offset final costs to complete the project.

The original proposal included raising the height of the tower on which the radar is currently mounted. It has since been determined that the increase in tower height cannot be done safely. The best alternative option is to move the system to a new location. The cost of this alternative exceeded available funds by \$35,000.

There are available funds to cover this excess in the Reserve for Various Museums; funds specifically dedicated to the *Hamilton and Scourge* Radar Surveillance Security System Relocation Project.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Funds to be drawn from the Reserve for Various Museums, Account 104080. As of May 2016, there is an uncommitted balance of approximately \$310,000 in this Reserve.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The *Hamilton and Scourge* National Historic Site is located in 80 m of water at the bottom of Lake Ontario, 10.5 kms northwest from Port Dalhousie. It consists of two intact War of 1812 warships, extensive artifacts, and the human remains of some 50 Americans serving on the vessels.

In 1979, ownership of the site passed from the Royal Ontario Museum to the City of Hamilton. The *City of Hamilton Act* passed in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1979 granted the City of Hamilton the right to carry out archaeological research and recovery operations on the *Hamilton and Scourge* site. Any and all archaeological research and recovery work is subject to approval by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, which oversees licensing and reporting on both terrestrial and submerged archaeological sites in the Province. In 2006, a special designation was put in place for *Hamilton and Scourge* as a marine archaeological site. Under this new designation the site may not be approached on the surface or under the surface closer than 750 m radius measured from the centre of the site. Survey equipment of any kind may also not be used within the established radius without an archaeological licence.

In 2004, a radar surveillance security system was put in place in order to ensure that the City of Hamilton fulfilled its commitment as owners and cultural resource managers of the site by identifying and preventing unauthorized activity on the site. The system monitors lake traffic over the site and, using state of the art computer software, identifies suspicious activity. The system alerts City staff and the Niagara Regional Police Marine Unit to respond.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Manager, Heritage Resource Management, Tourism and Culture Division, Planning and Economic Development Department

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Coordinator, Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site, Tourism and Culture Division, Planning and Economic Development Department

Manager, Finance and Administration Division, Corporate Services Department

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The radar surveillance security system is located at ASI offices in St. Catharines – 3 kms from the lakeshore. Over the years trees lining the shore have grown tall enough that they now obstruct the radar beam, limiting the effectiveness of the system. In the Fall of 2014, ASI proposed a change to the tower height to fix the problem.

In May of 2015, ASI indicated that a tower extension was not viable and that relocation to a site on the lakeshore was the best option to deal with the problem of tree obstruction. A location has been secured and a design has been completed. However, the resulting costs exceed the current Capital Budget. A transfer from Reserve is required.

Reserve for Various Museums - Account 104080 contains funds from the former Hamilton-Scourge Foundation, a City agency established in 1980 to raise funds for the preservation of the site.

In addition to building a new tower, the system will receive a new radar unit and updated software and hardware.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

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

- 1.2 Continue to prioritize capital infrastructure projects to support managed growth and optimize community benefit.
- 1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

MM/ro