



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Committee Members Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 19, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Information Report Regarding Discovery of Time Capsule at J.L. Grightmire Arena, Dundas (Ward 13) (PED18059)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 13
PREPARED BY:	Jeremy Parsons (905) 546-2424 Ext.1214
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Robichaud Director of Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November, 2017, a time capsule was discovered during ongoing renovation work occurring at the J.L. Grightmire Arena, located at 35 Market Street South, Dundas (see Appendix "A" to Report PED18059). After the time capsule was recovered, staff from the Public Works Department later delivered the item to Planning staff for safe keeping. In February, 2018, the item was donated to the Dundas Museum and Archives for the long term conservation of the resource and for public display.

The time capsule, which is dated "June 12, 1950", was deposited by students and staff from Dundas Public School during the construction of the J.L. Grightmire Arena. The capsule contains the names and signatures of what is believed to be all students attending the school at the time.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1949: Local community committee formed to organize fundraising and construction for a new war memorial arena in Dundas.

1950: Dundas Arena (then Market Street Arena) was constructed. Dundas Public School time capsule deposited sometime after June 12, 1950.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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December 1950: Dundas Arena ceremonially opened through ribbon cutting by Canadian Olympic figure skater Barbara Ann Scott.

1963: Dundas Arena was renamed J.L. Grightmire Arena after James Louis Grightmire (1891-1963) who was heavily involved in local sports and sports facilities. Grightmire was also responsible for getting the first Hamilton-to-Dundas public transportation route created and co-founded the Dundas Golf and Country Club.

1982: Arena roof repaired with new steel superstructure.

September 2017: Demolition and renovation begins on the arena.

November 2017: Dundas Public School time capsule discovered on site.

Fall 2018: J.L. Grightmire Arena expected to re-open.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Since the discovery of the time capsule, Planning staff have been in discussions with the Ward Councillor who has indicated support for donating the item to the Dundas Museum and Archives.

TIME CAPSULE DETAILS

The time capsule was not recovered from the building cornerstone. Instead, the time capsule was found within the front (west) wall of the arena, according to staff from the Public Works Department. The wall was comprised of cinder block structure and brick veneer. The current project involves demolishing the existing building façade and building a new façade and addition. This new front structure is to include new basement locker rooms, a new mezzanine, concession area, washrooms, community room, and elevator connecting the building's three floors.

The time capsule was originally bound by two elastic bands and stowed within a glass bottle. The bottle was mistakenly shattered during the demolition process and was unrecoverable.

The time capsule consists of a roll of names and signatures of students from Dundas Public School. The roll was printed on school letterhead and was dated "June 12, 1950". The front page reads as follows:

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“TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

These lists contain the names of all the pupils who were attending this school when the corner stone for this arena was laid. They were placed there by Fred Carter, a Grade VIII boy, on behalf of those who had signed their names.

William Wylie [signature]
Principal”

In February, 2018, following discussions with the Collections and Exhibitions Manager at the Dundas Museum and Archives, staff formally donated the item to the Museum.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

- Appendix “A”: Location Map
- Appendix “B”: Photographs