




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

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 22, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	2023 Battle of Stoney Creek Re-enactment (PED23070) (City Wide) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	John Summers (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1747
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That a \$20,000 increase in the budget for the 2023 Battle of Stoney Creek Re-enactment be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives Reserve (#112221).
- (b) That \$30,000 be added to the Tourism and Culture 2024 base Operating Budget for annual Battle of Stoney Creek Re-enactment event costs.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek commemorates a significant point in British and Canadian history and a turning point in the War of 1812 and the American advance into Upper Canada. The re-enactment event was first held at Battlefield House Museum and National Historic Site in 1981 and, with the exception of 2020, 2021 and 2022, has occurred annually since. The event, and its accompanying History in Action Day (which presents curriculum-linked interactive programming for children in grades three to eight), are a mainstay of annual programming at the site and involve the active participation of volunteers and stakeholder groups.

The return to in-person programming and the economic activity that occurs in the community of Stoney Creek from the annual event, together with the results of public consultations, support retaining and enhancing this long-standing event.

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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.

Following public concern about the future of the event, Council approved the following motion at the June 8, 2022 meeting:

**The 2023 Battle of Stoney Creek Event**

**(Powers/Pearson)**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is the owner and steward of Battlefield House Museum and Park National Historic Site

WHEREAS, the site was the location of the Battle of Stoney Creek on the night of 5-6 June 1813;

WHEREAS, there is a longstanding tradition of an annual event commemorating the site;

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID uncertainty during the planning period, the 2022 Battle of Stoney Creek event will not be held in person;

WHEREAS a 30-minute video Born in the Creek: a Battlefield House Museum and Park Retrospective is being produced for broadcast in summer 2022 that highlights Battlefield House Museum and Park and the Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek.

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton desires that such events be aligned with City policies concerning equity, diversity and inclusion, inclusive of multiple perspectives and voices, educational in nature, respectful of varying perspectives on the historical events portrayed and provide economic impact for the enjoyment and benefit of the community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to plan for the delivery of an in-person Battle of Stoney Creek, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, themed event in 2023 that includes re-enactment activities, and that the event portray, in a respectful and historically accurate manner, all communities involved with and impacted by the battle including Indigenous peoples, settlers, military forces and ordinary citizens;
- (b) That in preparation for this event staff be directed to consult with the public and key stakeholders on the scope, approach and programming of the event;

- (c) That staff conduct an environmental scan of the current best-practice approaches to similar commemorative events and sites and share the results with participants in the consultation; and
- (d) That staff be directed to report back to GIC with options for the 2023 event for direction.

This report confirms that following a three-year Covid-19 related hiatus, the event will return on Saturday, June 3, 2023 and Sunday, June 4, 2023 in a similar format to previous years with some enhancements to content and therefore meets staff direction (a) of the Motion. An overview of the 2023 program is attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED23070.

In preparation for the return to in-person programming and to fulfil direction (b) and (c) of the Motion, public and key stakeholder consultations were held in person and online. Input from the consultation has been incorporated in the 2023 program and will inform future planning. The consultation findings are attached as Appendix “B” and Appendix “C” to Report PED23070.

Planning for the 2023 event has revealed significant Covid-19 driven cost increases in goods, services and other expenses since it was last held in 2019. Expenses for a 2023 event of the same size and quality as 2019 are expected to increase at least 30%. An increase in base of \$30,000 is recommended for 2024 and greater investment is included as an option for consideration.

### **Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 5**

### **FINANCIAL - STAFFING - LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: Since the in-person event was last held in 2019, costs for goods and services have increased across all categories. Based on current trends and 2019 to 2022 cost increases for comparable events such as Remembrance Day and Canada Day (which have come in at least 30% more than previously), a 40% increase in costs is estimated for 2024 over 2023.

The operating budget for the 2023 event is \$63,090. The working budget for the 2023 event of \$84,000 reflects at least \$20,000 in additional expenses. It is recommended that this gap be funded from departmental surplus in 2023.

A request for an additional \$30,000 is recommended for inclusion in the 2024 base Operating Budget to bring the base event budget to \$93,090.

Staffing: The programming enhancements noted above can be supported by existing staff and the involvement of the newly-hired Curator Indigenous Culture and Heritage.

Legal: N/A

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek first took place in 1981 several years before such living history events became popular in North American museums. Held annually since then (with the exception of 2020, 2021 and 2022) the re-enactment portrays the battle that took place between British and American forces on the nights of June 5 to 6, 1813. The victory of the British forces over a numerically superior enemy restored their control of the Niagara Peninsula and the waters of Lake Ontario and marked a turning point in the war.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

This event aligns with the City of Hamilton's Civic Museum Strategy and Tourism Strategy.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

- Facilitated in-person public consultations were held November 16, 21 and 25, 2022 (11 participants)
- An online public survey was available from November 14 to December 11, 2022 (354 responses)

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Participants in the key stakeholder consultations provided input about building on the event's strengths, improving the event's economic impact, mitigating event challenges, mitigating negative impacts and changes needed to improve the event.

Some improvements have been implemented into the 2023 event such as: increased public parking; a vendor agreement was reviewed and revised; improvements to the online registration process, and the addition of an Indigenous lacrosse game and interpretation of its historical significance as a means of dispute resolution; planned programming enhancements for 2023 are attached as Appendix "C" to Report PED23070.

A standing Stakeholder Working Group will be formed immediately following the 2023 event to continue the process begun during the 2022 consultations and plan for the 2024 event and beyond.

Other ideas for growing the event and shifting its scope will be explored and implemented in collaboration with the Stakeholder Working Group, re-enactors, the Stoney Creek BIA, local service clubs, the Indigenous and Black communities and other stakeholders.

Cost increases for comparable events since the battle re-enactment was last held in 2019 highlight the need for increased operating funding to maintain and enhance its quality, scope and benefits.

### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

To deliver the event with the budget at the 2019 level would require reductions in programming and the cancellation of related contracts and partnership arrangements.

### **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 - 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **Culture and Diversity**

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” to Report PED23070 - Battle of Stoney Creek Re-enactment Report of Findings

Appendix “B” to Report PED23070 - 2023 Battle of Stoney Creek Event Online Survey

Appendix “C” to Report PED23070 - Draft Program for 2023 Battle of Stoney Creek Re-enactment