

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOVEMBER 18, 2002

2003 DOORS OPEN ONTARIO PROGRAM

Recommendation

That the City participate in the "2003 Doors Open Ontario" program as sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation; and,

That the \$1,500 registration fee for the program be approved at this time to meet the December 16, 2002 deadline; and,

That staff provide a report on a proposed work plan to participate in this Program that includes information on establishing an organizing committee for the event and a budget for the event.

Purpose

To obtain Council approval for the City of Vaughan's participation in the Provincial "Doors Open Ontario" program.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan has been invited to participate in the "2003 Doors Open Ontario" program. The Ontario Heritage Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, administers the Program that aims to create access, awareness and excitement about heritage in local communities. A "Doors Open Ontario" event provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to tour and explore public and private, built, cultural and natural heritage sites, such as places of worship, cemeteries, residential and commercial buildings and heritage gardens. These heritage/cultural site tours must be provided to the public free of charge.

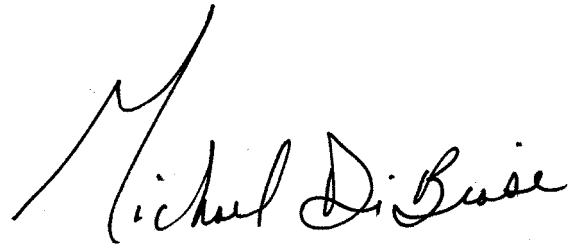
A "Doors Open Ontario" event must be held between April 15, 2003 and October 31, 2003. A municipality must feature a minimum of 12 properties for their event that is usually held over a one or two day period (usually on weekends between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) The municipality incurs all costs for their event, however, the Ontario Heritage Foundation provides promotion of the events in the "Doors Open Ontario Guide" and on the "Doors Open Ontario" Web site.

Additional requirements of the Program include: the establishment of a volunteer organizing committee; the identification of 12 heritage/cultural sites to be included in the municipality's event; a budget for the event that contains a publicity and promotional plan for the event.

Conclusion

The "2003 Doors Open Ontario" program is an excellent opportunity for the City to create awareness and help promote Vaughan's heritage and cultural sites to citizens and visitors. The support of Vaughan's participation in this program would provide a substantial benefit to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Di Biase". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michael Di Biase
Mayor