

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 3, 2012

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer and the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends approval of the following recommendation:

1. That the City enter into a data sharing agreement with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport; and,
2. That the City Clerk be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Vaughan.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

There are no costs or charges associated with entering into a data sharing agreement regarding archaeological site data with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Communications Plan

There is no communication plan to the public associated with this report.

Purpose

To review the proposed request for a data sharing agreement with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport with respect to archaeological site information within the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport maintains the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database as a part of their official duties under the Ontario Heritage Act. This database currently documents about 20,000 archaeological sites in the Province; approximately 800 to 1000 new sites are added each year as a result of archaeological investigations. The data and information in this database includes site location, type of site, history of research, cultural affinities, artifact collection location, research date, and other such information. This information is organized as a Geographical Information System (GIS) database, and includes all recorded archaeological sites in the City of Vaughan. This agreement would provide City of Vaughan staff with up-to-date information on the location and nature of all known archaeological sites within the City of Vaughan.

The City has requested this provincially recorded archaeological resource data within the City boundaries in order to facilitate archaeological information within the municipal planning context. The information would be added to the current archaeological layer of information on the City's GIS system. In order to release this information to municipalities, the Ministry requires that the City enter into an agreement that ensures confidentiality and security of data.

City staff from the Office of the City Clerk, Legal, and the Information and Technology Management departments have reviewed the agreement, and the terms align with similar agreements that the City already has with other agencies to access externally maintained geographical data sets.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Reference specific initiative report relates to:

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The data will grant City staff with detailed information regarding the location and nature of all known archaeological sites in the City of Vaughan. This will allow City staff to make more informed recommendations regarding future development planning applications that have the potential to impact known archaeological resources.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services