

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 4, 2002

### 2002 PATRON OF THE CITY OF VAUGHAN ARCHIVES AWARD

#### Recommendation

The Director of Recreation and Culture recommends:

That the Corporation's ***Patron of the City of Vaughan Archives Award*** for 2002 be conferred upon Mrs. Norma Baker.

#### Purpose

Inaugurated in 1999, the ***Patron of the City of Vaughan Archives Award*** is conferred upon a Vaughan resident (or former resident) or local organization in recognition of the highest level of Community Service through activities that directly support the *City of Vaughan Archives* in its efforts to preserve the Vaughan Community's Cultural Heritage and/or to manage the permanently-valuable administrative records of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan.

#### Background

In 1988 the City of Vaughan Archives was established to develop a Records and Information Management Program for the then Town of Vaughan. This program was to assist in improving business efficiency, cost-effectiveness and accountability in local government through the formalized long-term management of Corporate administrative records and information, as well as assisting with compliance with pending Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. The Archives was also mandated to develop a Cultural Heritage Program to enhance community life through the acquisition and preservation of, and provision of access to, significant documents reflecting the history and development of the Vaughan Community. A number of organizations and individuals associated with the Vaughan Community have consistently and substantially assisted the City Archives in fulfilling its mandate.

Mrs. Baker, a retired City of Vaughan employee and past member of Heritage Vaughan, has the unique distinction of having contributed notably to both the administrative and cultural components of Vaughan's Archival Program. For the past ten years Mrs. Baker has lent her considerable talent and enthusiasm to numerous activities and projects.

Upon completion of in-house training, she assisted with the indexing of the scrapbook series of the Mary Wood Collection, the City's most important non-government source of information on the Woodbridge area. Next, she played a key role in the organization and compilation of a descriptive inventory to the culturally and administratively valuable, and extensive, records of the Woodbridge Agricultural Society. Mrs. Baker then took on the considerable task of processing the personal papers of community activist and environmentalist Claire Coates, a project she completed in early 1997. When staff were unable to meet the high demand for information contained in the administratively significant Vaughan Township/Town of Vaughan Solicitor's Records by organizing these records to archival standards, Mrs. Baker volunteered to assist staff in this highly complex project, which was completed in 1999. Recently, the City of Vaughan has acquired the papers of World War I *Military Cross* winner, and local and provincial politician, Major Alexander "Lex" Mackenzie. Mrs. Baker is in the process of organizing and compiling a descriptive inventory to the "Major Mackenzie Collection", a body of records of national significance chronicling the life and accomplishments of one of Vaughan's most distinguished citizens.

### **Conclusion**

The contributions of Mrs. Norma Baker to the Corporation of the City of Vaughan and to the Vaughan Community through dedicated, long-term volunteer service with the City Archives over the last decade have been outstanding, and merit appropriate recognition by Council through conferring of the City's ***Patron of the City of Vaughan Archives Award*** for 2002.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Recreation and Culture