

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, JANUARY 20, 2003**

### **DOORS OPEN ONTARIO**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

That a "Doors Open Ontario 2003" committee be established on an ad hoc basis to help organize and plan the "Doors Open Ontario" event in Vaughan; and,

That volunteer committee members be solicited immediately from heritage community groups in Vaughan (i.e. Heritage Vaughan, S.P.O.H.T., Vaughan Township Historical Society), and through advertisement in local newspapers; and,

That the source of funding in the amount of \$15,000 be from the 2002 Cultural Services operating budget.

#### **Purpose**

To obtain Council approval to establish a "Doors Open Ontario" ad hoc committee and approve funds from the 2002 Cultural Services operating budget for the event.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Council at its meeting of 25 November, 2002 approved the City of Vaughan's participation in the "2003 Doors Open Ontario" program sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation and requested staff to provide a report on a proposed work plan for the event.

The "Doors Open Ontario" program aims to create access, awareness and excitement about heritage in local communities. A "Doors Open" event in a community 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.

A requirement of the Program includes the establishment of a volunteer organizing committee that will assist staff in the identification of 12 heritage/cultural sites to be included in the municipality's event, and provide tours of the heritage sites during the event.

Budget funding of \$15,000 will be required to pay for the printing and distribution of brochures, tour maps and guides, banners and newspaper advertisements 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.

The approval of Operating Budget funds for the event and the establishment of an ad hoc committee, are necessary steps to be taken in order to proceed with this community event.

**Attachments**

None.

**Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas  
Commissioner of Community Services