

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 3, 2003

PATRON OF THE CITY OF VAUGHAN ARCHIVES AWARD 2003

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

That the City's *Patron of the City of Vaughan Archives Award* for 2003 be conferred upon the Vaughan Township Historical Society.

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 direct and substantial support of 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 - Analysis and Options

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, culture and evolution of the Vaughan Community. A number of organizations and individuals associated with the Vaughan Community have provided outstanding, long-term assistance and support to the City Archives in fulfilling aspects of its mandate.

Since 1988 the Vaughan Township Historical Society has consistently demonstrated its commitment to and support of the City Archives' Cultural Heritage Program. The society's principal contribution is in the area of collection development, where it has the distinction of being the single largest donor of archival material to the City. Over twenty collections of various types and sizes have been acquired by the society through purchase or gift and subsequently donated to the City of Vaughan. Examples of records that are now available to Vaughan residents through the City's Archives due to the generosity and vision of the Vaughan Township Historical Society include: the original 1868 architectural plans of the City-owned Vellore School, hundreds of 19th and early 20th century photographs and post cards, audio and video recordings of the reminiscences of prominent Vaughan residents, book plates, three-dimensional artifacts, a historic poster collection, the personal papers of scholar G. Elmore Reaman, the Vaughan Township Churches Collection, the Vaughan Workers Club Collection (a Depression-era charity providing assistance to the families of local workers), etc.

The numerous, one-of-a-kind records entrusted to the City of Vaughan by the Vaughan Township Historical Society are a highly significant cultural and informational resource, and by providing a tangible link to the City's past offer residents a means to connect with their community.

The *Patron of the City of Vaughan Archives Award* is generally presented at the City's annual *Cultural Heritage Night* event.

Conclusion

The contribution of the Vaughan Township Historical Society to the Corporation of the City of Vaughan and the Vaughan Community through dedicated, long-term support of the City Archives has been exceptional, meriting appropriate recognition by Council through conferring of the City's *Patron of the City of Vaughan Archives Award* for 2003.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services