

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 1, 2011

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK 2011

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

1. That the information contained in this report, be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

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

- 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

The cost to develop a display and informational material related to Ontario Heritage Week is included in the Recreation and Culture Department's 2011 Operating Budget.

Communications Plan

The proclamation of Ontario Heritage Week in the City of Vaughan, February 21-27, 2011 will be posted on the City's website. Displays and informational material will be made available at community centres and the Civic Centre.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on Ontario Heritage Week February 21-27, 2011 and heritage preservation in the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

In January 2010, Council approved the following recommendation from Heritage Vaughan Committee:

- 1) That the third week in February be declared Ontario Heritage Week in the City of Vaughan in 2010 and in subsequent years henceforth.

Ontario Heritage Week, held the third week in February in the Province of Ontario, provides an opportunity to commemorate the history of communities, its buildings and landmarks, and the people who have contributed to its unique heritage and culture.

Vaughan's cultural history dates to approximately 11,000 years ago and continues to the present day. Over 300 registered archaeological sites documents Vaughan's aboriginal history and European settlement. Vaughan's history is mainly as a rural agricultural community first settled in 1797 for its fertile soil, perfect for farming. In 1850, municipal government was established in Vaughan under the Baldwin Act and Vaughan Township was born. In 1971, with the introduction of regional government, Vaughan became the Town of Vaughan and in 1991 was established as a City.

Today, Vaughan's historic village cores are designated as heritage conservation districts under the Ontario Heritage Act: Kleinburg-Nashville, Woodbridge, Maple and Thornhill. Design guidelines govern all exterior alterations to all properties within each District's boundary. Staff process on average 35 Heritage Permits and 75 Heritage Clearances/Reviews per year. Approximately 878 properties are designated within the four heritage districts. As well, the City has 49 properties individually designed under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

In 2011, Vaughan's cultural heritage program will include:

- An expanded communication and educational program.
- Public displays and brochures.
- A revised Heritage Awards program.
- A review of a City Heritage Property Grant program.

For Ontario Heritage Week 2011, displays and informational material will be made available at community centres and the Civic Centre.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

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

None

Conclusion

Ontario Heritage Week is an opportunity for the City to commemorate the City's cultural heritage and showcase our heritage buildings and landmarks. Vaughan's cultural heritage program which includes the preservation of our historic cores and buildings through the Ontario Heritage Act, requirements for archaeological assessment in our land development process and community outreach and development is ongoing to ensure the preservation of the City's history for future generations.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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