



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
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REPORT

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Jon Rehill, Commissioner & Fire Chief
Alan Scott, Captain

DATE: January 31, 2022

REPORT NO.: FIRE-2022-0003

SUBJECT: Halton Hills Fire Department-Station One (Acton) - Heritage Room

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. FIRE-2022-0003, dated January 31, 2022 regarding the Halton Hills Fire Department- Station One (Acton)- Heritage Room be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council consider formally recognizing the Acton Firefighters Association for their financial contribution of \$41,000.00 to make the Station One (Acton) expansion and the Heritage Room Museum a reality for the citizens of Halton Hills;

AND FURTHER THAT Council acknowledge the efforts of the Acton Firefighters Association to design, decorate and maintain the Heritage Room Museum to tell the story of the fire department's rich history;

AND FURTHER THAT Council enter into an agreement with the Acton Firefighters Association that the Heritage Room will always be affixed to the fire hall in Acton and that all of the exhibits owned by the Acton Firefighters Association will always have a safe place to be shared with the Halton Hills community.

AND FURTHER THAT Council grant access to the designated life members of the Acton Firefighters Association to maintain the exhibits in the Heritage Room.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Acton Firefighters Association has been a strong supporter of our community for over 125 years, not only providing emergency services, but also hosting numerous community events like the Acton Santa Claus Parade, and the Canada Day Fireworks display.
- The Acton Firefighters Association was approached by the Fire Chief and senior Town Staff in 2009 about a possible financial partnership to assist with the Station One (Acton) expansion project including a Heritage Room Museum for the AFFA's Studebaker fire engine to be displayed to the public.
- The Acton Firefighters Association raised \$41,000.00 as their part of the partnership and secured a donation of the \$50,000.00 to complete the interior of the building as well as the museum displays.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Acton Firefighters Association played a vital role in the planning and financing of the Station One (Acton) expansion project in 2009. The group raised \$41,000.00 to pay for their contribution to the project and secured a \$50,000.00 donation from Dufferin Quarry to complete the interior of the Heritage Room and purchase the museum quality display cases. The opening ceremonies of the Station One (Acton) expansion took place in September 2010 and the Acton Firefighters Association was never formally recognized by the Town of Halton Hills for their contributions to this project.

The Town of Halton Hills and the Acton Firefighters Association have never signed an agreement that would ensure that the Studebaker and all of the exhibits owned by the AFFA in the Heritage Room would have a safe place to be displayed to the Halton Hills community for years to come.

Moving forward the author is respectfully requesting that the Town consider a signed agreement with the Acton Firefighters Association that would protect the interests and property of both groups. The following language could be considered for the potential agreement:

1. The Town of Halton Hills will mount a plaque at the entrance to the Heritage Room acknowledging the AFFA for their contribution to preserving the history of firefighting in the community.

2. The Town of Halton Hills shall continue to provide a Heritage Room for the AFFA to display their firefighting exhibits including but not limited to their 1926 Studebaker (Bickle) fire engine to the Halton Hills community (photo below depicts the Studebaker located in the Heritage Room at Station 1, Acton).



3. If the Town of Halton Hills Fire Department, Station One (Acton) needs to be moved from the current location, a new Heritage Room shall be built by the Town of Halton Hills at no cost to the AFFA.
4. The Town of Halton Hills, in consultation with the executive of the AFFA shall discuss and plan for any potential capital budget improvements or repairs to Station One (Acton) and the Heritage Room.
5. Access to the Heritage Room shall be granted to all current, past, and life members of the Acton Firefighters Association that are in good standing with the Town of Halton Hills.
6. The AFFA will continue to support the Town of Halton Hills and the Halton Hills Fire Department by attending all community events with the Studebaker, whenever there is an approved operator available.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to preserve, protect and promote our distinctive historical urban and rural character of Halton Hills through

the conservation and promotion of our built heritage, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources.

This report also identifies fiscal and corporate management as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Staff worked together with Senior Town Staff, the Fire Department Management Team, and members of the Acton Firefighters Association. All parties are in agreement with this report in principle.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report has the potential to require funding in a future budget year and therefore needs to be referred to budget committee for tracking purposes.

Reviewed and approved by,

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer