



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Laura Loney, Senior Heritage Planner

DATE: June 20, 2020

REPORT NO.: PD-2020-0024

RE: Heritage Property Grant Program By-law

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report PD-2020-0024 dated June 20, 2020 regarding the Heritage Property Grant Program By-law be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council pass the Heritage Property Grant Program By-law as contained within Appendix A of Report PD-2020-0024.

BACKGROUND:

The Heritage Property Grant Program was established in 2005 as a partnership between the Town of Halton Hills and the Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills, an external charitable agency, to incentivize heritage conservation work on designated heritage properties within the municipality. The Heritage Property Grant Program is currently funded solely by the Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills, with funds raised through the annual Town of Halton Hills' Mayor's Heritage Golf Tournament. Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, this year's tournament has been cancelled. The Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills has identified that due to this cancellation, it will be unable to fund this year's Heritage Property Grant Program.

As part of an ongoing review of the Town's existing financial incentive programs for designated heritage properties, in consultation with legal counsel it was determined that the Heritage Property Grant Program By-law should be prepared to formally establish the program.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the requirements for Council to pass a By-law establishing the Heritage Property Grant Program and to outline the solution identified by staff to fund the program in 2020.

COMMENTS:

Should Council pass the Heritage Property Grant Program By-law (Appendix A), the existing program will be formally established, ensuring there are no perceived conflicts with exiting legislation within Section 39(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* or the *Municipal Act*. Additionally, the draft By-law will provide additional guidance for eligible property owners, stakeholders, staff, and Council going forward and ensure accountability and transparency within the program.

Staff has identified an opportunity to use available funds within the Planning and Development Department's existing capital budget for Official Plan Review, given the program's alignment with goals and objectives in the *Official Plan*. Section A2.6 of the Town of Halton Hills' *Official Plan* speaks to the Town's goal to "identify, conserve and enhance the Town's cultural heritage resources and promote their value and benefit to the Community. Section A2.6.2 identifies eleven Strategic Objectives relating to this goal, including:

A.2.6.2 Strategic Objectives

- a) To enhance the character of the Town by protecting and maintaining the Town's cultural heritage resources;
- b) To encourage the retention of cultural heritage resources wherever possible to provide continuity between the past and the present;
- c) To use the preservation of cultural heritage resources as a tool to enhance the character and vitality of neighbourhoods and districts.

By utilizing funds within this existing capital budget, staff can facilitate the Heritage Property Grant Program this year to continue to support heritage property owners' efforts to conserve designated properties within the Town in line with the *Official Plan*.

Should Council pass the By-law attached in Appendix A to this report, staff will update application materials and information and provide these materials to eligible designated property owners. Following the review and approval of successful applications through a meeting of Heritage Halton Hills, the Town's Municipal Heritage Committee, staff will report to Council with a list of approved applications.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report relates to the implementation of the Strategic Direction D: To Preserve, Protect, and Promote Our Distinctive History, the goal of which is to preserve the 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 directly relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

D.1. To require and develop a planning framework for the conservation of significant built heritage, cultural landscapes and archaeological resources.

D.2. To encourage the preservation and enhancement of the historical character of the Town's distinctive neighbourhoods, districts, hamlets and rural settlement areas.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Staff has identified an opportunity to use available funds within the Planning and Development Department's existing capital budget for the Official Plan Review.

CONSULTATION:

Staff from the Corporate Services and Planning and Development departments were consulted in the preparation of this report. Heritage Halton Hills has also been advised that staff have been working to establish this By-law.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

No public consultation was required as part of the preparation of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation. This report supports the Cultural Vibrancy pillar(s) of Sustainability and the theme of Valued Heritage Legacy. In summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Good.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Heritage Property Grant Program By-law will be made available on the Town's municipal website and included in application mailings to eligible designated property owners for the 2020 Heritage Property Grant Program.

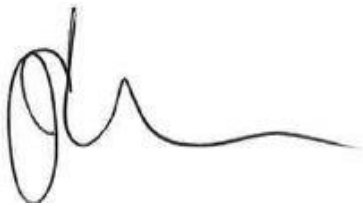
CONCLUSION:

This report has briefly summarized the requirement for a By-law to formally establish the Heritage Property Grant Program and has identified staff's solution to fund the program this year. It is recommended that Council pass the Heritage Property Grant Program By-law in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronwyn Parker".

Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "John Linhardt".

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Marshall".

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer