



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: September 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Heritage Community Recognition Award Nominations
Ontario Heritage Trust

PREPARED BY: Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning, ext. 2080

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the staff report entitled "Heritage Community Recognition Award Nominations, Ontario Heritage Trust", dated September 10, 2013, be received;
- 2) That as recommended by the Heritage Markham Committee, Council nominate the following individuals for the Ontario Heritage Trust's Heritage Community Recognition Program:
 - Fred Watt and Joyce Nelson Watt, Built Heritage
 - Evelin Ellison, Cultural Heritage
 - Jane McCulloch, Natural Heritage
- 3) That this resolution be referred to the Council meeting on September 17, 2013 to address the nomination deadline;
- 4) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not applicable.

PURPOSE:

To seek Council endorsement of Heritage Markham's recommendation for nominations for the Ontario Heritage Trust's Heritage Community Recognition Program.

BACKGROUND:

Provincial recognition of local heritage volunteers

The Ontario Heritage Trust's Heritage Community Recognition Program celebrates volunteer achievement in identifying, preserving, protecting and promoting local heritage. It recognizes that community volunteers play a vital role in conserving Ontario's heritage.

Any resident of Ontario, over 18, who has made outstanding volunteer contributions in their community in the area of built, cultural or natural heritage conservation is eligible for nomination. Heritage activities must have been provided without payment and posthumous nominations are not eligible. Small project groups may also be nominated, however the entire membership of an organization is not eligible. For example, a municipal heritage committee, historical society or board of a conservation authority would not be eligible.

The nomination deadline is **September 30, 2013** and all nominations must be endorsed by a motion of the municipal council. A council may submit a maximum of one nomination in each category. A detailed description of the nominee and their achievements must be included in the submission package. Recipients of the award receive a certificate and an achievement pin which is usually presented at a Markham Council meeting.

Past Markham award winners are identified in Appendix 'A'.

Heritage Markham has nominated three candidates

At the July 3, 2013 meeting of Heritage Markham, the following candidates were nominated in the Built Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Natural Heritage categories:

- Fred Watt and Joyce Nelson Watt in the Built Heritage category for their restoration work at Markham Heritage Estates and helping others with their restoration knowledge;
- Evelin Ellison in the Cultural Heritage category for her ongoing work as an advocate for the protection and preservation of historic Thornhill;
- Jane McCulloch in the Natural Heritage category for her work protecting and preserving the natural heritage in the Thornhill community.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

All nominees are worthy of recognition for their preservation activities

Fred Watt and Joyce Nelson Watt

Fred Watt and Joyce Nelson Watt have protected and preserved Markham's built heritage in both their personal lives and in a volunteer capacity. They have brought back to life three extremely deteriorated and threatened significant heritage dwellings at Markham Heritage Estates. All properties were sensitively and accurately restored to their former glory with the majority of the restoration work being undertaken by their own hands. In addition, Fred was a volunteer reviewer of Markham's revised Administrative Guidelines for Markham Heritage Estates to ensure the guidelines captured and provided all the necessary assistance from a property owner perspective.

Joyce Nelson Watt was an instrumental member of the City's Heritage Markham Committee for 3½ years from 2006 to 2009 serving as the Chair for 2 ½ years, a challenging position that can be both complex and demanding. Joyce was also an active and dedicated member of three Sub-Committees: Architectural Review, Building Evaluation and Awards of Excellence. She provided her knowledge, experience and restoration advice to countless applicants as their applications were reviewed by the heritage advisory committee.

Both Fred and Joyce are worthy candidates to be recognized for their work in helping to preserve Markham's built heritage resources.

Evelin Ellison

Evelin Ellison has given countless hours of volunteer time in protecting the cultural heritage of the Thornhill community over the last 15 years. She was a Thornhill member

on the Heritage Markham Committee for three years from 2004 to 2006 serving on a number of sub-committees including the Architectural Review Sub-Committee. She was never one to miss a site visit. During her tenure and afterwards, she has constantly stressed the importance of landscape features, gardens and trees (or the cultural heritage landscape) as being equally worthy of preservation as the architectural features of properties.

She was a strong advocate for Markham introducing a tree preservation by-law. She was an active supporter and community participant in the new Thornhill Heritage Conservation District Plan. Evelin is also a member of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill (SPHOT) and has been a promoter of its main event, the Thornhill Festival in her role as co-chair of the Parents Council at Thornhlea School.

Perhaps her greatest contribution has been her leadership role in the Ward One (South) Thornhill Residents Inc. where she served as president for three years and is currently vice-president. The objective of the organization is to preserve the unique historic and natural character of the immediate area as well as being a voice for the popular issues that need to be addressed. Evelin has represented the association at hearings, committees and at Council always stressing the importance of protecting the cultural heritage of the community.

Evelin is unique in that she has been a strong advocate for all three forms of heritage preservation in her community- built heritage resources, the natural environment and the overall cultural heritage of the Thornhill community.

Jane McCulloch

Jane McCulloch has been a tireless volunteer in her goal to preserve Markham's natural environment. Jane has played a major role in looking after the Grandview Woodlot which helped secure Markham as a 2010 Communities in Bloom Award winner in the Urban Forest Management Category. Jane and her fellow Grandview Area Residents Association members adopted Grandview Park since the inception of the Adopt-a-Park program. She has contributed countless hours of volunteer work to improving its natural condition (i.e. removing invasive species, re-introducing native understory and edge vegetation). Jane also helps organize and participates every year at the Grandview Area Parks Clean Up day.

Jane and her neighbours have also planted the public garden plots on Henderson and Steeles Avenue leading into her subdivision, every year. She also has worked with Markham forestry staff to plant trees around the Henderson School and in the woodlot. Also at the school grounds, she has worked with the children to plant trees, shrubs and flowers in their friendship garden.

Jane is a volunteer at the Toronto Botanic Gardens due to her Master Gardener status. Over the years, she has written articles on topics such as composting and organic lawn care. At her own home, Jane has a beautiful organic, home grown composted garden. Her garden has been featured on Open Gardens Toronto as a site worth seeing. She is

also a member of the 'Ladies of the Lake' group that works to protect Lake Simcoe and is a steward of a large woodlot at Lake Simcoe removing thousands of garlic mustard and buckthorn from the area.

The Thornhill community is a much better place for both people and wildlife thanks to the tireless and ongoing voluntary efforts of Jane McCulloch. As one resident put it, "I know of no one more dedicated to preserving our natural heritage than 'our Jane'".

Nomination deadline is September 30, 2013

It is recommended that the Development Services Committee recommendation be referred to the Council meeting on September 17 to address the nomination deadline.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Not applicable.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Not applicable.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

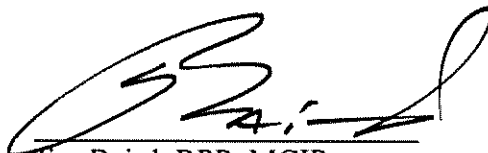
Heritage Markham Committee was consulted.

Heritage Section staff have prepared the nomination packages.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Rino Mostacci, RPP, MCIP
Director, Planning & Urban Design



Jim Baird, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix "A"

Past Markham Recipients - Heritage Community Recognition
Awards – Ontario Heritage Trust

FILE PATH:

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Appendix "A" Past Markham Recipients - Heritage Community Recognition Awards

Year	Recipient	Category
1997	John Lunau	Cultural Heritage
1998	Peter Ross	Built Heritage
1999	William (Bill) Wylie	Built Heritage
2001	Ken Hoyle Marion Matthias Lorne Smith	Built Heritage Cultural Heritage Natural Heritage
2002	Dr. Richard Jarrell Lesley Price Laura Weaver Carol Danard	Heritage Garden Natural Heritage Cultural Heritage Built Heritage
2003	Susan Casella George Duncan	Cultural Heritage Built Heritage
2004	Elizabeth Plashkes Gwyneth Wojna Valerie Burke Raymond & Mavis Smylie William (Bill) Wylie	Built Heritage Cultural Heritage Natural Heritage Heritage Garden Lifetime Achievement
2005	Marion Matthias	Lifetime Achievement
2008	Nigel Connell	Built Heritage
2009	Susan Casella	Lifetime Achievement
2011	Peter Ross Tupper Wheatley	Cultural Heritage Natural Heritage
2012	Barry Nelson Sid Kiyoshi Ikeda Wing Morse	Built Heritage Cultural Heritage Natural Heritage