



Report to: Development Services Committee

Report Date: February 7, 2012

SUBJECT: Heritage Week 2012 Proclamation
February 20 to February 26, 2012
PREPARED BY: Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning, ext 2080

RECOMMENDATION:

That the week of February 20-26, 2012 be proclaimed as Heritage Week in the Town of Markham

That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution, including the community outreach measures outlined in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not applicable

PURPOSE:

To recommend that Council proclaim the week of February 20-26, 2012 as Heritage Week in Markham. Council permission is also requested for staff to implement related steps as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND:

Heritage Day is an opportunity to celebrate the architectural heritage and historic places of Canada. The Heritage Canada Foundation promotes the third Monday in February each year as Heritage Day and has long advocated adopting this date as a national holiday (February 20, 2012 which is also the Family Day holiday in Ontario)

The Ontario Heritage Trust promotes Heritage Week (Monday, February 20 to Sunday the 26th). The theme this year is "Defending a nation" – see attached letter. This is a time during which municipalities across the province are invited by the Ontario Heritage Trust to join in the celebration of Ontario's rich and diverse heritage.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

As part of Heritage Week, staff will undertake the following:

- a) An educational heritage display will be set up by the Heritage Section in the Great Hall for the period of Heritage Week 2012. The display table will allow the distribution of heritage related brochures including material from the Heritage Canada Foundation. The display will also be set up at the Markham Museum on Monday, February 20th as part of the Museum's Winterfest/Family Day celebration. This display will not only serve as part of the Town's participation in the 2012 Heritage Week Celebration, but will also serve as another means of fulfilling, in part, the Commission's objective of public outreach, information and education.

- b) For the duration of the week, the Prince of Wales Prize Flag will be flown on the Town of Markham Flagpole in commemoration of Heritage Week. The Prince of Wales Prize flag is an award bestowed by the Heritage Canada Foundation and was presented to the Town by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In 2000, the Town of Markham was the first ever recipient of the Prince of Wales Prize, for outstanding stewardship of the built heritage by the municipality. The flag to be flown is a duplicate of the original flag, presented to the Mayor and Council.

Heritage Markham has confirmed its support for the above actions and has asked Council to proclaim February 20 -26, 2012 as Heritage Week in Markham. Heritage Markham may also be organizing a window restoration workshop during Heritage Week.

FINANCIAL TEMPLATE

Not applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

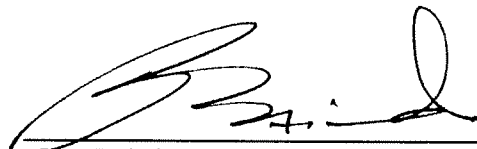
The protection of cultural heritage resources helps achieve a quality community by ensuring that the Town of Markham's historical resources remain part of the fabric of the Town, strengthening the sense of community.

DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED BY:


Rino Mostacci, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Director, Planning & Urban Design


Jim Baird, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 'A' Heritage Day 2012 - Information from the Ontario Heritage Trust



An agency of the Government of Ontario

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www.heritagetrust.on.ca

November 28, 2011

Ontario Heritage Week 2012 – February 20 to 26

Dear friends,

Heritage Week offers a unique opportunity for the people of Ontario to celebrate the province's rich history and to recognize the vital work of heritage organizations and volunteers across the province. The Ontario Heritage Trust – the province's lead heritage agency – will kick off Heritage Week with the official opening of the new Parliament interpretive centre in Toronto on February 17, 2012. The interpretive centre, which is located on the site of Ontario's first purpose-built parliament buildings, will feature an exhibit on early parliament and the War of 1812 experience at York (Toronto).

Ontario Heritage Week 2012 runs from Monday, February 20 to Sunday, February 26. The Trust's theme this year – "Defending a nation" – commemorates 2012 as the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812, a significant and defining event in Canadian history. During Heritage Week 2012, communities across the province are encouraged to reflect on the War of 1812, as well as other major conflicts in our history, and examine how they have shaped our culture and our physical environment.

The successful defence of the border by combined Canadian, British and First Nation forces during the War of 1812 was a critical element in the birth of Canada as an independent nation. The sense of unity experienced in the period following the war inspired an important period of nation-building through the first half of the 19th century, eventually resulting in Canadian Confederation in 1867.

But the impacts of conflict are not limited to social or political – they can be physical, too. Strategic targets for invasion during the early 19th century – such as Amherstburg, Kingston, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Toronto – were permanently transformed by the construction of major fortifications designed to withstand attacks from enemy forces. In some cases, entire communities were shaped as a result of Canadian efforts in international conflicts. In Ontario, the communities of Ajax and Deep River were established as a direct result of Canada's involvement in the Second World War – Ajax as a centre for munitions manufacturing and Deep River to accommodate Allied scientists and engineers working at the nearby Chalk River Nuclear Research Laboratories. The construction of the Diefenbunker – a nuclear fallout bunker in the Village of Carp near Ottawa, built by the Government of Canada at the height of the Cold War in the late 1950s – provides another example of how military tension can impact even the smallest communities. In essence, any community that contains an armoury, war monument or legion hall has directly or indirectly been influenced by conflict.

With this year's theme focused on the defence of our province and nation, communities are encouraged to look beyond the conflicts themselves and to celebrate the times of peace that have resulted. Communities may also wish to host their special events during Heritage Week 2012 in locations that have a direct connection to this year's theme. Exhibitions of war-time photographs or artifacts, oral history projects about storied war veterans, rededications of buildings or monuments, and the creation of commemorative peace gardens are just a few examples of activities that lend themselves well to the "Defending a nation" theme. As in years past, however, all celebrations of local heritage – regardless of theme – are encouraged to take part in Heritage Week.

We once again invite you to submit your special events and activities for posting on the Ontario Heritage Trust's online list of Heritage Week events. Please follow the instructions on Page 3 for submitting your events. You can visit our website (www.heritagetrust.on.ca) over the coming weeks to see the exciting activities and events that are being planned in communities across the province.

Heritage helps build stronger communities and improves our quality of life. Working together, we can ensure the protection of our heritage for present and future generations. We look forward to working with you over the coming weeks in celebrating Heritage Week 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Moorhouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Moorhouse
Executive Director