



Report to: Development Services Committee

Report Date: June 14, 2011

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 June 14, 2011, be received;
- 2) That Council nominate the following individuals for the Ontario Heritage Trust's Heritage Community Recognition Program:
 - Peter Ross, Cultural Heritage
 - Tupper Wheatley, Natural Heritage
- 3) That this resolution be referred to the Council meeting on this date to allow staff the time needed to prepare the nomination package and submit prior to the June 30, 2011 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 **June 30, 2011** 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 summarized in Appendix 'A'.

Heritage Markham has nominated two candidates

At the May 11, 2011 meeting of Heritage Markham, two candidates were nominated:

- Peter Ross in the Cultural Heritage category for his extensive work in helping to preserve the historic character of Markham Village;
- Tupper Wheatley in the Natural Heritage category for his extensive contribution natural heritage conservation focused on Milne Dam Conservation Area.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Both nominees are worthy of recognition for their preservation activities

Mr. **Peter Ross** has been a tireless volunteer in the protection of the cultural heritage of the Markham Village heritage conservation district. Mr. Ross has been a member of Heritage Markham (Markham's municipal heritage committee), he is long serving a member of the Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association and was an inaugural member (1998) and is still a steadfast member of the Main Street Markham (MSM) Committee of Council serving for 14 years. The objective of the MSM Committee is to advocate for the ongoing protection and enhancement of Markham Village as a living heritage village. Mr. Ross has always been an advocate for the protection of the cultural heritage character of Markham Village and was a key proponent and promoter of MSM's guiding document for Markham Village – "Main Street Markham: A Vision for the Millennium" prepared in 1999. He has been a relentless activist to ensure projects that would make the "Vision" a reality were implemented such as Tannery Pond, Church Street and Joseph Street Parkettes, street tree plantings, heritage signage review and the streetscape and traffic management plan that has lead to the proposed narrowing and redevelopment of Main Street Markham that is currently being implemented.

Mr. Ross has been the MSM Committee representative on the Community Advisory Committee for the Environmental Assessment Study and Detailed Design Phase of the Main Street Markham Streetscape Redevelopment Project. Never confrontational, he has been a passionate advocate for the protection of the cultural heritage character of the village with an emphasis on preservation of the unique greenspace of the Rouge River valley when originally threatened with road widening. Mr. Ross received a Heritage Recognition Award for Built Heritage in 1998 for his extensive work in helping to relocate and preserve a heritage building in a new plan of subdivision that was going to be demolished due to Highway 407.

Mr. **Tupper Wheatley** has been a resident of Markham since 1965. Now retired, he was an elementary and high school teacher in Scarborough, but is also a qualified pastry chef. He has a passion for conservation and natural heritage, and is particularly known as a founding member and long-time president of the Milne Park Conservation Association, a

position he had held since 1985. The mission statement of the MPCA is “to ensure the area remains a viable natural park, where wildlife and the general public can coexist.” To this end, under Mr. Wheatley’s presidency, the association has raised significant funds for rehabilitation work, coordinated tree planting and valley clean-up days, and facilitated the transfer of lands for Rouge Park purposes. Mr. Wheatley is a strong advocate for the environment and the protection of natural watercourses.

Tupper Wheatley has served on an impressive number of committees relating to his interest and commitment to natural heritage. A sampling of just a few of the committees he has devoted volunteer time to include the Markham Main Street Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee, the Milne Pathways Working Group and Community Liaison, the Rouge River Watershed Plan, the Markham Small Streams Study, the Rouge Valley Park Planning Project under Save the Rouge Valley System, and Save the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Mr. Wheatley has been the recipient of a number of awards in recognition of his outstanding volunteer contribution: A 20-year Ontario Volunteer Service Award, Rouge Park Heritage Award, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Honour Roll, International Year Volunteer Award from the Government of Canada, and the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal. Tupper Wheatley and his wife were recognized by the Mayor of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, for organizing aid for the victims of the ice storm of 1998 in Eastern Ontario and Quebec.

Nomination deadline is June 30, 2011

Given that a council resolution is required, it is recommended that the Development Services Committee recommendation be referred to the Council meeting on June 14, 2011 to allow staff the time needed to prepare the nomination package and submit prior to the June 30, 2011 nomination deadline.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Not applicable.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Not applicable.

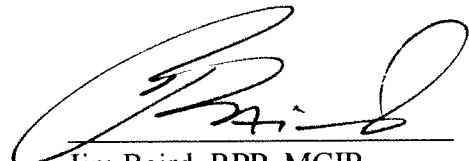
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Heritage Markham Committee was consulted.

Heritage Section staff would be required to complete the nomination applications and submit prior to June 30, 2011.

RECOMMENDED BY:


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


Jim Baird, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix "A" Markham Recipients Heritage Recognition Awards

FILE PATH:

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Appendix "A" Markham Recipients Heritage 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