

Date: October 24, 2011
From: Jack Heath with Stu Kellock and John Webster
Re: The Diamond Jubilee Committee of Markham

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Town of Markham establish a committee "The Diamond Jubilee Committee of Markham," to coordinate Markham activities celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012;

AND THAT the following individuals be appointed to the committee, with a requirement that any further names should also be approved by Council: Randy Barber, Warren Carroll, Cindy and Roger Clements, Sharona Clements, Cam Durham, Vivienne Hansford, Deputy Mayor Jack Heath (Vice-Chair), Councillor Alan Ho, Ed Joaquin, Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Stu Kellock (Co-Chair), Kwan Ho Leung, Denis Pritchard, Melony Stagg, Colonel Hugh Stewart, Beverley Stewart, Khalid Usman, John Webster (Co-Chair), Mary Webster, Steven Yu, and other Councillors who indicate they wish to participate.

AND THAT the Diamond Jubilee Committee report to General Committee monthly;

AND THAT staff report back on the Jubilee Committee's request for administrative and communications assistance;

AND THAT the Committee's request for a grant of \$50,000 be approved and that staff report back on the funding source.

PURPOSE:

To recommend to Council that the Town celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in a manner befitting the heritage of Markham.

BACKGROUND:

Monday February 6, 2012 will mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne and Head of the Commonwealth. She serves as Canada's Head of State with the Governor General being her representative in Ottawa. Celebrations will take place in the United Kingdom next spring with visits to many Commonwealth countries including Canada anticipated in the summer or fall. For the Golden Jubilee ten years ago, the Canadian Government honoured the occasion with postage stamps, Jubilee Medals, and hosted Her Majesty in several provinces for eleven days in October.

Jubilee celebrations are a significant part of Canada's history. This will be the sixth in the last 125 years: Queen Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees of 1887 and 1897, King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935, and the Queen's Silver in 1977, Golden in 2002, and Diamond in 2012. Photos of, and articles on, these events are easy to find in Canadian archives. Diamond Jubilees however are rare in Canada. This will be number three; the first was that of Louis XIV of France, the Sun King, in 1703.

INTERIM COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED:

This past spring, General Committee heard a deputation from Stu Kellock and John Webster. They reviewed the Golden Jubilee celebrations in Markham in 2002 and recommended establishing a committee for the Diamond in 2012. General Committee requested a report back in the fall on the proposal to establish a committee to coordinate celebrations in the Town. Several smaller meetings have taken place over the summer with the first meeting of the Interim Committee on September 29th. It took the

form of a workshop to discuss ideas and opportunities for 2012. The 20 in attendance were enthusiastic and wanted to thank Council for considering the idea. The minutes are attached.

A larger meeting will be held on November 3rd here at the Town. Invitations have been sent to places of worship, veteran's groups, cadets and youth groups, ratepayer associations, sports groups, multicultural groups, and others to attend. The purpose will be to inform them of proposed activities next year and to invite them to participate with the committee or hold events of their own.

Some of the initiatives the Committee discussed in September and enhanced at the Committee's second meeting October 19th include:

1. **Host a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at 2pm on Monday, February 6th.** The event will be similar to the one held at the Town on the same day in 2002. It took place in the Council Chambers. Fifty new Canadians took the oath of Canadian citizenship - to be increased to 60 this time! Lloyd Robertson was the Master of Ceremonies and a string quartet from Unionville High School provided the music. Several organizations attended, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Markham District Veterans' Association, the Royal Canadian Army and Air Cadets, the IODE and the United Empire Loyalists, and others. In 2002 the Committee presented to the Mayor a framed portrait of the Queen showing her wearing the medal of Sovereign of the Order of Canada. The portrait has been displayed outside the Council Chambers ever since. It is proposed that the logo for the Diamond Jubilee, specifically modified for Markham, would be unveiled at the 2012 ceremony. A special tea, "Markham's Diamond Jubilee" is in preparation for the occasion.
2. **Invite her Majesty to visit Markham during the Canadian tour.** The Queen will probably visit Canada in the fall of 2012. It is also likely that she will attend some events on the Niagara Peninsula to commemorate the start of the War of 1812 and the Battle of Queenston Heights which took place on October 13, 1812. Thus she will be in southern Ontario and the committee believes she should be invited to Markham. In 2002, Markham had a prominent role in Ontario's celebration at the CNE and would likely do so again if such was planned.
3. **Hold events in conjunction with the Queen's Birthday in April and on May 24th weekend.** Planning has just started on these events. In 2002 a special event was held in the centre court at Markville on April 21st. A tea was held at the Heintzman House in March for people and organizations who have given 50 years of community service to the Town of Markham. Both were very successful and the committee anticipates updating them for 2012. We have also discussed with the Mayor the possibility of a Victoria Day weekend event here at the Town - picnic, fireworks, etc. The concept of a Royal Tattoo at the Markham Fair, as in 2002, has been mentioned to the Fair already. The attached minutes contain other ideas still in the discussion stages.

STAFF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED:

The committee believes that staff assistance is required, for secretarial and communications / organizational purposes. The members exhibit a great deal of initiative on their own but, for proper committee minutes and some organizational and administrative activities, the experience, resources and time availability of a staff person would be imperative. There is no expectation that this would be even close to full time.

COSTS:

The committee anticipates the cost of the February to October programme as approximately \$75,000 with \$50,000 coming from the Town. It is looking at a fundraising sub-committee, other avenues of financial assistance such as a federal grant, and donations in kind. In 2002, the Town supported the committee with a \$25,000 grant and they raised approximately \$11,000 from other sources. A small surplus was returned to the Town.

The plan is to keep most of the events down to a cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000 except for Victoria Day and the major October event at the Fair. The Citizenship Ceremony in February will operate on a \$2,000 to \$2,500 budget including light food and small souvenirs.

The proposal has been raised at the 2012 Budget Subcommittee through Councillor Requests and it was referred to General Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost to the Town would be a maximum of \$50,000 with the money coming from an account to be determined by staff.