



TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Community Services
Recreation & Culture Services
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October 14, 2008

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT – RECREATION & CULTURE 2008-15

TO: Mayor Tony Van Bynen and Members of Council
Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: Building Canada Fund - Application for Old Town Hall

ORIGIN: Ian McDougall, Assistant Director of Recreation & Culture

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Community Services Report – Recreation & Culture 2008-15 dated October 14, 2008 regarding Building Canada Fund - Application for Old Town Hall be received and the following recommendation(s) be adopted:

- 1. THAT the Recreation and Culture Department move forward with the application process regarding the Building Canada Fund in an attempt to secure funding for the revitalization of the Old Town Hall.**
- 2. AND THAT Council authorizes staff to retain an architect with respect to the Old Town Hall, resulting in an appropriate design process being in a position to begin following Council adoption of the Cultural Master Plan.**

COMMENTS

The purpose of this report is to inform Council the Recreation and Culture Department is pursuing an opportunity for funding through the Building Canada Fund, pertaining to the renovation and revitalization of the Old Town Hall.

Originally built in 1883, the Old Town Hall serves as an architectural reminder of our past and represents the cornerstone for our cultural future. It was constructed as both a farmer's market and theatre, has served as a courthouse, municipal office, and police station, and currently is the focal point for a variety of recreational programs and community events. No other building in Newmarket has housed so much of our culture and served the needs of the community so well and for so long.

Newmarket's vision: A community *well* beyond the ordinary

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Culture creates dynamic cities and communities and helps promote and sustain Canada's rich heritage. Cultural infrastructure provides the venues for resident engagement and participation in artistic and cultural activities that help define a community. Cultural industries also generate economic activity and attract skilled workers and tourists to a community.

The Building Canada Fund offers support for culture infrastructure projects providing significant regional or economic benefit; which, in turn will help communities express, preserve, develop and promote their culture and/or heritage within Canada.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Well Planned and Connected

- Revitalization of neighborhoods starting with the downtown area

Living Well

- Emphasis on active lifestyles and recreational opportunities

Well Balanced

- Striving for cultural harmony and ethnic diversity
- Arts, culture, entertainment and heritage preservation
- Recreational facilities and services
- Events that help shape identity and contribute to community spirit
- Increased accessibility for persons with disabilities

Well Equipped and Managed

- Service excellence
- Efficient management of capital assets and municipal services to meet existing and future operational demands

CONSULTATION

The Town has commissioned a number of studies on the Old Town Hall. A Programming Needs and Viability Assessment was presented in July 2005, and a condition Assessment was developed in January 2006 – both by The Ventin Group. These reports were based on research and input including individual interviews and Public Information Centres. There was strong support for a multi-purpose arts, culture and community space for the community.

The Town is currently in the process of forming a Cultural Master Plan through a Cultural Master Plan Working Committee and in partnership with Novita Interpares Ltd. The plan is being developed in conjunction with a cross section of staff and Council from the Town, cultural stakeholders in the community and using public consultation. The target date for the Cultural Master Plan to come to Council is December 2008. Within the outcomes of the Cultural Master Plan, it is anticipated Novita will clearly address programming potential with respect for Old Town Hall.

There are a growing number of municipalities that have developed community arts and culture programming centres. The renovation of the Old Town Hall would increase building accessibility and may increase arts and culture programmable space complimented by appropriate programming equipment/amenities. It may also provide an arts and culture magnet to draw residents, businesses and visitors to the historic downtown and further demonstrate Newmarket's dedication to enhance arts and culture in the community.

BUDGET IMPACT

Operating Budget (Current and Future)

Completing the grant application would be covered through existing staff resources. The grant application deadline for eligibility through the first intake into this program is November 21, 2008.

Capital Budget

The fund calls for the municipality to contribute one third of the cost of the project, while the provincial and federal governments equally divide the other two thirds.

The **Capital Project Prioritization and Financing Plan** (Joint CAO, Commissioner of Community Services, Commissioner of Legal and Development Services and Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services Report # 2007 – 20) suggested the total net cost for the project to be \$3,950,000 and subsequently designated the following funds to this project:

- 2008 - \$200,000
- 2009 - \$2,000,000
- 2010 - \$1,750,000

Through the design process, greater clarity into the estimated cost to support future capital project prioritization and financing discussions will result.

CONTACT

For more information on this report, please contact Ian McDougall at 905-953-5300 ext 2601, or at imcdougall@newmarket.ca

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