To: Chair and Members
   Emergency & Community Services Committee

From: Bill Manson, Chair
       Hamilton Historical Board

Date: October 1, 2009

Re: August Civic Holiday Recommendation (Report 09-003(HHB)) (City Wide)

Recommendation:
   A. That in honour of the city’s founder George Hamilton, the August Civic Holiday
      be called George Hamilton Day across Hamilton
   B. That, each year after 2010, on George Hamilton Day the City of Hamilton
      celebrate the contribution of another notable local historical figure.

Background:
The practice of naming the August civic holiday in recognition of a historic figure or
event is well established in Ontario. This practice has been supported by the creation
of the Ontario Municipal Act of 2005, as the Act permits a municipality to declare and
observe the August civic holiday as it wishes.

Other municipalities that have renamed the August Civic Holiday in honour of a local
historic figure include:
- Toronto celebrates Simcoe Day
- Burlington celebrates Joseph Brant Day
- Oshawa celebrates McLaughlin Day
- Ottawa celebrates Colonel By Day
- Sarnia celebrates Alexander Mackenzie Day
- Cobourg celebrates James Cockburn Day
- Guelph celebrates John Galt Day

Additionally, the City of Brantford has implemented a similar strategy to the
recommendation being brought forward; whereas Brantford City Council has named
the August Civic holiday “Founders’ Day” in honour of the founding citizens of
Brantford. Annually the Brantford Heritage Committee submits a report to the
Brantford City Council proposing the name of a City Founder to be recognized on
Founders’ Day.
Financial Implications:
None

Analysis/Rationale:
The mandate of the Hamilton Historical Board is to advise City Council on heritage matters and to promote the awareness and appreciation of Hamilton’s history.

Staff Consultation:
Yes  X  No  □

Director, Culture Division, Community Services
Manager of Museums & Heritage Presentation, Community Services
Heritage Presentation Coordinator, Community Services
In most Ontario municipalities, the first Monday in August is considered to be "the August Civic Holiday"...
How is the *August Civic Holiday* recognized around Ontario?

- **in Toronto** it is celebrated as **Simcoe Day**
- **in Burlington** it is celebrated as **Joseph Brant Day**
- **in Oshawa** it is celebrated as **McLaughlin Day**
- **in Ottawa** it is celebrated as **Colonel By Day**
- **in Sarnia** it is celebrated as **Alexander Mackenzie Day**
- **in Cobourg** it is celebrated as **James Cockburn Day**
- **in Guelph** it is celebrated as **John Galt Day**
How is the August Civic Holiday recognized around Ontario?

In neighbouring Brantford, the City Council has named this holiday Founders' Day and annually the Brantford Heritage Committee submits a report to the City Council proposing the name of a City Founder to be recognized on Founders’ Day.
Whereas...

- the practice of naming the August civic holiday in recognition of a historic figure or event is well established in Ontario

- the Ontario Municipal Act of 2005 permits a municipality to declare and observe the August civic holiday as it wishes

- and Hamilton takes great pride in its history and heritage...

the Hamilton Historical Board respectfully proposes...
Hamilton Historical Board proposals for Celebrating August Civic Holiday

1. that in honour of the city’s founder George Hamilton, the August Civic Holiday here be called **George Hamilton Day**

2. that, in August, 2010, the City of Hamilton celebrate **George Hamilton Day** through programs and events in the community to honour George Hamilton himself

3. that, each year after 2010, on **George Hamilton Day** the City of Hamilton recognize and celebrate the contribution of another notable local historical figure
The George Hamilton Day honoree will be recommended to Hamilton City Council annually by the Hamilton Historical Board who will use the following determination criteria:

1. inclusiveness of all the geographic communities comprising the City of Hamilton

2. public input from Hamiltonians, both adults and especially young people

3. equitability, accountability, and transparency through the adjudication of public input

4. dependent upon funding, sponsorships, partnerships, and upon the success of previous years’ programs, the George Hamilton Day program may, with Council approval, be expanded to include year-long educational and community events
Hamilton Historical Board proposal for Celebrating August Civic Holiday

The August Civic Holiday: **George Hamilton Day**

an annual time for all Hamiltonians
to recognize and to **CELEBRATE**

the men and women who helped make the City of Hamilton
The Hamilton Historical Board

Presentation to

The City of Hamilton
Emergency and Community Services Committee

October 21  2009

LET’S ALL CELEBRATE

GEORGE HAMILTON DAY

THANK YOU