THE HAMILTON FUTURE FUND BOARD OF GOVERNERS PRESENTS REPORT 10-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Dundas Arts Community Foundation’s (DACF) Grant Request for $2.45 Million (FCS10070) (City Wide) (Renumbered Item 6.3)

   That Report FCS10070 respecting Dundas Arts Community Foundation’s (DACF) Grant Request for $2.45 Million attached hereto as Appendix A of Report 10-001 be referred to Committee of the Whole for Consideration.

2. Discussion on Pan Am Games Stadium Location (Added Item 6.4)

   (a) That the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors reiterates their original recommendation that the Funds for the Pan Am Games should be a loan.
(b) That the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors endorses Council's decision in selecting the West Harbour site.

(c) Whereas, the Hamilton Future Fund goals include supporting downtown redevelopment and enhancing the community’s social fabric and economic prosperity; and

Whereas, the Future Fund monies have been previously allocated to a Pan Am stadium, originally to be located in the west harbour;

Therefore, should Council decide to support the east mountain site or any other site other than West Harbour for the Pan Am stadium, the Future Fund Board of Governors recommends that no Future Fund Monies be allocated towards the project.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

(b) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following changes to the Agenda;

(i) That Delegation Request and Delegation sections be added to the Agenda and that subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

(ii) That the Delegation Request and attached correspondence to the Board from Nicholas Kevlahan, Vice President, Durand Neighbourhood Association and spokesperson for Hamilton Light Rail regarding the Pan Am Games stadium location be added to the agenda as Item 4.1

(iii) That the Delegation request from Mr. Matt Jelly regarding the Pan Am Games stadium location in relation to the Boards priorities be added as item 4.2.

(iv) That the Pan Am Games stadium location be added to the Agenda as discussion item 6.4.

(v) That Item 6.4 be moved up in the Agenda to immediately after the delegation section.

On a motion the Agenda was approved as amended.
Chair Weisz advised the Board that family members have a financial interest in the east mountain site. Chair Weisz abstained from voting on item 6.4.

The Minutes were adopted as presented.

The Delegation Request from Nicholas Kevlahan respecting the Pan Am Games stadium location was approved.

The Board waived the rules of order allowing the delegation from Nicholas Kevlahan at this meeting.

This delegation was added as item 5.1 under the delegation section.

The Delegation Request from Mr. Matt Jelly respecting the Pan Am Games stadium location was approved.

The Board waived the rules of order to allow the delegation from Mr. Matt Jelly at this meeting.

This delegation was added as item 5.2 under the Delegation section.

Nicholas Kevlahan addressed the Board highlights included but were not limited to;

Committee of the Whole August 10, 2010
- That the east mountain site would be a detriment to Hamilton’s economy
- This is the largest lump sum payment of the Future Fund and it is not appropriate use of the money
- There are other more worthy projects for the 60 million
- Discussed Hamilton Light Rail and the how a downtown location made more sense

Chair Weisz asked if Mr. Kevlahan would be against the project if the east mountain was not being suggested. Mr. Kevlahan responded that if a stadium is built it should be built in the downtown area

Chair Weisz thanked Mr. Kevlahan for his presentation.

The delegation from Nicholas Kevlahan regarding the Pan Am Games stadium location was received

(ii) Delegation by Mr. Matt Jelly regarding the Pan Am Games stadium location in relation to the Boards priorities (Added Item 5.2)

Mr. Matt Jelly addressed the Board with the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation highlights included but were not limited to;

- He grew up in the York Street area
- Found out last week that he had been living just blocks from a toxic waste dump for the last 15 years.
- Many stores moved away
- Property values dropped and downtown was left behind the rest of development in the area
- Discussed the strategic priorities of the Future Fund and how they should consider the needs for downtown
- Appealed to the emotions of the Board members suggesting that they consider what they would do if their children were in a similar position
- Asked the Board of Governors to reverse their decision and send their money to more worthy causes than a stadium

Councillor Clark asked Mr. Jelly to request a delegation before the Committee of the Whole. He indicated that the Committee of the Whole is the appropriate location for these discussions and that Committee would appreciate him appearing as a delegate.

The delegation from Mr. Matt Jelly regarding the Pan Am Games stadium location and Board priorities was received
(g) DISCUSSION ITEMS

(i) Treasurer’s Investment Report 2009 Fiscal Year by Hewitt Associates (FCS10043) (City Wide) (sent from Audit and Administration Committee for information purposes) (Renumbered item 6.1)

Report (FCS10043) Treasurer’s Investment Report 2009 Fiscal Year by Hewitt Associates was received for information purposes.

(ii) Hamilton Future Fund Reserve Status and Project Funding as of December 31, 2009 (FCS10069) (City Wide) (Renumbered Item 6.2)

Rob Rossini General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services provided the Board with a presentation on the Future Fund’s Reserve Fund status; highlights included but were not limited to:

-That the Future fund received about 4.7 percent in interest beating their benchmarks from the previous year
-Discussed cash flow and the current amount of funds within the amounts described
-There is still funding available for the Hamilton Future Fund for projects with a projected amount of 1.4 million

Chair Weisz indicated that the loans described were loans made through an agreement between Council and the Board as part of an investment strategy and would be repaid with interest to the Board.

Chair Weisz asked for what amount of the money has been spent on the Pan Am Games. Staff replied that around 8.3 million had been spent to date.

Councillor McHattie asked what monies won’t be needed out of the uncommitted balance. Staff responded that they need to look into individual committees and departments before they could respond to that. McHattie suggested that the Board look at allocating the remaining 1.4 million in the fund.

Chair Weisz indicated that there should be a discussion about what level the funds should be maintained at given the past history of the Board and considering that they are expending a lot of money towards the stadium.

Mayor Eisenberger pointed out that at the last meeting that they directed staff to look into the past or ongoing projects with the intent that they would be reporting back on the totality of the uncommitted balance. He further asked whether staff could bring that report to the Board in a short time period.
Staff indicated that they still need to work with departments to get the unspent monies back. Mayor Eisenberger followed up recommending to the Board that staff be directed to follow up on this and that the Board meet again within a couple months to review the materials presented.

Chair Weisz indicated that the formal application process instituted by the Board at their 2009 meeting has not been used to date. He pointed out that there was a matter being brought before them today that has not gone through this process.

There was a discussion on whether the Board should allow any presentations to come before them on any new projects as there have been no call for applications no has the application process been initiated.

Councillor Clark recommended that the Board should send the new request before them to Council with the direction that they find an alternative funding source.

After further discussion Board members passed a motion requiring staff to report back to them with further details about available funds. Refer to above item 1 of this report.

Board members also requested that staff do this to allow for Board members to review the report in September or October.

The staff presentation and report (FCS10069) Hamilton Future Fund Reserve Status and Project Funding as of December 31, 2009 (FCS10069) were received.

Staff were directed by motion to further review ongoing and completed projects and report back on the funds still available at a future meeting of the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors.

(iii) Dundas Arts Community Foundation’s (DACF) Grant Request for $2.45 Million (FCS10070) (City Wide) (Renumbered Item 6.3)

Mayor Eisenberger indicated that he was curious as to why there was 1.4 million available and there is a presentation coming forward asking for 2.45 million.

There was some discussion by the Board whether or not to allow the presentation by Dr. Douglas Barber, Chair Campaign Cabinet, Heart of Dundas, Arts and Heritage.

Councillor Clark indicated that the Future Fund is not accepting Funding Applications. Clark recommended to the Board that the Report and delegation should be forwarded to Committee of the Whole meeting. Clark requested that it be noted in the minutes of the report that this was an unsolicited delegation made to the Board.
There was general discussion about imposing limitations on the presentation itself. The Board’s clerk informed members that this was not brought before them by the delegation request process but by an invitation by staff to have Dr. Barber present to the Board. Staff confirmed that they had arranged to have Dr. Barber present to the Board.

Chair Weisz reiterated the Board’s unwillingness to entertain any requests that have not been brought before them through the application process. He then invited Dr. Barber to the podium.

Dr. Douglas Barber, Chair Campaign Cabinet, Heart of Dundas, Arts and Heritage presented to the Board, highlights included but were not limited to:

- indicated that his presentation had changed significantly because of the discussions of the Board.
- Discussed the past fund raising efforts of the Heart of Dundas, Arts and Heritage.
- Discussed how they went forward with seeking the funding from the three different levels of government
- Discussed how the tight timelines they are on brought them to the Board

After Dr. Barber’s presentation the Board directed staff to work further with the group to investigate other funding avenues.

Refer to above Item 2 for further disposition on this Item.

(i) Discussion on Pan Am Games Stadium Location (Added Item 6.4)

Chair Weisz called on David Adames to speak to the matter and provide an update to the committee.

Staff indicated that what is going to be brought before Committee of the Whole at their August meeting. Staff provided further details about the progression of staffs efforts on the Pan Am Games.

Chair Weisz asked for more details on where other funding is coming from for this project. Staff elaborated on the details of the funding.

Councillor McHattie put forth the following motion;

Whereas, the Hamilton Future Fund goals include supporting downtown redevelopment and enhancing the community’s social fabric and economic prosperity; and

Whereas, the Future Fund monies have been previously allocated to a Pan Am stadium, originally to be located in the West Harbour;
Whereas, the interest of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, a private company, have led to consideration of a new stadium site on the east mountain.

Therefore, should Council decide to support the east mountain site for the Pan Am Stadium, the Future Fund Board of Governors recommends that no Future Fund Monies be allocated towards the project.

The following friendly amendments were made to the motion with the support of the mover/seconder and Board;

(i) That the section reading, ‘Whereas, the interest of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats; a private company, have led to consideration of a new site on the east mountain,’ be deleted in its entirety

(ii) That the line ‘or any other site other than the West Harbour’ be added directly after ‘Therefore, should Council decide to support the east mountain site.’

McHattie discussed how this is a city building issue. Discussed how it is close to the rail system and underutilized parking in the downtown area.

McLaughlin suggested that they could reiterate the previous recommendation that these funds be paid back.

Dickson suggested that they look at maintaining the fund for future generations to keep that fund at 100 million dollars. Discussed how what was passed in 2009 for the Pan Am Games was a loan and as such was an investment. He indicated that Council encroached upon the capital legacy fund by changing the loan to a grant.

Councillor Clark suggested that the Future Funds Funds be kept in perpetuity. He discussed how they would improve the autonomy of the Board. He pointed out that he had a problem with the wording of Councillor McHattie’s motion. He pointed out that this Committee did not object to the airport site when it was originally brought before them in 2009.

Chair Weisz suggested that the bid required an alternate site.

Capobianco indicated that we should be revitalizing the downtown area and that the City is allowing its interest to be hijacked by one private organization.

Mayor Eisneberger indicated that he is looking at West Harbour and indicated that this Council continue to look at the site however as Mayor
and part of a facilitation process he can not support the motion before them. The Mayor indicated that building a stadium in one way or the other is a good thing and asked the Board members to consider putting forward a motion to endorse one site or another. Mayor Eisenberger reiterated that he feels it would be a big mistake to place a stadium next to a highway. He did indicate that he has to follow the process that is already underway.

McLaughlin suggested that they amend the motion to endorse the West Harbour site. The committee was informed by the clerk that it was a substantive change to the intention of the motion itself and would have to be presented as a separate motion. Councillor McHattie indicated that he was not inclined to accept the change as an amendment.

Hoath indicated that the intent of this Board was to build a legacy for their children and grandchildren. He suggested pulling the funding for the project.

Dickson suggested making a strong statement to Council and not worrying about making Councillors comfortable.

Chair Weisz indicated that he would prefer if the Board would make amendments by adding subsections to the motion on the floor to clarify the totality of what Board’s recommendations prior to voting on matters individually. He suggested that judging by the conversation the Main Motion on the floor would become sub-section (c) in

The following amendment to the Main Motion was brought forward,

That the following be added to the main motion as subsection (a);

(a) That the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors reiterates their original recommendation that the Funds for the Pan Am Games should be a loan.

Amendment CARRIED

The following amendment to the Main Motion was brought forward,

That the following be added to the main motion as subsection (b);

(b) That the Hamilton Future Fund Board endorses Councils decision in selecting the West Harbour site

Amendment CARRIED

The Main Motion as Amended CARRIED on the Following votes

Committee of the Whole August 10, 2010
That the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors reiterates their original recommendation that the Funds for the Pan Am Games should be a loan.

That the Hamilton Future Fund Board endorses Councils decision in selecting the West Harbour site

Whereas, the Hamilton Future Fund goals include supporting downtown redevelopment and enhancing the community’s social fabric and economic prosperity; and

Whereas, the Future Fund monies have been previously allocated to a Pan Am stadium, originally to be located in the West Harbour;

Therefore, should Council decide to support the East Mountain site or any other site other than West Harbour for the Pan Am Stadium, the Future Fund Board of Governors recommends that no Future Fund Monies be allocated towards the project.

Yea: B. McHattie, M. Armstrong, G. Brown, K. Dickson, J. Kollek, B. Manson, C. McLaughlin, E. Tshibwabwa
Total: 8
Nay: F. Eisenberger, B. Clark, J. Capobianco, G. Hoath
Total: 4
Abstain: T. Weisz
Total: 1
Absent: C. Collins, M. Moccio, P. Vaccarello
Total: 3

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
July 27, 2010

T. Weisz, Chairman
Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO:</th>
<th>WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair and Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton Future Fund</td>
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<td>Board of Governors</td>
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| COMMITTEE DATE:        | July 27, 2010               |

| SUBJECT/REPORT NO:     | Dundas Arts Community Foundation’s (DACF) Grant Request for $2.45 Million (FCS10070) (City Wide) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBMITTED BY:</th>
<th>PREPARED BY:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roberto Rossini, General Manager Finance &amp; Corporate Services</td>
<td>Charlie Elliott (905) 546-2424 ext. 2162</td>
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<th>RECOMMENDATION:</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) That the Dundas Arts Community Foundation’s grant request in the amount of $2.45 million be considered for approval;</td>
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<td>(b) That a City of Hamilton grant be conditional on the Dundas Arts Community Foundation receiving commitments of a total amount of $7.35 million ($2.45 Million each) from the Federal and Provincial Governments and from local community contributions;</td>
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<td>(c) That the manner of a potential City of Hamilton grant be of a matching nature, reflecting a commitment equal to the community and Federal government;</td>
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(d) That the City’s grant of up to $2.45 million be funded from the Hamilton Future Fund reserve 112246;

(e) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services and the City Solicitor be authorized to negotiate the terms of the agreement for execution by the Mayor and City Clerk.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dundas Arts Community Foundation (DACF) has committed to restore, renovate and preserve three (3) historic buildings that house the Carnegie Gallery, the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Dundas Historical Museum. The DACF has embarked on a Heart of Dundas Campaign with the goal of raising $11 million to fund the restoration projects.

Infrastructure Canada has announced $2.45 million from the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for Not-for-Profit Entities to fund the restoration of one (1) of the three (3) properties, the Dundas Valley School of Art, with matching contributions required from the local community, for a total of $4.9 million towards the estimated renovation cost of $5 million. The Federal funding criteria is consistent with other stimulus funding requiring project completion by March 31, 2011.

The DACF has also applied for a $2.45 million grant from the Province under the stimulus program to match the Federal contribution. Should the Provincial funding be realized, along with a grant from the City being requested in this report FCS10070, there will be a total of up to $9.8 million in potential funding available for the restoration of all three facilities with an estimated cost of $11 million. Table 1 of report FCS10070 provides a summary of the various funding sources. To date, the DACF has raised approximately $600,000 from private donors towards the fundraising efforts for the project.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Funding Sources</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Federal - Infrastructure Canada</td>
<td>$2.45 M  (confirmed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Funding</td>
<td>$2.45 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Community Contributions</td>
<td>$2.45 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Hamilton</td>
<td>$2.45 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$9.80 M</td>
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Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

Values: Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork
It is recommended that the funding from the City of Hamilton be conditional upon the DACF receiving a funding commitment from the Provincial government. The Provincial and Local Community funding commitments have not been realized to date.

Appendix A to report FCS10070 provides information with regards to DACF, the Dundas Historical Museum, the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Carnegie Gallery.

Appendix B to report FCS10070 is a copy of the Press Release announcing the Federal Government’s funding commitment of $2.45 million to the Dundas Valley School of Art.

The renovation and restoration of the buildings offers several benefits to the City and the community including:

- Preservation of 3 historic buildings
- Safety and Accessibility improvements including elevators, handrails, ramps, etc.
- Energy efficiencies by replacing HVAC systems, plumbing, windows, etc.
- Enable program enhancements by providing additional and more efficient space
- Economic benefits from increased tourism, the movie business and improvements to surrounding properties from private investment
- Improve facilities for use by community groups

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** (for Recommendation(s) only)

**Financial:** Regardless of the funding source for the City’s contribution to the DACF for the restoration projects, it will mean a reduction in funding available for other City initiatives, either in the short term or in the future. There is no direct impact on operating budgets or property taxes.

Staff are recommending the City’s contribution of $2.45 million be funded from the Hamilton Future Fund (HFF). The HFF has a balance of approximately $63 million at the end of 2009. However, taking into account previously committed amounts to fund capital programs and the Pan Am Stadium, the HFF is forecast to decline to approximately $20 million in the years 2013 and 2014.

Table 2 of report FCS10070 provides a forecast of the Hamilton Future Fund balances, not accounting for the up to $2.45 million grant to DACF. The HFF reserve balance would decline to approximately $17.5 million by 2014 should the grant be approved for funding from the HFF as recommended in this report.
Table 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HAMILTON FUTURE FUND A ($ 000's)</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Projected</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income @ 3.5%</td>
<td>3,621</td>
<td>1,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan Repayment (P&amp;I)</td>
<td>5,656</td>
<td>7,868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans to Fund Capital</td>
<td>(7,552)</td>
<td>(17,727)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan Am Stadium Funding</td>
<td>(5,573)</td>
<td>(10,569)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance - End of Year</td>
<td>63,116</td>
<td>49,078</td>
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Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

The Dundas Arts Community Foundation (DACF) approached the City requesting a grant to assist in their fundraising efforts for the Heart of Dundas Campaign for the purpose of restoring and renovating three historic buildings that house the Carnegie Gallery, the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Dundas Historical Museum.

This report FCS10070 is to advance DACF’s funding request to the HFF’s Board of Governors for consideration.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Dundas Arts Community Foundation (DACF)
ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

Staff are recommending the grant to DACF be funded from the HFF on the condition that DACF receives funding from all of the other funding partners as identified in the Executive Summary.

It is believed the restoration/renovation projects being undertaken by DACF is consistent with the HFF’s guiding principles in that the investment will enhance the community’s social fabric and community life.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

The grant to DACF could be funded from alternative sources including the 2011 Capital Levy, capital reserves or debt, however, any of these options would have a direct impact on available funding for capital projects in the short term. Funding the grant from the HFF will have the least impact on the City’s 2011 Capital Budget.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)


Intergovernmental Relationships

- Acquire greater share of Provincial and Federal grants (including those that meet specific needs)
- Maintain effective relationships with other public agencies

Growing Our Economy

- A visitor and convention destination

Healthy Community

- Plan and manage the built environment
- An engaged Citizenry

Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

Values: Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork
APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Appendix “A” - information regarding DACF, the Dundas Historical Museum, the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Carnegie Gallery

Appendix “B” – Press Release congratulating Dundas Arts Community on Infrastructure Stimulus Funding.
Dundas is a valley town in the City of Hamilton
- with a diverse population is primarily middle-aged with 20% under 18
- has historic neighbourhoods and streetscapes that have encouraged movie makers to often use the Town as a setting.
- that unites to support a community concern or issue: Carnegie Gallery; sports arena; town identity.

The Dundas Arts Community Foundation
- DACF has committed to restore, renovate, and preserve the historic buildings that house the Carnegie Gallery, the Dundas Valley School of Art and the Dundas Historical Museum, all solvent and active.
- The Heart of Dundas Campaign, celebrating arts, culture and heritage in Ontario, has a goal $11 million. $2.45 million has been committed as a matching grant to DVSA from Infrastructure Canada.

The Arts and Heritage programs through the Dundas Museum, the Dundas School of Art and Carnegie Gallery:
- supports 230 artists and artisans, through work space, gallery presentations and displays;
- supplies programming for well over 4000 children and over 2500 adults annually;
- hosts over 67,000 visitors each year, creating $3,685,000 in economic impact in the Hamilton area using the one-day multiplier effect;
- assists with the Potter’s Guild twice annual show that attract 40,000 people from around the Province, and that brings over $2,000,000 to the community during this 2-day event and extended juried show;
- each organization has worked in the community for over 30 years;
- have a membership of 895, some of which are international artists;
- have 675 volunteers that provide 33,700 hours of community work, annually;
- have had documents borrowed by the ROM;
- archives and manages Dundas historical records from 1837 for the City of Hamilton;
• celebrates having one of the longest standing artist-run gallery in Canada;

• have educated artists working across Canada who celebrate their Dundas start;

• have developed cross-Canada shows such as the White Line, and a Carl Beam show that circulated through Hamilton-Wentworth schools; (both multi-year)

• developed the Artists Connection" throughout the Hamilton Wentworth School System, for two years, featuring the work of 13 local artists with the artists available to the schools as speakers and workshop leaders.

• develops special programs for children and youth at the request of individual schools, both public and private, working directly with teachers and schools to deliver the specific educational programming they request.

• supported, the very successful project On the Edge, which focused attention on the natural environments of the Hamilton Region;

• worked with local architects since inception, to present an "home" design sale to support the homeless in Hamilton with their Out of The Cold event;

• live in buildings that they share with the community for speakers events, authors’ evenings, seasonal and local music making as well as HPO programs and Brott Summer Music, theatre productions, special demonstrations;

• work in partnership with each other as well as the Art Bus, Art Walk, Local church community programs, Hamilton and Region Potters Guild, Clearly Classic Concerts, Arts Dundas Weekend, Freewheelin Concerts
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MP Sweet congratulates Dundas Arts Community on Infrastructure Stimulus Funding

Dundas, Ontario – May 20, 2010 – David Sweet, Member of Parliament for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale offered congratulations to the Dundas arts community today on Federal infrastructure funding designed to help bolster Dundas as a thriving arts hub.

As part of the Federal Infrastructure Stimulus fund allocated to support job-creating and community investment projects led by not-for-profit organizations, the Dundas Valley School of Art (DVSA) will receive $2.45 million from the Government of Canada, to be matched by the DVSA, for critical renovations to the 174-year-old building on Ogilvie Street.

"Take a look at the number of studios, not just in Dundas, but in the surrounding area in Greensville, Lynden, Rockton, Troy and more. Artists working with a whole range of media are creating inspiring works," said MP David Sweet. "The Dundas Valley School of Art has been a catalyst in making this happen for 35 years."

Tom Bontje, Chair of the DVSA board, said "DVSA is proud to be part of the creative community in the Valley Town and we're encouraged by today's announcement." He went on to acknowledge that DVSA is part of the larger Heart of Dundas campaign that includes renewal of the historic homes of the Carnegie Gallery and the Dundas Historic Museum.

"The arts are integral to the fabric of Canadian life and community and this investment in the arts community in Dundas helps take it to the next level," said Bontje.

Sweet also emphasized the value of preserving a heritage building of the genre for which Dundas is well-known. "I'm also pleased that the funds will help restore a beautiful building that embodies the colonial architecture that is very much part of the character of Dundas and has been used in Hollywood movies, filming for TV programs and also as inspiration for painters, photographers and artists."

Sweet notes that the purpose of the infrastructure funding that has been taking place since the 2009 Federal Budget is to stimulate the economy by investing in projects that will serve communities well in the long term. Sweet is pleased that over the course of the past year a number of local infrastructure projects have been announced for a variety of purposes – including, renewing wastewater infrastructure,
recreation facilities, local campuses and the facilities that not-for-profit organizations use to serve urgent needs in the Hamilton area.

David Sweet has been the Conservative Member of Parliament for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale since January 2006.

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For more information, contact:

David Sweet, M.P.
Constituency Office
(905) 627-9169