MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. PARTRIDGE

Funding Request – Waterdown Memorial Hall Consideration to the Hamilton Future Fund

WHEREAS, the Waterdown Memorial Hall located at 317 Dundas Street East in Waterdown is one of only seven war memorial halls erected in Canada after World War I and, as with the creation of most war memorials, was the result of a larger community fundraising effort and the building itself can be seen as “an expression of the community’s feeling towards those war heroes who lost their lives so we could have freedom.” And plays a significant role as the heart of the Waterdown community;

ANDWHEREAS, it has been determined that the 1922 Waterdown Memorial Hall possesses cultural heritage value due to its association with the themes of Canadian military commemoration and the home-front wartime efforts and it is also a good example of the Edwardian Classicist style of architecture and a landmark in the Waterdown community and contributes to the historic quality of the streetscape;

AND WHEREAS, the total amount needed to restore the heritage features plus a glass enclosed entrance and elevator upgrade to allow accessibility is estimated at $1.4 million, and the city has committed the first $600,000 of the $1.4 million for phase one to include the heritage restoration

AND WHEREAS, The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) became law on June 13, 2005 and, under this legislation, the government of Ontario will develop mandatory accessibility standards that will identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities and whereas the Waterdown Memorial Hall requires renovation and installation of an elevator built within an enclosure to meet accessibility legislation;
AND WHEREAS, the public perception is that The Waterdown Memorial Hall was also considered to be the core of the artistic and cultural community of the area and the property continues to serve its original function as a community centre and war memorial and is the centre of the artistic and cultural community of the Village of Waterdown and Flamborough area;

AND WHEREAS, the property is included in the former Town of Flamborough’s 1991 Inventory of Heritage Buildings and the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings and is included in the City of Hamilton's Inventory of Heritage Buildings as of 2006;

AND WHEREAS, many Hamilton heritage buildings are deteriorating and the loss of our built heritage weakens the distinctiveness of our community and our sense of attachment to the past;

AND WHEREAS, in 2008 The City of Hamilton has amended the Property Standards By-law to help ensure maintenance of properties designated under Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act and the By-law, "Minimum Property Standards for the Maintenance of Heritage Attributes of Designated Heritage Properties under Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act", applies to individually designated properties, and properties within a Heritage Conservation District and the By-law is concerned with the management of heritage attributes, features or elements important to the heritage value or significance of designated heritage properties and the By-law ensures that heritage properties shall be maintained so as to prevent deterioration and repaired of any damage;

AND WHEREAS, $600,000 was approved as part of the 2013 capital fund (Community Hall Retrofits - 7101341701) for Phase 1 of a multi-phase project to renovate the Waterdown Memorial Hall and whereas efficiencies and cost effectiveness can be gained by bundling work into a single phase project with building the elevator enclosure at the same time.

Therefore Be It Resolved:

That financial support for accessibility upgrades, including the installation of an elevator, the Waterdown Memorial Hall in Waterdown at an estimated cost of $600,000 be forwarded to the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors for consideration of inclusion in their ongoing application review process.