

CITY OF HAMILTON

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tourism Division

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Culture Division

Report to: Chair and Members Economic Development and Planning Committee	Submitted by: Tim McCabe General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
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Date: September 12, 2007	Prepared by: David Adames (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4132
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SUBJECT: City of Hamilton's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Initiative (PED07257/ECS07069) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Report PED07257/ECS07069 respecting the City of Hamilton's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Initiative be received.
- (b) That Council authorize a City of Hamilton War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Initiative.
- (c) That the Culture Division and Tourism Division co-ordinate the City's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Initiative under the guidance of the Director of Culture and the Director of Tourism.
- (d) That staff form a Citizens' Advisory Committee for the initiative and that the committee include two (2) members of City Council, one (1) member from the Hamilton Historical Board and one (1) member from the Tourism Hamilton Board of Directors.

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- (e) That the Citizens' Advisory Committee and staff be authorized to develop, and report back to Council for its approval, a strategy for the City's War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration to be considered during the 2008 Budget deliberation.
- (f) That the 2007 Strategy Development costs in the amount of approximately \$25,000 be funded from the Planning and Economic Development Department's 2007 Operating Surplus.

Tim McCabe
General Manager
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Joe-Anne Priel
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Government and agencies in Canada and the United States are developing plans to mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812, which will be a three (3) year commemoration (2012-2014). For the Ontario government, the Ministries of Tourism and Culture are "co-leads", facilitating the development of a Provincial strategy. It is anticipated that the strategy will be drafted in the Fall of 2007, with a proposal going to the Cabinet in the Winter of 2008. The Province has already designated regions of working groups. Provincial staff has recommended that Hamilton work with the Niagara Region for planning and co-ordination purposes.

The Federal government, through Parks Canada, is developing a National strategy for commemoration. The United States government is creating a National War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission as well as a "Star Spangled Banner Trail".

Both Parks Canada and the Province of Ontario are encouraging municipalities to create cross-sectoral committees to plan commemoration activities, ensuring broad representation and potential for establishing legacy projects. The agencies are stressing that the thinking behind the commemoration strategies should go beyond the traditional historic sites and monuments and embrace many community organizations as part of the commemorations, including arts, cultural, business and sport.

In Hamilton, Cultural Services has met internally to discuss the commemoration and has facilitated meetings with key local stakeholders. Tourism Hamilton has discussed the issue with its Board and has participated in meetings with Cultural Services and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism.

Hamilton's War of 1812 product and experiences is extensive, and staff and stakeholders have begun to draft the list of historical sites, historical individuals, events, landmarks, natural spaces and stories. The group has also identified some potential legacy projects that could form part of Hamilton's strategy.

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The Province of Ontario has asked Hamilton to provide at least a high level overview of products and plans this Fall, with more detail to flow in early 2008.

BACKGROUND:

The Bicentennial Commemoration initiative provides a platform for creating legacy projects associated with this important milestone. Preliminary ideas on legacy projects include: development of a heritage tourism plan, new heritage interpretation centre(s), a new annual special event, a new park, an 1812 trail and a commemorative marker program.

Hamilton's connection to the War of 1812 is substantial. A preliminary list of linkages to people and places throughout the Hamilton includes:

Sites

Battlefield House Museum & Park (Stoney Creek)
Smith's Knoll (Stoney Creek)
Hamilton & Scourge National Historic Site
Burlington Heights (Hamilton)
Dundurn National Historic Site (Hamilton)
Route of the March (Hamilton and Stoney Creek)
1812 Era Barracks in Ancaster
Meeting House Stoney Creek
Greensville Mill (Greensville)
1812 Burials (Hamilton Cemetery, Smith's Knoll, etc.)
King & Nash Field Hospital
Kings Head Tavern
Puddicombe Farms (Stoney Creek)
Bloody Assizes (Hamilton and Ancaster)
Hangings (Hamilton and Ancaster)
Preliminary Hearings (Dundas)
Fortification Line (near T.B. McQuesten Bridge)
King's Road
Ancaster Road

Markers

Hamilton & Scourge Memorial
Burlington Races
Bloody Assizes
Colonel Harvey
Sir Isaac Corman
Billy Green

Stories

Billy Green Story
Field Hospital Story
Boy Hero Story – Sir Allan MacNab
Native Voice/Story

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Black Regiments
The Soldier's Life and Death
Rise of Canadian Nationalism
United Empire Loyalists
Gage Family
Colonel Harvey
Sir Isaac Corman
Fitzgibbon

Capital Projects (possible projects)

Smith's Knoll (lion repair; cannons)
Battlefield Monument
Military Museum
Marker/Exhibit Projects
Interpretation Centre at Battlefield/Hamilton & Scourge
Infrastructure Project (in dedication of...); Parkette Program

Existing Archaeological Collections

Dundurn
Smith's Knoll

Known Archaeological Sites

Dundurn/Burlington Heights
Smith's Knoll
Ancaster
Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site

Events

Art Exhibition (AGH Collection)
Battle of Stoney Creek
Hamilton & Scourge Memorial
Dundurn
Community Events (Tattoo, Boris Brott, Race/Run, Scavenger Hunt/Car Rally)
Performing Arts (Boris Brott etc.)
Re-enactment
Tall Ship Regatta
Live Web-cast of Hamilton & Scourge
Museums
Twining with another City that has 1812 Background (American and British)
RCMP Musical Ride

Unsolved Mysteries

The Location of the Burlington Races
The importance of the Battle of Stoney Creek
The Undiscovered Dundurn National Historic Site Archaeology
The Undiscovered Smith's Knoll Archaeology

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Community Groups and Associations

School Board
Publications
Friends of Battlefield
Various Historical Societies (Head of the Lake, Hamilton Mountain etc.)
Several Re-enactment Societies, Militias, Cadets, etc.
Aboriginal Groups
Diverse Communities
Yacht Clubs
Museums
Sports
Arts Hamilton
Sports Hamilton
Youth Based Groups
Service Clubs
Military/Cadets
Hamilton Community Foundation
Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
Chambers of Commerce
Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) (street decorating)

War of 1812

Start – June 16, 1812

Finish – December 24, 1814

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Hamilton has a rich association with the War of 1812 and the bicentennial commemoration provides an opportunity for the City to develop legacy projects, create tourism opportunities and link with Provincial, National and International efforts that will mark an important part of Canadian history.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Council could decide to not develop an overall strategy and direct staff to link with Provincial and National efforts as part of their regular work responsibilities.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial:

The cost for 2007 is estimated at \$25,000. The Planning and Economic Development Department is forecasting a surplus in 2007. Accordingly, the \$25,000 required in 2007 could be funded from the surplus. The funding for 2008 to 2014 would be referred to the annual Budget process.

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Staffing:

A full-time contract staff position would be created to provide support to the Advisory Committee's work and complete the strategy.

Legal

There is no legal implication to Report PED07257/ECS07069.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

As part of the creation of this report, staff consulted with:

- Local War of 1812 stakeholder committee
- Ontario Ministry of Tourism
- Ontario Ministry of Culture
- Niagara Parks Commission
- Parks Canada
- Corporate Services, Budgets and Finance Division

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the "**Triple Bottom Line**", (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

This initiative provides the City with a chance to engage many stakeholders across Hamilton in commemorating an important time in local and national history. A number of legacy projects could be contemplated as part of this initiative, leaving a lasting impression on Hamilton.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

There are a number of natural heritage sites that are associated with the War of 1812 and these sites could be profiled, enhanced and investigated as part of the initiative. There is potential for a trail to be created or commemorated as well.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

This initiative provides tourism opportunities, linking with Regional, Provincial, National and International tourism programs. The City may be able to leverage its investment in this initiative with Provincial or National funding programs (still to be determined).

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Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?

Yes **No**

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?

Yes **No**

:DA