To: Chair and Members
   Emergency & Community Services Committee

From: Dr. Walter Peace, Chair

Date: October 15, 2007

Re: PEACE MEMORIAL PARK & PEACE MEMORIAL SCHOOL Plaques

Recommendation:

a) That the wording for the Peace Memorial Park plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix A to Report No. 07-003(HHB), be approved.

b) That the wording for the Peace Memorial School plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix B to Report No. 07-003(HHB), be approved.

Background:

In 1918 construction began on Peace Memorial School with the doors opening in 1919. Dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War One it served the local community until 2002. Although demolished in 2005 the portico remains.

The former school yard is now earmarked for a neighbourhood park. The columned portico will remain as a memorial not only to those Canadians who served in the First World War but also to the school that served the community for over 80 years. The Peace Memorial Park Development Citizens Committee prepared wording for two plaques to share the history of the school and the park with the community.

The Joint Plaquing Sub-committee approved the plaque text on 9 January 2007 awaiting submission of source material and by the Hamilton Historical Board on 12 July 2007 awaiting submission of source material. This additional source material was supplied on 10 October 2007.

The plaques will be installed on concrete plinths at the base of the Peace Memorial Arch in Peace Memorial Park. There will be a plaque unveiling and park opening ceremony in the spring of 2008.
Financial Implications:

The manufacture of both plaques will be paid for through the Peace Memorial Park Development contract. The funds to install both plaques are identified within the approved operating budget under the Manager of Culture.

Analysis/Rationale:

It is the mandate of the City of Hamilton Joint Plaquing Sub-committee to recognize Hamilton sites of architectural, prehistoric and/or historical importance with commemorative plaques. Plaques may be awarded for the following reasons.

**Architectural Reasons** which may include age, style and/or location. The building is noted for one or more of the following characteristics:
- an outstanding example of an architectural style
- an exceptionally early building
- an unusual building, type, structure, or composition
- the first or last of a kind
- an important visual landmark
- a special relationship between building and site
- the work of a major architect
- a group of buildings which form an important streetscape
- an exemplary restoration or adaptive re-use project

**Historical/Prehistoric Importance**
- close association with a noteworthy person (to recognize his/her lasting importance; selected because of his/her association with the place)
- close association with a noteworthy event
- effectively illustrates a significant, broad pattern of cultural, social, political military, economic or industrial history or pre-history

Staff Consultation:

Yes X No □

Anna M. Bradford, Manager of Culture and Rebecca Oliphant, Cultural Heritage Special Events Coordinator are staff liaisons to the City of Hamilton Joint Plaquing Sub-committee.
Peace Memorial Park

Prior to the demolition of Peace Memorial School in 2005, plans were formulated to create a neighbourhood park on this site. This memorial arch relates to the ancient Romans, who built such arches to commemorate famous battles and to remember those who lost their lives for the cause. This old columned portico stands proudly today as a memorial to the school and to the thousands of Canadian men and women who served and gave their lives in the struggle for peace and freedom. Peace Memorial Park was established not only as a remembrance to those who served and gave their lives in the First World War, but also as a tribute to honour the men and women of Canada’s armed forces who have served their country in war and peace in the 20th and 21st centuries. Their legacy prevails today in the service of their committed descendants.

Remember Them.

Donated by The Royal Hamilton Military Institute

City of Hamilton

155 words

Prepared by the Peace Memorial Park Development Committee representative, Colwyn Beynon who sourced the information.

Approved pending submission of sources by the JPSC – 9 January 2007

Proofed for Grammar & Syntax – 16 March 2007

Approved pending submission of sources by the Hamilton Historical Board – 12 July 2007

Sources:

The basic information about activities at the school was acquired through the Hamilton Collection at the Public Library newspaper collection of clippings and micro film.

Information about the military hospital role of the school in 1918-19 was acquired through interviews held with Mrs. Anita Miles and Irene Salvisburg both now deceased who were students at the school in 1920-21. Further evidence of the use of city schools as hospitals was obtained through board documents and Marjory Freeman Campbell's Mountain and a City.

Colwyn Beynon was in attendance at the school as a child back in 1945-46 and personally witnessed the influx of veterans children to the school and in addition was able to give a first hand account of conditions and activities there.

Reference to the construction of the school came by the B of Ed. Archive
Reference to the upgrades to the school came through board records and news clippings from the Hamilton Spectator.
Reference to property ownership and land transfer of the site is recorded in original deeds obtained locally from the Land Registry Office, courtesy the office of Marie Bountragianni MP. Reference to SS No.7 Barton School on Upper Gage the forerunner of Peace Memorial obtained through Mabel Burkholder’s “Barton on the Mount”.
Other references were obtained by Colwyn Beynon as the Mountain Historian. He has been published in the Hamilton Mountain News over twelve years writing articles such as "Proud Yesterdays" and currently "Dusty Corners", both describing the history of Mount Hamilton.
PEACE MEMORIAL SCHOOL
1919 - 2003

Peace Memorial School was built in 1919 on donated land in the former Township of Barton, County of Wentworth. This school was named as a tribute to those who died on the battlefields of the First World War. From 1919 – 1921, part of the school was pressed into service as a military recovery ward, caring for the overflow of wounded from Mount Hamilton Hospital. In 1919, students from S.S. No. 7 Barton School on Upper Gage Avenue began attending Peace Memorial School, grades one to eight. The Hamilton Board of Education assumed control of the school in 1929. The Second World War was followed by rapid growth on the mountain. As a result of overcrowding, six rooms were added in 1948 for the 329 students. Shift classes were inaugurated in 1950, with half the school attending mornings and the other half afternoons. Eight additional rooms and a gymnasium were added by 1952 to handle 922 students. Through the years, declining enrollment and antiquity befell the old school. The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board closed Peace Memorial School in June 2003, ending 84 years of education service. The former portico, now an archway, remains as a tribute to all those who walked its halls.

Remember Them.
City of Hamilton

213 words

Prepared by the Peace Memorial Park Development Committee representative, Colwyn Beynon who sourced the information.

Approved pending submission of sources by the JPSC – 9 January 2007
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