ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
REPORT 05-001(AAC)

Members of the Community Services Standing Committee:

The Arts Advisory Commission having met on April 26, 2005 presents Report No. 05-001(AAC) and respectfully recommends:

that the City not accept the H. Crawford Mishra donation "The Majesty of the Champion" at this time and that City staff develop an Art Donation Policy to be used in the decision making for future art donation offers

Background:

The Culture Section receives a number of requests to donate artwork to the City, each year. In 2005, a number of requests have highlighted the need for a Fine Art Policy that would include a procedure for donations. The acceptance of art donations incurs an obligation on the part of the City to maintain and conserve the artwork. The City does not currently have the resources to collect, exhibit, maintain and conserve Fine Art.

One artist in particular, is very anxious to have her donation accepted by the City. It is anticipated that the City and the Mayor will continue to receive regular correspondence from H. Crawford Mishra, concerning the status of her donation, until a policy can be developed.

H. Crawford Mishra, a Dundas Artist, has requested that the City accept a donation of her artwork: a collection of forty-four drawings titled "The Majesty of the Champion". The collection was presented to the Arts Advisory Commission for potential donation at their regular meeting of April 26, 2005.

The recommendation that the City not accept the H. Crawford Mishra donation at this time and that City staff develop an Art Donation Policy to be used in the decision making for future art donation offers was conveyed to the artist in a letter from the Arts Advisory Commission stating:

“The City of Hamilton does not presently have a specific policy concerning donations. The Arts Advisory Commission has made the recommendation to staff that the donation should not be accepted at this time, and has also made a recommendation to staff that a Fine Art Policy be developed. This policy would provide the necessary documentation by which the Commission could evaluate any potential donation. Once this policy is developed, the Arts Advisory Commission would be happy to have another look at your offer to donate artwork to the City of Hamilton.’

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Greenblatt, Chair
Arts Advisory Commission