TO: Mayor and Members, Committee of the Whole  
WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 1  
COMMITTEE DATE: August 10, 2010  
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Proposed Event to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Opening of the Crystal Palace (CS10072) (Ward 1)  
SUBMITTED BY: Joe-Anne Priel  
General Manager  
Community Services Department  
PREPARED BY: Jennifer Kaye 905-546-2424 ext. 4807  
SIGNATURE:  

RECOMMENDATION

(a) That one-time funding, in an amount not to exceed $10,000, be made available to the Strathcona Community Council to organize an event in Victoria Park on September 19, 2010 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Crystal Palace, to be funded from surpluses in the Olympic Torch Relay Capital account.

(b) That the Item, respecting a proposed event to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Opening of the Crystal Palace, be considered complete and removed from the Emergency & Community Services Committee’s Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting of June 9, 2010, Council approved Item (g) of the Emergency & Community Services Committee Report 10-009, as follows:

(g) 150TH Anniversary of the Crystal Palace in Victoria Park (Item 9.1)

Staff was directed to review the details of 150th Anniversary of the Crystal Palace in Victoria Park, the nature of the staff support required, and a
recommended, small budget for the event, and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

As the date of the next Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting (September 8, 2010) is too late for a decision to be made in advance of the anniversary event, this report is being presented to Committee of the Whole at the August 12, 2010 meeting for consideration.

The report recommends that up to $10,000 be made available to the Strathcona Community Council to organize an event to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Crystal Palace in Victoria Park. The Crystal Palace was a landmark building that, from 1860 until its demolition in 1891, fostered agricultural and industrial innovation through fairs and exhibitions. The proposed Victorian Picnic, to be held on September 19, 2010, would encourage participation from the Strathcona community and beyond in celebrating this significant aspect of Hamilton’s heritage.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There is no net budget impact associated with the recommendation. The recommended funding source is the Olympic Torch Relay Celebration Event surplus. The surplus, of approximately $30,000, is the result of the receipt of grants from the federal and provincial governments, which were not anticipated at the time of the project approval.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with the recommendation.

Legal: There are no legal implications associated with the recommendation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the 1850s, Hamilton’s civic leaders became deeply committed to transforming Hamilton into an industrial powerhouse. They had lobbied hard to bring the Great Western Railway (and its workshops and jobs) to Hamilton. They oversaw the design and construction of one of the first municipal water systems in Canada, producing clean water to attract industry and immigrants. Their third major project was the construction of the Crystal Palace.

Hamilton’s Crystal Palace was directly inspired by an earlier Crystal Palace, the site of the Great Exhibition in London England in 1851. This earlier exhibition showcased
industrial and agricultural products from around the world. The Exhibition was the dream and passion of Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. Like the earlier building, Hamilton's Crystal Palace was a landmark building that, from 1860 until its demolition in 1891, fostered agricultural and industrial innovation through fairs and exhibitions.

The Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII and eldest son of Victoria and Albert) officially opened the Crystal Palace, on the site of the present day Victoria Park, on the 20th of September 1860. To commemorate this event, the Strathcona Community Council proposes to host a Victorian Picnic in Victoria Park on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications associated with the recommendation.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Ward 1 Councillor supports this project.

The City Treasurer, Treasury Services, Corporate Services has reviewed and approved the content of this report.

The recommendations of this report were developed in consultation with members of the Strathcona community, who have successfully approached the Strathcona Community Council to take the lead in organizing this event. The president of the Strathcona Community Council supports the recommendations of this report.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposed event to commemorate the 1860 opening of the Crystal Palace is a Victorian Picnic to be held in Victoria Park on Sunday, September 19, 2010 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. The public will be invited to bring a picnic lunch to Victoria Park, where a range of theme-specific activities and vendors will be available for the public's enjoyment.

The Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee and the Hamilton Historical Board have approved the installation of a plaque in Victoria Park to commemorate the opening of the Crystal Palace by the Prince of Wales. The plaque is currently in production. The Community
Council will approach the Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee with a plan to unveil the plaque at the Victorian Picnic.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Committee could choose not to provide funding to the Strathcona Community Council, in which case the proposed event would not proceed.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN


Social Development
- People participate in all aspects of community life without barriers or stigma

Healthy Community
- An engaged Citizenry
- Adequate access to food, water, shelter and income, safety, work, recreation and support for all (Human Services)

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

There are no appendices attached to CS10072.