Council Direction:
N/A

Information:
At the request of Councillors Duvall and McHattie, this proposal was referred to Operations & Waste Management staff for consideration.

Project Bookmark Canada is a registered Canadian charity whose interest is in Canadian literature and the recognition of literary works of local significance.

The program goal is to recognize the places where the real and imagined landscapes meet. Poster-sized ceramic plaques (Bookmarks) are installed in the exact locations where literary scenes are set.

After considerable discussion with the representative of Project Bookmark Canada and the City’s Legal Services staff, the Operations & Waste Management division has agreed to the installation of a Project Bookmark Canada exhibit in Sam Lawrence Park.

The Sam Lawrence Park installation will mark Hamilton author John Terpstra’s poem “Giants” from his published collection Two or Three Guitars attached to Report PW11065 as Appendix A. The poem is an imaginary look at the giants who inhabited Hamilton’s escarpment roughly three million years ago, what they saw from this vantage, and celebrates the landscape and the environment the city stands on today.

Through consultation with the Legal Services Division of the City Manager’s Office, the Parks & Cemeteries Section of the Operations & Waste Management Division will accept a plaque as a gift from Project Bookmark Canada and the permanent installation of the literary exhibit consisting of a plaque on a post at an appropriate location in Sam Lawrence Park. Project Bookmark Canada is responsible for the fabrication of the 26” x
26" plaque. The City will be responsible for installation and maintenance of the plaque and stand. The exhibit can be removed, with 30-day's notice to Project Bookmark Canada, if the City deems the exhibit interferes with the use of the land or operational matters. The requirements were confirmed in a Letter of Understanding dated July 27, 2011.

Project Bookmark Canada’s vision is to create a network of Bookmarks across the country with the mandate to establish a permanent and prominent presence for literature set in Canada. Currently there are six Bookmarks installed in cities and towns in Ontario, such as Kingston, Owen Sound, Ottawa and Toronto, with installations in Mississauga, Midland and Port Colborne planned for this fall. A photo of one of the Bookmarks in Toronto is attached to Report PW11065 as Appendix B.

Through the assessment of the proposal, the Operations & Waste Management Division staff did not foresee any major impediment for moving forward with the arrangement. Benefits of this initiative include an opportunity to support tourism and to profile the literary arts in Hamilton. This project supports Council’s strategic theme of “changing the perceptions of Hamilton and promoting the City as a great place to live, work and play.”

A ceremony to mark the unveiling of Hamilton’s first Bookmark plaque is being planned for Tuesday, October 6, 2011 in Sam Lawrence Park.
Giants

There used to be giants, and they loved it here. They’d sit their giant hinds in a row along the top edge of the escarpment, and pick at the loose rock with their hands or their feet, then throw or skip the smoothest stones across the bay, to see who could land one on the sandstrip, three miles away;

or they’d spring themselves off the scarp top like you would off a low wall, and go running all the way to the end of the sandbar, and jump across the water to the other side, or jump in, splashing and yelling up the ravines, chasing each other’s echoes.

This was only a few thousand years ago, and the giants were still excited about the glaciers, which were just leaving; about not having to wear, their coats all the time, and what the ice and water had done, shaping and carving this gentle, wild landscape!

They loved it here.

I’m telling you, they absolutely loved every living minute here.

and they regretted ever having to leave.

John Terpstra

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Then there was no longer any fear on the bridge. The worst, the incredible, had happened. A man had fallen off the Prince Edward Viaduct before it was even finished. The stone cored its own shivering or grainer dust held the women against them. And Commissioner Harris at the far end stood along the mad pathway. But was his first child and it had already become a milestone.

He was not a thin, green-faced kind of a girl's white face. He was this to the light that spread down over the hill and up into the sun. It was the beauty, pressing over the valley, over the river, over the hills. The beauty that was, in the eyes of the world, the world of the world, the world of the world. The beauty that was, in the eyes of the world, the world of the world, the world of the world. The beauty that was, in the eyes of the world, the world of the world, the world of the world.

He asked for the help of a man to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders. He asked for the help of a man to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders, to hold him by the shoulders.

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