April 16, 2008

Re: 400th Anniversary – Arrival of Samuel de Champlain

Mayor and Members of Council:

At its April 14, 2008 Regular Meeting of Council, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Tiny passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain – French explorer, founder and Father of Canada – to Huronia in Ontario on August 1, 1615, is fast approaching;

AND WHEREAS on March 27, 2008, Garfield Dunlop, MPP of Simcoe North presented a resolution (Schedule A, attached) at the Ontario Legislature asking for the support of all levels of government in order to commemorate this event;

AND WHEREAS this resolution presentation was supported by a wide range of representatives of both the Town of Penetanguishene and the Township of Tiny during a press conference held at Queen’s Park the same day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Tiny supports the above mentioned resolution;

AND FURTHER THAT this motion be distributed, through AMO, to all Ontario municipalities and all local associations and agencies for support and that a copy be sent to the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government.

Please forward your letters of support to the Federal Government, and the Province of Ontario and its Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Ministry of Francophone Affairs.

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SCHEDULE A  
(Garfield Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North)

That, in the opinion of the house, the provincial government must:

Recognize that the year 2015 will mark the 400th anniversary of the coming of the French explorer, founder and Father of Canada, Samuel de Champlain to Ontario;

Recognize that the site of Champlain’s arrival on August 1, 1615 at the Huron village of Toanche in what is today the Township of Tiny, near the Town of Penetanguishene, was marked by a cross and that site still exists to this day;

Recognize that Samuel de Champlain made numerous recorded visits to other aboriginal communities throughout the region, including what is now the City of Orillia and is marked by an historic monument;

Recognize that the coming of Champlain to what it now Ontario, represents forging of a rich historical and cultural heritage that belongs to all Ontarians;

Recognize that the Government of Quebec, in conjunction with the Government of Canada, following earlier and similar celebrations in the Maritime Provinces, is commemorating Champlain’s arrival in that province this year (2008) and has designated substantial sums of money toward a year-long observance of the event. The investment is resulting in a very positive impact on the tourism industry and cultural interest in Quebec;

Recognize that the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Ministry of Francophone Affairs in conjunction with the Government of Canada, should undertake immediate plans to celebrate the fast approaching 400th Anniversary on August 1, 2015, of the coming of Champlain to Ontario on a scale befitting the historical and cultural significance of this anniversary to all sectors of Ontario society;

Recognize that the Government of Ontario should undertake to contact the Government of Quebec to begin a close collaboration with respect to the observance of this event in that province, which properly commemorates Canada’s historic multicultural, multilingual roots; and bicultural roots;

Recognize that the Government of Ontario and its Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Ministry of Francophone Affairs should consult widely with the various relevant historical and cultural associations that strive to keep the heritage of Samuel de Champlain alive in Ontario;

Recognize that the Government of Ontario should consider the site of Champlain’s arrival near the Town of Penetanguishene as a prominent landmark and preserve it for all future generations of Ontarians and its visitors;

Recognize that the Government of Ontario in conjunction with the Government of Canada should declare the month of August as Samuel de Champlain month because of the numerous events that Champlain took part in during August of 1615;

Recognize that the Government of Ontario should establish a Samuel de Champlain Day on August 1 on each year.

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