Recommendation:
That the wording for the Bishop Ryan High School plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix A to Report No. 07-007(HHB), be approved.

Background:
On 10 October 2007 the Bishop Ryan High School Reunion and Alumni Committee sent an application to the City of Hamilton Joint Plaques Sub-committee for a City of Hamilton Commemorative Plaque. The purpose of the plaque is to explain Bishop Ryan High School’s contribution to the pattern of cultural and social history in the east-end of Hamilton.

The plaque text was approved by the Joint Plaques Sub-committee on 6 November 2007 and by the Hamilton Historical Board on 13 November 2007.

Installation will be on city owned property at the southwest corner of Queenston Road and Modena Court. There will be a plaque unveiling ceremony in the early spring of 2008 as part of the Bishop Ryan High School Reunion celebrations.

Financial Implications:
Bishop Ryan High School Reunion and Alumni Committee will fund the cost to manufacture the plaque. The expense to install the plaque is in current operating budgets.
Analysis/Rationale:

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

**Architectural Reasons** which may include age, style 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 or her lasting importance; selected because of his or 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 ☑ No □

Anna M. Bradford, Director of Culture
Rebecca Oliphant, Cultural Heritage Special Events Coordinator, Staff Liaison to City of Hamilton Joint Plaquing Sub-committee.
BISHOP RYAN HIGH SCHOOL

The original Bishop Ryan High School was located on the site of this housing complex. The sod turning ceremony occurred on April 21, 1958 with the official opening April 16, 1959. The school was named after Hamilton’s sixth Roman Catholic Bishop, Joseph Frances Ryan, a stalwart supporter of Catholic education in Ontario. The original fifteen-acre tract of land was bounded by Parkdale Avenue on the east, Walter Avenue on the west, Central Avenue on the south, and Queenston Road on the north. The school was Hamilton’s first co-educational Catholic high school and recognized the population growth of Hamilton’s east end. The original student body was temporarily housed at St. Eugene’s Catholic Elementary School and numbered 177 pupils and eventually grew to a student population of 2,000. Later, fifteen portable classrooms were added to this site, as well as a satellite campus in Stoney Creek. To accommodate the increasing student population, the Ontario Ministry of Education awarded the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board another building on Albright Road where the present Bishop Ryan school community is located. The original building on this site was demolished in 1993 and the site named Ryan’s Walk.

Donated by Bishop Ryan High School Reunion Committee / Alumni
2008 Hamilton Historical Board

210 words

Wording submitted by Bishop Ryan Reunion/Alumni Committee 10 October 2007
Approved by JPSC 06 November 2007
Approved by HHB 13 November 2007

Reference sources:
Father Cote, Second Principal, Bishop Ryan High School
Dan Smith, former teacher and the Bishop Ryan Reunion historian
Peter Rogers, member of the first graduating class
Cecilia Carter Smith
Archivist at the diocese of Hamilton