To: Chair and Members
   Emergency & Community Services Committee

From: Walter Peace, Chair
      Hamilton Historical Board
      Signature of Chair

Date: October 26, 2007

Re: City of Hamilton Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award (Report 07-004) (City-wide)

Recommendation:

That the City of Hamilton Reverend T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award program, as outlined in Appendix A to Report 07-004(HHB), be approved.

Background:

Reverend Dr. T. Melville Bailey's contributions to preserving Hamilton's history are known and admired by individuals and organizations involved in local heritage matters (see the biographical sketch on page 4 of Appendix A to Report 07-004(HHB)). The Hamilton Historical Board (HHB), on which Dr. Bailey served for many years, wishes to establish the City of Hamilton Reverend T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award. This award will honour and commemorate Dr. Bailey's lifetime commitment to preserving and promoting Hamilton's history and heritage. The annual award will also be a public recognition of the achievements of the recipient and their efforts to preserve and promote Hamilton's past. Through this award the contributions toward preserving our heritage will be given an elevated profile. Our identities as individuals and as communities are, in part, drawn from our individual and collective pasts. Through the City of Hamilton Reverend T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award, we will acknowledge the importance of our past by recognizing those persons who have made lasting contributions to its preservation.

Reverend Bailey was a long time member of the City of Hamilton’s Historical Board and Joint Plaquing Sub-committee (JPSC). His contributions to Hamilton heritage began with his first book The History of Dundurn Castle and Sir Allan MacNab, published in 1943. Arguably, his most important contribution was the Dictionary of Hamilton Biography. Beginning with Volume I, which was published in 1980, and
culminating with Volume IV, published in 1999, the *Dictionary of Hamilton Biography* remains the only local biographical dictionary of its kind to be published in Canada. Reverend Bailey passed away on January 29, 2005 at the age of ninety-two.

Upon approval of the City of Hamilton Reverend T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award the HHB will commission an appropriate medallion (similar to the City of Hamilton Arts Award) or art piece (similar to the Tourism Hamilton Award) in coordination with the City of Hamilton Arts Advisory Commission.

The Award will be presented at the City of Hamilton Heritage Day celebrations held annually in February.

**Financial Implications:**

The funds for the award are identified within the approved operating budget under the Culture Division.

**Analysis/Rationale:**

It is the mandate of the HHB to advise City Council on heritage matters and to promote the awareness and appreciation of Hamilton’s history. One of the Board’s goals to achieve this mandate is “to commemorate and celebrate events, individuals, structures and properties of enduring historical significance and interest in the city”. For the most part the celebration of individuals has taken the form of a posthumous commemorative plaque. The City of Hamilton Reverend T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award will celebrate individuals during their lifetime.

**Staff Consultation:**

Yes X No □

Anna M. Bradford, Manager of Culture, Culture Division, Community Services
Rebecca Oliphant, Cultural Heritage Special Events Coordinator and staff liaison to the HHB and JPSC, Culture Division, Community Services
Ian Kerr-Wilson, Curator, Dundurn National Historic Site, Culture Division, Community Services
Elizabeth Wakeford, Arts Coordinator, Culture Division, Community Services
2008
City of Hamilton
Rev. T. Melville Bailey
Heritage Award
Nomination Form

The City of Hamilton Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award is awarded annually (as warranted under the criteria) in recognition of lifetime achievements and significant contributions in the promotion and preservation of Hamilton’s history and heritage. The Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award is a joint project between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Historical Board (HHB).

A wide range of achievements are eligible. Volunteers and professionals will be considered on an equal basis. Contributions to the promotion and preservation of Hamilton’s history and heritage can include any or all of the following:

• Publications or contributions to other media (including but not limited to documentaries, plaques, web-based communications and public or community art)
• Active service on related committees, boards, commissions, special events, projects, etc.
• Preservation and promotion of a site, event or figure
• Advocacy
• Fundraising
• Other relevant contributions

Note: these contributions should be significant and relevant to the community at large.

The Hamilton Historical Board, at least one member of Council and a member from the historical community will adjudicate the award. The winner will receive a commissioned art piece that is appropriate to the spirit of Reverend Bailey and his contributions to the City of Hamilton.
CRITERIA

Award Nominees must:

• Be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant
• Be (or have been) a resident of the City of Hamilton and / or its adjacent communities and counties
• The nominee must have at least ten years of active involvement in the promotion and preservation of Hamilton’s history and heritage. The award will not be given for single projects although such projects will certainly be considered in a nominee’s lifetime record.
• Be recognized and respected by their peers.

All Nomination Applications must include:

1. A resume of the Nominee including specifics of his/her promotion and preservation of Hamilton’s history and heritage.
2. Nominee’s support materials (i.e. print material, video, photographs, etc.), and a maximum of three (3) letters of support.
3. Nominator’s Statement of Contribution and Achievement: describe, in no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words, why you are nominating this individual for the City of Hamilton Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award. Focus on the Nominee’s achievements and his/her contribution to the promotion and preservation of the City of Hamilton’s history and heritage.

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name of Nominee -
Full Address -
Email -        Telephone Number -

NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Name of Nominator –        Date -
Full Address –
Email -        Telephone Number –

As nominator for the City of Hamilton Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award, I declare that I am of the age of majority (19) and have read and understood the criteria for the Award for which I am nominating a candidate. I certify that the information contained in this nomination is accurate and complete, to the best of my knowledge, and I agree to abide by the decision of the Rev. T. Melville Bailey Award jury in selecting the Award recipient.

Nominator’s Signature -

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the City of Hamilton is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of your personal information. The information that you provide to us will be used only to assist in the in the evaluation of the City of Hamilton Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award.
CHECK LIST

☐ A completed nomination form including response to item #3 (see page 2)

☐ Nominee’s Curriculum Vitae/Professional Resume

☐ Support materials (i.e. CD, print material, video, photographs, a maximum of three (3) letters of support, etc.)

The HHB may contact the nominee to request additional material and information. Late and or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, January 4, 2008.

All applications and support material will be kept on file for three years from the date of submission.

The City of Hamilton Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award will be presented at a reception in February 2008.

Please send completed applications and support materials to –

Hamilton Historical Board
c/o Rebecca Oliphant
Cultural Heritage Special Events Coordinator
City of Hamilton
Culture Division
77 James Street North, Suite 400
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3
905.546.2424 ext. 4688
roliphan@hamilton.ca
Thomas Melville Bailey

Thomas Melville Bailey was born on 17 November 1912 at 31 Davenport Street, adjacent to Dundurn Castle. He attended Westdale Collegiate and Hamilton Central Collegiate Secondary Schools. He was active in track and field, training under Captain John Cornelius at Central Collegiate and the Hamilton Olympic Club. In his working life, he began as a driver and clerk for the Canadian Pacific Express Company. He was very active in Erskine Presbyterian Church and by 1945, was Superintendent of the Sunday School and a church elder. In 1949 he was admitted to Knox College at the University of Toronto. In that same year he was appointed student minister of the Presbyterian congregation that met in the old Barton Township Hall (later the Buchanan Lodge Hall) on Upper James Street. He was ordained in 1952 and appointed to minister to the group that built South Gate Presbyterian Church in 1954.

Mel Bailey’s contributions to Hamilton heritage began with his first book The History of Dundurn Castle and Sir Allan MacNab, published in 1943. In 1949, he wrote a brochure entitled “Erskine Presbyterian Church Sunday School 75th Anniversary”. From 1958 to 1988, he served as the editor of Wentworth Bygones, published by the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, which he helped found in 1944. Between 1968, when his book The Laird of Dundurn was published, and 2002, he wrote, edited and/or contributed to numerous books and articles dealing with Hamilton’s heritage. In addition he served on several heritage boards and committees. Arguably, his most important contribution was the Dictionary of Hamilton Biography. Beginning with Volume I, which was published in 1980, and culminating with Volume IV, published in 1999, the Dictionary of Hamilton Biography remains the only local biographical dictionary of its kind to be published in Canada. He published several historical accounts for the Presbyterian Church in Canada including: the four volumes of Called to Witness; the two volumes of Gifts and Graces and Wee Kirks and Stately Steeples. For many years, he and his wife Janet were the editors of the Knox College magazine.

Over the years, Mel Bailey received many awards and citations. Among them:

- Doctor of Divinity Degree, Knox College, Toronto (1990)
- Archivist Emeritus, Presbyterian Church of Canada (1992)
- Hamilton Gallery of Distinction (1994)
- Province of Ontario Volunteer Service Award (2000)
- Chairman Emeritus, MacNab Circle (2000)
- Commemorative Medal for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Golden Jubilee (2002)

Thomas Melville Bailey passed away on 29 January 2005 at the age of ninety-two. His friend and colleague, The Reverend Dr. John Johnston ended the funeral address with the following summation of Mel Bailey’s life:

Dr. Bailey’s thirty-one year ministry at South Gate Church, his forty-five books and articles, the plaques that adorn the historic sites of this city, the sermons delivered, addresses presented to the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, historical societies and organizations, the example he set for all of us - his personal piety, a listener, a gentle soul, a quick wit, a master of the one liner, always self-effacing, ready to step back and give others the credit, a friend to all, we honour his memory. How he lives on in each of us - a family - all touched by this great and good man, God’s man for ever and ever. Amen.