SUBJECT: Sponsorship for a Symposium on the Hamilton and Scourge (CS06014) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That Report CS06014 respecting Sponsorship for a Symposium on the Hamilton and Scourge be received.

(b) That Outstanding Business Item “N” – Sponsorship for a Symposium on the Future of the Hamilton and Scourge Ships be recognized as complete, and removed from the Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Mr. J. Zablocki, a Hamilton citizen, has written a letter requesting Council to sponsor a one day symposium on the Hamilton & Scourge project so that Council can make an informed decision on their future. Two such symposiums have been held during the past year. No conclusions were arrived at from either event. Staff will continue to work with Parks Canada to advance the project responsibly.
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BACKGROUND:

On October 6, 2005, Councillor Brian McHattie received a letter from Mr. J. Zablocki asking the Mayor and Council to sponsor a one-day symposium of experts to assist Council in making an informed decision on the future of the Hamilton & Scourge Project. Mr. Zablocki estimates the cost of the symposium will be approximately $100,000. The letter was referred to the Community Services Committee for review and staff comment.

During 2005, two such symposiums were presented regarding the future of the project. The Arts and Letters Club Toronto sponsored the first symposium in March. Attending this symposium were marine experts from Parks Canada, the Ministry of Culture, and the U.S. Navy. Over 90 interested parties attended this symposium. No conclusions or recommendations were advanced from this session.

In June 2005, the Canadian Nautical Research Society held the second symposium at Dundurn Castle. Marine archaeologists and historians from Canada and the United States presented several workshops and lectures. Approximately 125 people registered for the June symposium. Again, no conclusions or recommendations resulted.

The Hamilton & Scourge Project is a complex project and no consensus, amongst the experts, has been agreed upon as to the future of the project. City staff is working closely with the Senior Marine Archaeologist, Robert Grenier of Parks Canada. Mr. Grenier is one of the principal authors of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Convention of Underwater Cultural Heritage, which recommends in situ preservation. Like staff, he is an advocate of leaving the vessels and the site protected, but undisturbed, while studying it intensively using modern underwater methods.

Current priorities for the project include the establishment of the new Memoranda of Understanding with Parks Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the U.S. Navy. It is anticipated that this process will be completed in 2006. Staff is in the process of initiating preliminary research work on visibility to assist in planning the next major investigation of the site. Due to murkiness, it is necessary to gather information on the visibility of the area where the vessels are located on the bottom of Lake Ontario. This will determine the best time of year to conduct on-site research. To this end, the City has established a partnership with the Canada Centre for Inland Water to gather this data.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

When this information on visibility is gathered and analyzed, and the best time of year has been determined to visit the site, the next step is to conduct a full on-site archaeological based assessment of the vessels. It is anticipated that the visibility project will start in the spring 2006 and continue into early 2007. Total cost for the depth visibility project is $20,000. The City will contribute approximately $10,000 towards this one-time project which will be funded through current operating budgets. The remaining costs will be covered by the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters and Parks Canada.

The archaeological based assessment will take place on the actual ships using Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and various remote sensing systems. A significant
part of this project is a one time charge to place triangulation markers or locators on the site. The benefit of the locators is that it will allow us to return to the site easily and cost effectively in the future. The archaeological based assessment is estimated at $120,000 has been advanced for consideration in the 2006 Capital budget deliberations.

Until the condition of the vessels is determined, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to set priorities for the future of the project. Therefore, it would not beneficial to sponsor a symposium on the future of the Hamilton & Scourge Project until reliable and accurate data is available.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

None at this time.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial:
None.

Staffing:
None.

Legal:
None.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

There are no policies affected by Report CS06014.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

None.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

**Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No**
Arts, culture, archaeological and cultural heritage are supported and enhanced.

**Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No**
Ecological function and the natural heritage system are protected.

**Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No**
Cultural industries are enhanced.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? □ Yes ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? □ Yes ☑ No