

REPORT

Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 25, 2025

FROM: Planning and Development Department

DATE: March 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Heritage Grant Program Evaluation Working Group

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the 'Heritage Grant Evaluation Working Group' for 2025 be created and membership be determined.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- This is the twelfth year of the Heritage Grant Program, which is an annual program with \$180,000 available in funding.
- Each year, a working group of members of the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee come together to evaluate all submissions to the Heritage Grant Program. The working group reports back with a recommendation to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee regarding how the funding should be allotted.

BACKGROUND:

This is the twelfth year of the Heritage Grant Program, which Council approved on an annual basis on May 16, 2016, following the successful completion of a three-year pilot program. The grant program was developed to provide funding for owners of properties designated under Part IV or Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The program sets out criteria for eligible conservation work, and defines what projects are not eligible to receive funding. Grants can be applied for as matching funding up to a maximum contribution of \$15,000.

The program currently offers a total of \$180,000 in funding each year through the Town's operating budget but occasionally additional funds are available from unused grants, developer contributions or heritage fees.

Each year, a working group of members of the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee come together to evaluate all submissions to the Heritage Grant Program. The working group reports back with a recommendation to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee regarding how the funding should be allotted.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Heritage Planning staff sent out an email to all members of the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee in March 2025 asking for volunteers to join the working group to evaluate the submissions for this year's Heritage Grant Program and responses are still being received. Five members, which is less than the quorum of the overall committee, will constitute the Heritage Grant Evaluation Working Group.

The Heritage Grant Evaluation Working Group will be meeting to discuss all submissions and how to allot the available funding in early April 2025.

CONCLUSIONS/NEXT STEPS:

A report on the recommendations from the Heritage Grant Evaluation Working Group will be presented to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee at their next meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. The recommendation of the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee regarding the 2025 Heritage Grant Program will be presented to Planning and Development Council in May 2025.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

All applicants to the Heritage Grant Program will be notified of the approval/rejection of their application and the grant amount, if approved, following Council approval.

(B) FINANCIAL

Funding for the Heritage Grant Program was approved through the Town's annual budget process.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Heritage planning staff will continue to work with staff from the Finance Department to award heritage grants following the completion of approved projects.

(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report addresses Council's strategic priority of Accountable Government.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

A Climate Emergency was declared by Council in June 2019 for the purposes of strengthening the Oakville community commitment in reducing carbon footprints. The Heritage Grant Program encourages the restoration of historic materials, which diverts waste from landfills. The greenest building is the one that already exists and the Heritage Grant Program helps owners of designated properties maintain their buildings.

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