



OAKVILLE

REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: JULY 06, 2020

FROM: Planning Services Department

DATE: June 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Heritage Grant Program 2020 - Recommendations

LOCATION: Town wide

WARD: Town wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the 2020 funding allotment as attached in 'Appendix A - Recommended Grant Projects and Maximum Approved Amounts' to the report titled Heritage Grant Program 2020 dated June 24, 2020, be approved.
2. That any leftover funds from unclaimed grants that have expired be rolled into the next available Heritage Grant Program year.
3. That Council approve a transfer of \$53,790 from the unexpended Heritage Grant funding in 2017-2019 from the Tax Stabilization reserve to the Heritage Conservation reserve.

KEY FACTS:

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

- This is the seventh year of the Heritage Grant Program, which is an annual program with \$90,000 available in funding each year.
- 25 project applications were received, requesting over \$207,000 in funding for conservation work on designated heritage properties.
- Restoration projects that improve structural stability and preserve exterior systems such as walls, roofs and windows were given priority during the evaluation process to ensure that the program funding supports the projects most necessary to preserve heritage buildings.
- To date, the Heritage Grant Program has provided \$535,000 in heritage grants to assist with more than 105 restoration and conservation projects worth more than \$2.5 million.

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BACKGROUND:

This is the seventh 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 offers a total of \$90,000 in funding each year through the Town's operating budget.

This report provides recommendations for the allocation of the 2020 heritage grants and demonstrates the ongoing success of the program. This report was reviewed and endorsed by the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee at their meeting on June 23, 2020.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:2020 Heritage Grant Program Review

The 2020 Heritage Grant Program continues to be very well-received by owners of heritage designated properties. Heritage planning staff received more than 40 inquiries about the program and 25 applications requesting over \$207,000 in grant funding.

The 2020 program was launched the second week of January 2020 and applications were received until March 13, 2020. The seventh year of the Heritage Grant Program continues the success of the program, with the combined value of the proposed projects at more than \$510,000.

Heritage planning staff and five members of the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee formed a working group to evaluate the applications. As with previous years, the working group had the choice to fund six to eight applications to the maximum requested amount or to distribute the grant money to a maximum number of applicants. Given that many of the applications were for similar projects (i.e. structural issues, historic roof replacement, window restorations), the working group felt it was important to distribute the available funding to as many worthy projects as possible. This is consistent with the approach to grant allocation for the past six years.

In order to allocate grant funding consistently and fairly, the working group ranked priority projects in order to determine how much funding each project would receive. High priority projects were considered as follows:

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- Projects that propose restoration work of a structural nature. These projects include work to foundations and masonry systems necessary to the stability of the historic building.
- Projects that restore existing heritage attributes that are integral to the preservation of the superstructure (wall systems, roof) of the heritage building. Many of these projects involve restoration of historic windows and replacement/new wood storm windows, as well as significant repairs to historic stucco and woodwork.

The working group has recommended that all of the 25 applications receive some level of funding from the Heritage Grant Program. The recommended projects are attached to this report as Appendix A.

Each approved project has been provided with a 'maximum grant amount', so that they may receive 50% of the costs of their approved projects to the maximum amount. Grant recipients will still be encouraged to complete their entire projects as proposed, but if they are not able to, a minimum scope of work will be required to be eligible for funding. As long as the grant recipient has met the approved minimum scope of work, the project will be eligible for 50% of the costs up to the maximum approved amount.

Following consideration by Council, all applicants will be notified of the decision regarding their application, and if applicable, the minimum scope of work to be completed.

As outlined in the Heritage Grant Program Procedures, grants will be provided to successful applicants at the satisfactory completion of their project. Grant recipients are required to contact heritage planning staff to arrange for an inspection to ensure that the completed work matches the approved project. If work does not meet the satisfaction of heritage planning staff, the grant funds will be withheld until the project does meet the satisfaction of heritage planning staff. Invoices must also be presented at the inspection to ensure that grant recipients have covered 50% or more of their approved project costs. If a project is completed under budget and the maximum approved amount is more than 50% of the project costs, the grant recipient will receive only 50% of the final project costs.

Additional Funds

Although \$90,000 in heritage grants are approved in a given year, the funds are not all dispersed in the same year as proponents have two years to complete the work, plus an additional two years can be granted if the property owner requests an extension of the funding. The Heritage Grant Program has been running long enough that grants are reaching the end of their four-year availability period and while the majority of funding is used, there have been some grants that were

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unclaimed by their owners due to unforeseen circumstances. To date, any Council-approved grant funds not claimed in a given year have been transferred to town's stabilization reserve at year-end as part of the town surplus. In order to make these funds available for future heritage grants, staff recommend that going forward any unused heritage grant funds be transferred to the Heritage Conservation reserve, to be used in future years. In addition, staff recommends that Council authorize the transfer of \$53,790 in unexpended grant funds from the 2017-2019 operating budget be transferred from the Tax Stabilization reserve to the Heritage Conservation reserve.

Conclusion

The seventh year of the Heritage Grant Program has built upon the overwhelming success of the past six years the program has been offered and has demonstrated the value of financial support and incentives for property owners who are stewards of Oakville's cultural heritage resources.

Heritage planning staff consider the seventh year of the Heritage Grant Program a resounding success and look forward to the improvements that will be made to Oakville's heritage properties as a result of this important program.

Heritage planning staff recommend that Council approve of the 2020 heritage grant amounts as attached in Appendix A.

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) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

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- provide outstanding service to our residents and businesses
- enhance our cultural environment
- be valued/celebrated for outstanding service
- be the most livable town in Canada

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

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 ensures that heritage buildings are repaired and maintained, as the greenest building is the one that already exists. The Heritage Grant Program therefore supports the town's climate initiatives.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Recommended Grant Projects and Maximum Approved Amounts

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