TO:            Mayor and Council  
FROM: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth Group  
RESOURCE STAFF: Lanie Hurdle, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services  
DATE OF MEETING: 2010-01-05  
SUBJECT: Proposed Restoration of Lion at MacDonald Park  

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

City staff was recently approached by the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston who is interested in partnering with the City of Kingston to restore the Lion at MacDonald Park. This restoration would mark the 100th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Kingston. The Ukrainian Canadian Club has offered to cover the cost of restoration and the City would cover the cost to replace the concrete slab on which the Lion is currently located. The Ukrainian Canadian Club is also proposing to add a trilingual (English, French and Ukrainian) plaque next to the Lion which would identify the original year of donation and the year of restoration of the Lion. Restoration would occur during the winter/spring of 2010 and unveiling ceremony would occur in June 2010. MST Bronze Limited would be the company performing the restoration work.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council enter into a partnership agreement, to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services, with the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston for the restoration of the Lion at MacDonald Park, it being understood that staff consult with the Kingston Municipal Heritage Committee on proposed details of the restoration and complete an Application for a Heritage Permit.
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

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<th>Commissioner Thurston, Community Development Services</th>
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<td>Commissioner Leger, Corporate Services</td>
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<td>Jim Keech, President, Utilities Kingston</td>
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*(N/R indicates consultation not required)*
OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:
In November 2009, City staff was approached by the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston to establish a partnership to restore the Lion located in MacDonald Park. Through this partnership, the Ukrainian Canadian Club is proposing to cover the cost of restoration of the Lion and the installation of a trilingual plaque and the City would cover the cost of replacing the concrete pad on which the Lion is currently located.

The Lion was presented to the City of Kingston in 1909 by the son of Captain John Gaskin (a former mayor of Kingston). It originally stood in front of Gaskin’s house which was located on the South East corner of Ontario and Princess Street. Background information on the Lion is attached in Exhibit D of this report.

The Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston is proposing to cover the fee of MST Bronze Limited which has been a member of the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Properties for ten years and as a member, abides by the “Code of Ethics and Guidance for Practice”. MST Bronze Limited is also a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants. Exhibit C of this report provides information on MST Bronze Limited and some of the projects completed by the company.

Heritage and Cultural Significance
MacDonald Park is a designated property under the Heritage Act under By-Law 84-65. The Lion itself is not referred to in this designation by-law. That being the case, the property is still designated and is defined as “real property which includes all buildings and structures thereon”. The proposed work will only restore the Lion and not otherwise alter the bronze statue or its setting. The only proposed alteration is the addition of a plaque identifying the dates of donation and restoration. This could be considered an alteration to a designated property and therefore would be included in the Kingston Municipal Heritage Committee application process. Staff has prepared a report to Kingston Municipal Heritage Committee for its January meeting to initiate discussions about restoration of the Lion.

Recreation and Leisure staff believe that this partnership to restore the Lion will contribute to the improvement of MacDonald Park/Richardson Beach which is one of the capital projects scheduled for 2010. This proposed work would complement work being conducted by the City. Staff also believe that this is a positive partnership that will help promote Kingston’s cultural diversity.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:
By-Law 84-65, By-Law to designate certain properties to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest, pursuant to section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

NOTICE PROVISIONS:
N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:
N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
The Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston will be covering the cost of restoration. The City will cover the cost of replacing the concrete pad where the Lion is located. The cost associated with the concrete pad will be covered by Richardson Beach landscaping capital budget.
CONTACTS:
Lanie Hurdle, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services (613) 546-4291 ext. 1231

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:
Alan McLeod, Senior Legal Counsel, Legal Services
Marcus Létourneau, Heritage Planner
George Wallace, Director, Planning & Development

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:
Exhibit A – Letter from the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston
Exhibit B – Proposal from MST Bronze
Exhibit C – Background information on MST Bronze
Exhibit D – Background information on Lion at MacDonald Park
23 December 2009

Ms Lanie Hurdle  
City of Kingston  
218 Ontario Street  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 2Z3

Dear Ms Hurdle:

This will confirm that the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston and the Kingston branch of the League of Ukrainian Canadians will cover the costs involved in having MST Bronze restore/conserve the “Gaskin Lion.” We understand that the City of Kingston will pay for the removal and replacement of the concrete pad on which the lion currently stands and will also be responsible for any future maintenance or insurance costs

In return all we expect is permission to attach a trilingual (English, French, Ukrainian) plaque at the base of the lion, indicating that it was restored to mark the 100th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Kingston. We would anticipate an unveiling ceremony in June 2010. The cost of this plaque would also be borne by the above-referenced groups.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter,

Sincerely,

Lubomyr Luciuk, PhD  
President, UCCK

849 Wartman Avenue  
Kingston, Ontario, K7M 2Y6  
tel: 613 546-8364
City of Kingston

PROPOSAL FOR CONSERVATION OF THE

CAST IRON LION

PREPARED BY

MST BRONZE LIMITED

Contact: Myros Trutiak, President
345 Munster Avenue, Toronto, ON Canada M8Z 3C6
tel 416 234 1015 – fax 416 234 1516
email: myros@mstbronze.com
CONDITION REPORT & TREATMENT PROPOSAL

OWNER: City of Kingston

ADDRESS: Macdonald Park, King St. West at George Street, Kingston, Ontario

OBJECT: Cast Iron Lion

ARTIST: Unknown  FOUNDARY: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: 51 inches high, 20 inches wide, 6 feet long

CONDITION

The cast iron lion is anchored to a concrete base with four nuts and bolts. The statue is a good representation of a lion with artistic stylization and appears to have been cast in one piece. Much of the surface is pitted with casting flaws and oxides. In general the structure is in good condition except for a hole in the right front leg. There are remnants of several layers of paint – brown, yellow, green and black. Years of exposure to environmental elements and daily traffic has abraded most of the paint coatings and smoothed down the iron surface. There are some graffiti scratches in the remaining paint layers on the back and face of the lion.

The concrete base has settled causing it to crack and break. Some fragments are missing and grass has grown between the cracks. The lion slopes slightly forward and it appears that attempts were made at some point to level the support with additional concrete.

PROPOSED TREATMENT

BASE: Remove the old base.
Pour a new concrete base with proper footing.

CAST IRON LION:

Remove the cast iron lion from the concrete base.
The lion will be transported to MST Bronze for treatment.
The metal will be stripped of any residual paint using approved abrasives and equipment.
The surface will be treated with an appropriate rust convertor where needed.
The inside of the casting will be cleaned out and stabilized with appropriate rust convertor.
The void on the right front leg will be repaired by sculpting the missing section in clay or wax.
The sculpted section will be moulded and cast in iron and then welded in place or mechanically patched into place.
An appropriate paint system will consist of 2 coats of DTM primer and 2 coats of UV stable topcoat colour-matched to the original finish.
Appropriate size threaded pins for anchoring will be attached to the lion. Upon installation, holes will be drilled into the concrete base and the pins will be glued into the base with Hilti epoxy.
DOCUMENTATION

MST Bronze Limited will provide written and photographic documentation detailing the treatment of the statue. This documentation will consist of a condition report, treatment proposal, and treatment report. All procedures and products proposed and used as part of the treatment will be detailed to include brand names and recipe compositions. Documentation will also include digital images and colour photos that will be used as a permanent, visual archive of the statue’s condition – before (BT), during (DT) and after (AT) treatment. The photography will include overall shots of the front and back of the monument, along with details of new or potentially altering conditions. Digital images will be supplied on CD ROM and will include thumbnails and corresponding list for reference. All photos will be provided in a polyethylene 8” x 10” sleeves and each will be numbered, labeled with project name, year of treatment and BT, DT or AT, and will have a corresponding list of details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PLAQUE

MST Bronze Limited recommends that a bronze plaque be placed after the treatment of the statue is complete. The text may be determined at a later date but an appropriate size for a acknowledgement plaque could be 15 inches high by 15 inches wide.
PROJECT AND FEE SCHEDULE

PROJECT SCHEDULE

MST Bronze Limited will remove the lion within 30 days of written approval of this treatment proposal from the City of Kingston. During the winter months, we will undertake the replacement of the void on the right front leg, and the proposed treatment at our facilities. Reinstallation will be in the spring, weather permitting, on the concrete base provided by the City of Kingston.

FEE SCHEDULE

With the written approval of the City of Kingston, the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston and the Kingston Branch of the League of Ukrainian Canadians would like to pay MST Bronze Limited to restore the lion and place an acknowledgement plaque, as per the treatment proposal dated December 14, 2009.

The City of Kingston will only be responsible for the removal of the old base and pouring a new concrete base with proper footing, as per the treatment proposal dated December 14, 2009.

Any additional work beyond that described in this document will be extra.
The MST Bronze Limited team encompasses a network of qualified professionals that are capable of undertaking all work related to the design, management and production of projects of any magnitude. Our qualified staff have many years of industry experience and are available to provide technical advice on manufacturing each piece.

There are 12 full-time members on the MST Bronze Limited team. A number of us are licensed as lift truck operators, overhead crane operators, and all are WHMIS trained. Many are graduates of Universities, art colleges and art schools.

MST Bronze Limited strives to be Canada's premiere full-service art centre.
THE MACDONALD PARK LION

Researcher: Earl James Moorehead

Remark that in the text below, standard text is historical fact taken directly from archival sources. Text in bold italics is the researcher’s interpretation of and comments upon events.

1/ When was it donated to the City?
It was donated to the City in April 1909.  
(British Whig April 27 1909. p1)

2/ Who donated it to the City?
Robert Gaskin, the son of ship captain and alderman, the late Robert Gaskin (same name), donated the statue to the City. The late Captain Gaskin lived in the mansion at 31 King Street East and was the person who placed the lion in the front lawn of this house, almost certainly in the period 1855 to 1880; which is the mid to late Victorian era. It was a status symbol.
(British Whig April 27 1909. p1)

From Queens University Archives is this archival source:
Kingston Whig 1909 Apr 27
Mr. WW Sands wrote to ald Kent, the chairman of parks that R.J. Gaskin would present the city the large iron lion which for years stood on the lawn of his father, the late Alderman Gaskin, the same to be placed in some conspicuous place to be selected by the parks committee. On motion of Ald Kent, the offer of Mr. Gaskin was accepted.

3/ Under what circumstances/context was it donated to the City?
It was donated to the City when Captain Gaskin died, in 1908, and a new homeowner took possession of 31 King Street in 1909.  
(British Whig April 27 1909. p1)
The reason for the donation was almost certainly due to changes in taste in architecture and landscaping. By the late Edwardian period in 1909, the lion – from the Victorian period – was still situated on the lawn of 31 King Street and was hopelessly out of fashion. Probably rather than sell it to an iron monger for scrap, it was decided to donate it to the City to grace one of its parks. In the end it moved only 400 metres from its front lawn to the middle of Macdonald Park.

To place this in context, it may be pointed out that Kingston City parks had often been the dumping grounds for obsolete art or technology. By 1909 Kingston parks were full of outdated British military and naval cannons; this was a practice that was common to most urban parks in Canada at the turn of the century. It was part of an Edwardian (1901-1910) movement known as the City Beautiful which endeavoured to beautify Cities with parks, trees, and statuary.

4/ Does it have an official name?
It does not have an official name. A brass donor’s plaque accompanied the lion upon its original gifting to the City, but this plaque became lost almost immediately, and no name of a
donor or name of the lion was preserved. Individuals within Kingston’s historical community call it the **Gaskin lion**, but this is by virtue of convenience only, it is not an official name.

*(Margaret Cohoe fonds A.Arch V107 Folio B2701415 #1004.13.18 Lion in the Park)*

5/What does it represent?
Strictly speaking it does not represent anything.

In the Kingston Historical Society’s guide to Kingston monuments, *An Illustrated Guide to Monuments Memorials and Markers in the Kingston Area*, (2000), the lion is not included because it does not meet its historical or aesthetic criteria. It is doubtful that it has any connection with Gaskin family heraldry, as lions sometimes do. It does not commemorate any historical event or person. Since it is a lion, it may have been generally evocative of the British Empire, because the lion was the symbol of British power, just as the beaver represents Canada today. And to Captain Gaskin this association with the British Lion would have appeal. But in the end it is simply lawn decoration and the City is free to impart any meaning or tradition to it that it pleases.

*The lion is far from unimportant however. It is the only statue in Macdonald Park. Immediately after its donation it became a Kingston landmark for Queen’s students to have their picture taken with; as several photographs dating to 1913 and the 1930s attest to. Subsequently generations of Kingston school children have been photographed sitting astride the creature. Almost every photograph of the lion has someone sitting on it. It has a popular, sentimental value to the City.*

*(QUA Florence Tait Schofield Fonds. 2008-106, Photograph Album)*

(Peter Lee fonds)

6/Who was the donor and who received the gift?
The statue was donated to the City by Robert Gaskin, the son of the lion’s original owner. It was donated gratis to the City via Alderman Kent, who was the Chairman of Parks in 1909. Upon the motion of Alderman Kent, City Council voted to accept the lion.

*(British Whig April 27 1909. p1)*

*It is important to note that the statue was gifted to the City free of any conditions whatsoever. Alderman Kent inserted in Council minutes that it was to be placed in a conspicuous place which gives the City wide scope for its placement. If the City is contemplating a new donor plaque it is suggested that the donor name be expanded to the Gaskin Family. The Gaskins were part of Kingston’s middle wealthy class, but they were for instance less important than Mayor John Counter or Richard Cartwright*
Fig 1 Macdonald Park Lion December 2009 (author)
Fig2 Macdonald Park Lion December 2009 (author)
Fig 3 Damage to Macdonald Park Lion December 2009 (author)
Fig 4 Macdonald Park Lion 1913 (QUA Florence Tait Schofield Fonds. 2008-106, Photograph Album)

Fig 5 Macdonald Street Lion with Queens Students 1913 (QUA Florence Tait Schofield Fonds. 2008-106, Photograph Album)
Fig 6 Macdonald Park Lion with visitors. Ca 1930 (QUA V23-P-28 Lee, Peter)
Fig 7 Macdonald Park Lion ca. 1935 (QUA 1004-13-5-20 Gaskin Lion)