EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

City staff was approached by representatives of Project Bookmark Canada about one (1) week ago to explore the possibility of establishing a site in Kingston. Project Bookmark Canada is a nationally registered charitable organization that acts as a national network of site specific literary works.

Project Bookmark Canada has received funding from the Ontario Media Development Corporation to establish four (4) new sites and is considering Kingston since Project Bookmark Canada’s Site Selection Committee has approved the inclusion of a literary work set in Kingston by local writer Bronwen Wallace.

In order to be part of this partnership, the City would have to install the plaque on publicly accessible land; most likely within a park. The location has to be site specific and relate to the literary work being displayed on the bookmark. The City would also organize a launch for the bookmark being displayed on City property. Project Bookmark Canada would cover the cost of the production and repair of the plaque.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to sign a partnership agreement, to the satisfaction of the Legal Services Department, with Project Bookmark Canada to install a plaque displaying the literary work of Bronwen Wallace on publicly accessible land to be determined by City staff and Project Bookmark Canada.
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability &amp; Growth</td>
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<tr>
<th>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</th>
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<td>Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</td>
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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultant</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Willing, Community Development Services</td>
<td>N/R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denis Leger, Corporate Services</td>
<td>N/R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Keech, President &amp; CEO, Utilities Kingston</td>
<td>N/R</td>
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(N/R indicates consultation not required)
OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

The plaque (or Bookmark) is roughly the size of a poster, turned on its side. The Bookmark contains a column of information about the author and their work on the left-hand side of the passage. The remaining space (approximately ¾ of the Bookmark) contains the passage from the story or poem. The Bookmark is made of enamel (which is very durable and hard to deface), sits in a metal tray and has a glossy finish, similar to a magazine page.

Project Bookmark Canada ([http://projectbookmarkcanada.ca/](http://projectbookmarkcanada.ca/)) would like to include Kingston in this early round of Bookmark installations. It has received funds from the Ontario Media Development Corporation to place four Bookmarks in 2010 at sites in Ontario. These funds cover the copyright permissions, plaque design, production and delivery, web related support and marketing. Project Bookmark Canada partnered with two other organizations for this particular funding: Open Book Ontario (a program of the Organization of Book Publishers of Ontario) and the Creative Book Publishing Program at Humber College. This specific funding and this partnership means that sites selected for a Bookmark this year will not have to wait through a long fundraising process to get a Bookmark in the ground. It also means marketing support which is intended to drive readers to the work and tourists to the site.

Project Bookmark Canada selects all Bookmark literary passages, though anyone is welcome to make a suggestion to the Site Selections Committee.

In the case of this Bookmark being offered through the program by the Ontario government, Project Bookmark Canada has approved one literary work: *Mexican Sunsets* by Bronwen Wallace, which is attached in Exhibit A. Use of this poem as a Bookmark has already been approved by Bronwen Wallace’s publishing company and by her son, and heir.

Bookmarks are site specific. This means that the Bookmark, and thus the readers, must be standing on the site in which the literary scene takes place. This makes selection of locations very important. In the case of this poem, it refers to the limestone Protestant churches and their stained glass windows. Therefore, City staff and Project Bookmark Canada will seek a site on which the reader can stand and look up at such a window. This site should also be on publicly accessible land.

Project Bookmark Canada currently has a project in place in Toronto adjacent to the Bloor Viaduct featuring Michael Ondaatje and his novel *In the Skin of a Lion* and is considering adding additional Bookmarks in Toronto and Hamilton. Project Bookmark Canada is looking at announcing its four (4) Ontario projects for 2010 as soon as possible and would like to launch the Kingston Bookmark during the Kingston Writers’ Festival at the end of September. Attached as Exhibit B is an image from the recent launch in Toronto.

Over the next two years the plan is to install eight permanent exhibits featuring different works of Canadian literature. A sophisticated online mapping project, including travelogues and reading lists, will enhance the installations, driving Ontario book lovers and tourists from all over to visit the installations at cities and towns across the province, to read the featured books and authors and to further explore Ontario’s literary scene.

The invitation to participate in Project Bookmark Canada at the outset provides the City of Kingston with a unique opportunity to work in collaboration with the broader literary community to celebrate Canadian literature through a project that has both local and provincial profile.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

N/A
NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

The site selected for placement of the Bookmark should be publicly accessible land.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The City would have to cover the cost of the plaque installation and the Bookmark launch. This would be covered through the Recreation and Leisure Services capital budget.

CONTACTS:

Lanie Hurdle, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services (613) 546-4291 ext. 1231

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Kristine Hebert, Coordinator, Parks and Open Space
Brian McCurdy, Director, Cultural Services
Colin Wiginton, Manager, Cultural Services

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

Exhibit A – Mexican Sunsets - Poem by Bronwen Wallace
Mexican Sunsets

Somewhere in Mexico, a volcano erupts
spewing dust that drifts northward
disturbing the atmosphere of Southern Ontario
so that all this autumn, small, grey
English-speaking towns are startled
by inordinate sunsets: shameless
fuchsias, brazen corals flaunt
their outlandish origins in a country
where anything can happen.

Nothing’s the same any more.
Here in Kingston, even limestone forgets itself
and the staid Protestant church towers
succumb to gothic fantasies, windows ablaze
with dragons’ fire and the pink screams
of captured damsels; while the bare, old
branches of trees are elegant filigrees,
burnt black and delicate
by so much colour.

It’s November, but no-one believes it.
Winter’s a crass rumour like the threat
of a layoff or a government’s economic policy.
And the people inhabiting the lavender streets
have the stature of fabled creatures
from that land we all believe in, somewhere
between imagination and nostalgia.

You could call it
a state of grace, although
it’s only for a season, like the love
we risk for each other
on the first fine day in March,
or during the perfect anarchy
of a heavy snowfall
when everyone’s late for work
and doesn’t give a damn.

A kind of conspiracy
we let ourselves get caught in,
half-bewildered, half-encouraged
by the sky’s extravagance, this
fragile crust of earth
pulsing beneath us.