



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 17-061**

To:	Mayor and Members of Council
From:	Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff:	Colin Wiginton, Cultural Director
Date of Meeting:	February 21, 2017
Subject:	City of Kingston and Alderville First Nation Commemoration Project

Executive Summary:

At its meeting on July 16, 2013, City Council passed the following motion:

***‘THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the City of Kingston extend greetings to the Council of Alderville First Nation and invite them to join with the City of Kingston in the creation of a commemoration project and that staff be directed to work with the Alderville First Nation on developing a plan for the project and report back at an appropriate time with detailed plans and budgeting for the project.’*

Work on this project has been ongoing since that time. This report describes the activities that have taken place between City of Kingston staff and members of the Alderville First Nation and the plans for Council approval for future action in fulfillment of this motion, including the project timeline, budget and artist selection process.

City staff and members of the Alderville First Nation have met on numerous occasions since 2013. In an atmosphere of growing relationship between the two groups, participants have agreed that something more than a plaque is needed and that the commemoration project be realized as a work of public art that reflects the shared values, history and future of Alderville First Nation and the City of Kingston and that it also marks the history and ongoing connection of the Mississauga people of Alderville First Nation with the land that now forms part of the City of Kingston.

The City/Alderville Coordination Team has defined the terms of reference for the project, developed a project brief and selected a preferred location in Lake Ontario Park (endorsed by Alderville First Nation Council in December 2016). The team has also come to an understanding regarding the artist selection process and next steps required to commission, fabricate and

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install the final artwork. Representatives from Alderville First Nation will continue to be engaged in an advisory capacity during the artist selection process and the final dedication of the work, which is planned for the spring of 2018.

The City's Public Art Policy and Commemoration Policy (approved by Council on February 7, 2017) will guide the artistic process (call for artists, development of art concepts, public consultation, fabrication and installation of the artwork). The Alderville First Nation Commemorative Public Art competition is open to all artists or artist teams and welcomes artists and/or team members with Anishinaabe ancestry and all First Peoples to submit.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the proposed plan to realize a City of Kingston/Alderville First Nation commemorative public artwork; and

That Council approve the proposed site for the City of Kingston/Alderville First Nation commemorative public artwork in Lake Ontario Park, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 17-061.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Denis Leger, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services Not required

Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston

Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

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Options/Discussion:

In the spring of 2013, James Marsden, Chief of the Alderville First Nation, approached the City of Kingston with a request to form a partnership in the development of an appropriate vehicle to commemorate the story of the Mississauga Nation in Kingston. The Chief requested this commemoration should link the Mississauga Ojibway and members of the Anishinaabeg Nation with their long connection to the Kingston region, Bedford Township, Grape Island (Bay of Quinte) and Alnwick (Alderville) at Rice Lake.

In response to the Chief's invitation, City Council passed the following motion at its meeting on July 16, 2013:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Kingston extend greetings to the Council of Alderville First Nation and invite them to join with the City of Kingston in the creation of a commemoration project and that staff be directed to work with the Alderville First Nation on developing a plan for the project and report back at an appropriate time with detailed plans and budgeting for the project."

The Cultural Services Department was given responsibility to work in partnership with the Alderville community to define and implement the requested commemoration given the nature of the project as a cultural heritage initiative. Since that time, staff and members of the Alderville First Nation have met as a City/Alderville Coordination Team a number of times both in Kingston and in Alderville. Historical advice on this project has been provided by Alderville community member Dave Mowat and Kingston historian and long-time advisor to the Alderville First Nation Brian Osborne.

In an atmosphere of strengthening relationships between the two groups, participants have defined the terms of reference for the project and developed a project brief, selected a preferred location in Lake Ontario Park (endorsed by Alderville First Nation Council in December 2016), and come to an understanding about the artist selection process and next steps to commission and install the artwork. Representatives from Alderville First Nation will continue to be engaged in an advisory capacity during the artist selection process, project development and the final dedication of the work which is planned for the spring of 2018.

During the development stage, the Coordination Team agreed upon the project's objectives, messages, participants, and options for tangible and intangible forms of a commemoration. The team favoured public art as the most appropriate form of tangible expression for the commemoration and that the commemoration will embody a First Peoples perspective. It has also been agreed the resulting work of art should act as a teaching tool as well as a community gathering place for the Alderville First Nation and other First Peoples as well as Kingston residents more broadly. The story the commemoration project embodies will be specific to Mississauga culture, voice, language, identity and way of life and the resulting commemoration will focus on the people of the Alderville First Nation and their journey, with strong links to space, the land and water. As proposed, the Alderville First Nation Commemorative Public Art competition will be open to all artists or artist teams and will welcome artists and/or team members with Anishinaabe ancestry and all First Peoples to submit.

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A positive outcome of this commemorative project has been its contribution to the development of effective and respectful working relationships between the City of Kingston and all First Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) community members with both ancestral and modern ties to the Kingston region. This project affords an important and precedent setting opportunity for the City of Kingston to work with a specific First Peoples group to collaborate in ways that will help the broader public become more aware of the diverse First Peoples narrative of Kingston. The project will be a welcome addition to and evolution of the many more traditional forms of commemorations that already exist throughout the City (plaques, statues, memorial benches and trees, etc.).

Commemorations in the City of Kingston

In spite of a history of human presence dating back millennia, Kingston provides a home to many commemorative forms that exclude First Peoples. These commemorations tell certain stories well but generally do not acknowledge or include the history and culture of those who lived here before contact with Europeans, and whose descendants continue to be present today living alongside what is sometimes referred to as “settler” culture. Work with the Alderville First Nation, and other First Peoples in Kingston, has helped to widen the general understanding and definitions of commemorations to include non-monumental forms of recognition such as landscapes as well as other more intangible forms of recognition like ceremonies and stories. Working in partnership with the Alderville First Nation has proven to be very educative and has provided numerous learning opportunities for City staff and other stakeholders. It is anticipated the lessons learned will help inform future work involving First Peoples across Kingston.

City of Kingston Policy Framework

The process of assessment, acquisition and management of the commemorative work of public art, as proposed, will be guided by the provisions of the City’s Public Art Policy as well as the recently approved Commemoration Policy.

Public Art Master Plan and Policy

The Kingston Public Art Master Plan, approved by Council in 2014, offers City staff a framework to develop and maintain public art, support artistic activity in the community and to create consistent standards for public art in the public realm, civic initiatives and private sector projects. The City of Kingston Public Art Policy, approved in 2015, guides the development and implementation of the Public Art Master Plan. It is also intended to provide Council, City staff, the arts community and the public with a mechanism through which to assess, acquire and manage works of public art that are to be integrated as part of municipally-owned buildings and public spaces through a combination of commissions, loans, purchases and/or donations.

Public Art Projects, 2017-2018

The first phase of implementation of the Public Art Master Plan is currently underway and includes the following projects:

- Alderville First Nation Commemoration Project as described in this report.
- Victoria Park Public Art Project. Working alongside staff in Recreation & Leisure Services and the Public Art Working Group, a call for a public art piece for the refurbished Victoria Park will be launched in the summer of 2017 with the expected installation in 2018.

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- Rideau Heights Community Centre Public Art Project. Working alongside staff in Recreation & Leisure Services and members of the Public Art Working Group, a community consultation will begin in the spring of 2017 to develop the scope for a public art project for the new Rideau Heights Community Centre.
- Professional development. Seminars for emerging artists including “How to respond to an RFP” and “Public Art 101” are planned for the fall of 2017. These seminars will allow interested artists to understand the processes of applying for a call and some of the considerations artists must consider when applying for a public art project.
- Temporary public art. City staff will support the ‘On The Wall’ festival in Douglas Fluhrer Park in the summer of 2017 along with other initiatives still to be identified.

Kingston Commemorations Strategy and Policy

In 2015, Kingston City Council approved the Kingston Commemorations Strategy, a plan that provides a holistic approach to the concept of commemoration in the City, both tangible (i.e. monuments, statues, public art, plaques, memorial benches and trees) and intangible (i.e. naming rights, landscapes, events, festivals, ceremonies, etc.) to address the demand for commemorations on City-owned property (facilities, parks, infrastructure). The Strategy is an umbrella document that coordinates a series of existing City policies dealing with commemorations into a philosophical and practical framework for assessing and supporting a diverse range of commemorations in form and theme to best acknowledge the persons, places, events and ideas that define the community. The Strategy and the subsequent Commemorations Policy retain the existing lines of authority and responsibilities for each of the individual departmental policies.

Budget

The City of Kingston Public Art Policy outlines six site types to be considered for inclusion of public art and includes associated guidelines for appropriate scale and budget for each site type. Although the Kingston/Alderville project is a distinct initiative not tied to specific capital improvements, this project most closely resembles “Site Type 1 - Park Renewal” and “Site Type 2 - Park Redevelopment” as outlined in the Public Art Policy.

The budget required to complete the City/Alderville project is \$200,000, an amount that falls within Public Art Policy guidelines. This budget covers artist fees, engineering and landscape design, fabrication and installation, accessibility requirements, administration, maintenance and contingency fees.

Site Information

Parks Development staff participated in the site selection process and historical advice on potential siting was provided by Alderville Council Member Dave Mowat and Professor Brian Osborne, Kingston scholar and long-time advisor to the Alderville First Nation. City staff responsible for accessibility compliance was consulted about potential accessibility requirements for the artwork in the park.

Several City-owned park locations were considered for this particular project (Battery Park located in an area long known as Mississauga Point, Lake Ontario Park, Macdonald Memorial Park, Douglas R. Fluhrer Park and Emma Martin Park). Of the potential sites visited, the

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City/Alderville Coordination Team agreed that the Lake Ontario Park site was the most appropriate place for a commemorative work of public art for several reasons, which include its profile as a well-known public space as well as its overall accessibility, natural setting and location adjacent to the waterfront.

With Council's approval, the proposed public art installation will be located within a 50 metre by 20 metre open area of lawn immediately to the west of the stand of trees beginning 15 metres north-west of the volleyball court, where the long dimension is situated with a north to south orientation (Exhibit A). City staff have confirmed this area of the park is not designated for any specific purpose at this time other than general passive park use and that a public art installation in this location will not pose a significant functional or operational challenge.

Precedent for this kind of installation also exists as Lake Ontario Park once played host to two totem poles originally created by the Joyceville Institution [Indigenous] Brotherhood. These totem poles were installed as part of 'Thunderbird Park' and remained on view for nearly forty years until they were removed as part of the most recent park re-development project. The totem poles have since been restored and are currently on view on the grounds of the Correction Services Canada's regional headquarters located at the corner of Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard and Union Street.

Alderville First Nation Council confirmed its endorsement of the proposed site in a letter dated December 12, 2016 and staff are seeking Council approval for this site as well so the next stage of work related to this commemorative project can begin.

Next Steps

Once Council has approved the location for the project, staff will commence a two-stage artist selection process as outlined in the Public Art Policy. Staff have engaged public art consultant Helena Grdadolnik of Workshop Architecture to help guide this process. Workshop Architecture was earlier engaged by the City to develop the Public Art Master Plan and Policy as well as the Commemoration Strategy and Policy. They have extensive experience managing public art projects and particularly public art projects that involved First Peoples-focused subject matter.

The Alderville First Nation Commemorative Public Art competition will be open to all artists or artist teams and welcomes artists and/or team members with Anishinaabe ancestry and all First Peoples to submit. Stage 1 of the artist selection process includes a call for artists and request for qualifications (RFQ). Stage 2 includes interviews with short-listed artists or artist-led teams that will be used to identify the successful proponent(s) who will be awarded the project.

Membership in the Alderville Commemorative Public Art Working Group will be drawn from the Alderville First Nation, City staff and other members of the community as seen fit by the Alderville First Nation. The working group will play an advisory role throughout the project, including artist evaluation as well as the development of the final artwork itself. An Artist Selection Panel comprising members of the Alderville Commemorative Public Art Working Group and recognized art professionals will review and select the shortlist of artists or artist-led teams.

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Public Consultation

At the end of the selection process, the successful artist or artist-led team will be asked to develop an art concept for the project. At this stage the public and other stakeholders will be invited to comment on the proposed art concept through a combination of public meetings and online vehicles, including the City's website and social media. Feedback from this process will be used by the artist to refine the final design for Council approval and prior to developing detailed information related to the fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Project Timeline

A completion date for the project is proposed for the spring of 2018, the 181st anniversary of the Mississauga community arriving at Alderville. The Alderville First Nation will be asked to play a lead role in planning the dedication of the artwork and Council will also be kept informed as the project evolves between now and then.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Kingston Commemorations Strategy

Kingston Commemoration Policy

Kingston Public Art Master Plan

Kingston Public Art Policy

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Staff is currently investigating pertinent AODA requirements for public access to the Lake Ontario Park site. Staff will consult with the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee as the project progresses.

Financial Considerations:

The budget required to complete the City/Alderville project is \$200,000, an amount that falls within Public Art Policy guidelines. Necessary funds are included in the capital budget.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Paul Robertson, City Curator, Cultural Services

Jennifer Campbell, Manager, Cultural Heritage, Cultural Services

Julie Fossitt, Marketing Manager, Cultural Services

Terri-Lynn Brennan, Program Coordinator, Cultural Services

Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

Neal Unsworth, Manager, Parks Development, Recreation & Leisure Services

Julie Salter-Keane, Community Projects Officer, Accessibility Compliance

Damon Wells, Director, Public Works

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A Lake Ontario Park: Proposed Area for the Alderville First Nation Commemorative Public Art Project

Lake Ontario Park: Proposed Area for the Alderville First Nation Commemorative Public Art Project (red box)

