



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 15-021**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives
Resource Staff: Colin Wiginton, Cultural Director
Date of Meeting: January 6, 2014
Subject: Request for Commemorative Plaque in Navy Memorial Park:
Seventieth Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to ask Council to approve an exemption to a motion passed at its meeting held on September 10, 2013 to place a moratorium on the installation of plaques and other tangible forms of commemoration on City property. The reason for the motion was to provide staff with the time required to develop the policies and procedures needed to assess such requests in a consistent manner. At present, no such policies or procedures exist and the moratorium was requested to allow for the necessary decision-making framework to be developed for Council approval.

In recent months the Cultural Services Department has been working with a variety of stakeholders and the public to develop a municipal commemoration plan along with the associated policies and procedures for the City of Kingston. This work is ongoing and will take the form of a high level Kingston Commemoration Strategy scheduled for presentation to Council in the spring of 2015.

In the meantime, staff received a request from HMCS Cataraqui in November 2014 that merits consideration. The request is to integrate a commemorative plaque as part of an existing stone monument located in Navy Memorial Park to mark the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic in May 2015. Also requested is permission to install an interpretive panel to accompany the new plaque explaining the history and significance of the battle. Under the current moratorium, this request would not normally be granted until the completion of the Kingston Commemoration Strategy.

In meeting with members from HMSC Cataraqui Seventieth Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic Committee, staff have determined this request to be time sensitive in nature. It is also

January 6, 2015

Page 2 of 6

the opinion of staff that part of what is being proposed does not constitute an entirely new installation on City property.

Recommendation:

That Council approve an exemption to the moratorium on commemorative monuments in parks and public spaces to allow for the installation of a stone plaque as an addition to an existing monument in Navy Memorial Park to mark the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic in May 2015; and

That staff be delegated the authority in consultation with HMCS Cataragui to complete this project.

January 6, 2015

Page 3 of 6

Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Cynthia Beach, Commissioner,
Corporate & Strategic Initiatives

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Lanie Hurdle, Community Services	Not required
Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

January 6, 2015

Page 4 of 6

Options/Discussion:**Background:**

The City of Kingston regularly receives requests from members of the public to install plaques and other tangible forms of commemoration on City property such as at City Hall and in public parks. At present, the City does not have policy or procedures to assess these requests in a consistent manner. For that reason, staff requested a moratorium on the acceptance of new commemorations on City property until appropriate policies could be put into place. Council passed a motion to that effect at its meeting held on September 10, 2013 (Report number 108, e):

***THAT** Council approve the request from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regimental Association to install and officially dedicate a stone monument within City Park to recognize the many sacrifices of members of the regiment and the regiments' connection with Kingston as per Exhibits A and B of Report 13-277; and*

***THAT** Council approve the request from PeaceQuest to designate the identified existing oak tree as a peace tree and to install a stone monument to commemorate the tragedy of war and celebrate peace within City Park as per Exhibits C and D of Report 13-277; and*

***THAT** Council approve the request from J.A. Pye Ontario Limited to construct a public gathering space within Chadwick Parkette and to install and officially dedicate a commemorative plaque for the late Kingston land developer, Graham Pye as per Exhibits E and F of report 13-277; and*

***THAT** Council direct staff to put a hold on the granting of permission to install tangible commemorative monuments in parks and public spaces until Q1 2015; and*

***THAT** staff be directed to develop a management policy for Council's consideration that would guide the administration of plaques and monuments in City parks and public spaces by Q1 2015.*

Kingston Commemoration Strategy:

In response to the Council direction to create a management policy for plaques and monuments on City property, the Cultural Services Department began the development of a municipal commemoration plan and associated policies and procedures for the City of Kingston. This work is ongoing and will take the form of an umbrella document that examines: the meaning and purpose of commemoration (persons, events, ideas); both tangible and intangible forms of commemoration (for example, monuments, statues, public art, plaques, memorial benches and trees, naming rights, landscapes, events, festivals, ceremonies, etc.); and the history and context for commemoration in the City of Kingston.

As part of this work, staff are examining the various commemorative policies and procedures that currently exist and will draw them together into a cohesive whole, while retaining the lines of

January 6, 2015

Page 5 of 6

authority and responsibilities that now exist. The result will be the creation of a high level Kingston Commemoration Strategy that is scheduled for presentation to Council in the spring of 2015.

Public Request for Commemoration during the Moratorium Period:

In September 2013, Council stipulated a moratorium on granting permission to install new tangible commemorative monuments on City property. However, staff received a request in November 2014 from HMCS Cataraqui that merits consideration. The request is to erect a commemorative plaque on an existing stone monument in Navy Memorial Park to mark the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic in May 2015. Also requested is permission to install an interpretive panel to accompany the new plaque explaining the history and significance of the battle. Under the current moratorium, this request would not normally be granted until the completion of the Kingston Commemoration Strategy.

In consultation with staff, members from HMCS Cataraqui Seventieth Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic Committee have requested a suspension of the moratorium to allow the installation of the plaque and interpretive panel, emphasising the time-sensitive nature of their request; mainly that there are few surviving veterans of the Battle of the Atlantic left in Kingston and they believe it is timely to honour them soon, namely on the seventieth anniversary of the battle in May 2015.

The proposed plaque does not constitute an entirely new installation as the plan is to place it on an existing monument already located in Navy Memorial Park. The installation of an interpretive panel, however, would be a completely new item and ideally would be assessed in accordance with the recommendations and protocols to be set out as part of the Kingston Commemoration Strategy currently being developed.

For these reasons, staff are recommending an exemption to the moratorium to allow the installation of the proposed Battle of the Atlantic plaque. The interpretive panel is not recommended for design and installation until after the completion of the Kingston Commemorations Strategy.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

January 6, 2015

Page 6 of 6

The costs of the design, creation and installation of the commemorative plaque will be borne by HMCS Cataraqui. Long-term maintenance of the plaque will be covered by Cultural Services capital budgets for the care and conservation of the civic collection approved annually by Council.

Contacts:

Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives, 613-546-4291, extension 1150

Colin Wiginton, Cultural Director, 613-546-4291, extension 1357

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Paul Robertson, City Curator, Cultural Services

Exhibits Attached:

None