

## **Staff Report 2021-0172**

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Meeting Date: May 18, 2021

Subject: Designated Heritage Property Grant Program – Spring 2021

Submitted By: Cassandra Jasinski, Heritage Planner, Policy, Heritage & Design Division, Planning Department & Sarah Parish, Planning Technician, Planning Services Division, Planning Department

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the recommended Designated Heritage Property Grant Program Spring 2021 recipients listed in Schedule A to Staff Report 2021-0172, be approved.

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Designated Heritage Property Grant Program (DHPG) provides financial assistance to designated heritage property owners for the maintenance and restoration of their properties. There are two allocations in a calendar year, one in the Spring and one in Autumn if remaining funds are available.
- The DHPG Program provides grants of 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$4,000 per grant. A single property is eligible to receive two (2) grants in the calendar year if they meet the application guidelines.
- In 2017, the DHPG Program was expanded to include commercial and industrial properties designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act (the “Act”) in the Bolton Heritage Conservation District.
- The Town received Fourteen (14) applications in the spring 2021 application round, which were screened and evaluated by the Heritage Planner, Planning Technician, and the Heritage Review Group (members of Heritage Caledon) against the DHPG Program guidelines.
- Of the applications received, seven (7) were approved as submitted, and two (2) approved with conditions. Five (5) properties were not approved for funding as the work either did not meet the eligibility of the DHPG Program guidelines, or the application was submitted after the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 deadline.
- The 2021 funds available for the DHPG Program is \$65,000.
- The Heritage Review Group recommends allocation of \$27,771.07 to nine (9) applicants with the remaining \$37,228.93 going towards funding the Fall 2021 round of the DHPG Program.

### **DISCUSSION**

The DHPG Program was established by By-law 2006-34 as a financial incentive program to promote and support stewardship of designated heritage properties. Originally administered for the Town by the Caledon Heritage Foundation, administration was returned to the Town in 2010 (Council resolution 2010-032).

The program's Guidelines are established by By-law 2013-099, as amended. In 2019 the by-law was amended to enable commercial and industrial properties included in the HCD the ability to apply for the DHPG Program,

The Heritage Review Group is a sub-committee made up of several Heritage Caledon Committee members, the Planning Technician and a Heritage Planner. In accordance with By-law 2013-099, this report to Council recommends the Spring 2021 grant allocations.

### Spring 2021 Applications

The Town has received fourteen (14) heritage grant applications. All grant applications were reviewed by Planning Staff to ensure the completeness of the applications before being provided to the Review Group. Of the fourteen (14) applications the following list provides a breakdown of eligibility:

- Eleven (11) properties met the qualifying criteria for the Designated Heritage Property Grant Program to receive grant support for repair/restoration work on their properties.
- Three (3) properties did not meet the qualifying criteria for a Heritage Grant as the proposed project was not deemed eligible work under the DHPG program guidelines.

Two (2) properties submitted their DHPG applications after the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 deadline and therefore their applications were not accepted. Staff will work with the two applicants to ensure their applications are prepared for submission for the Fall 2021 grant round, should the applicants choose to resubmit.

A verbal update about the DHPG Program - Spring 2021 round was provided to the Heritage Caledon Committee at their Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Prior to the verbal update, the Heritage Review Group evaluated the applications against the criteria for eligible work outlined in the program Guidelines, namely that the work:

- Has not yet been initiated at the time of application;
- Is compatible and consistent with the design or physical value, historical value and contextual value of the property;
- Serves to rehabilitate the building or property by stabilizing and protecting existing architectural heritage attributes and/or other character defining elements;
- Is consistent with good heritage conservation practices;
- If a restoration serves to help restore the building or property by replicating lost or damaged architectural heritage attributes and/or other character defining elements that were once part of the building fabric or property;
- Is executed in such a manner as not to detract from or diminish the cultural heritage value of the property;
- Is consistent with the Town of Caledon by-laws and policies, along with relevant provincial and federal regulations and codes.

Eligible work includes the costs of professional fees, labour, materials and equipment.

- The DHPG Program provides grants of 50% of eligible costs for maintenance and restoration projects to a maximum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per grant. A single property is eligible to receive two (2) grants in the calendar year at the discretion of Council and subject to available annual funding. In the event the second grant is approved, the applicant waives their right to apply for a grant under

the DHPG Program in the following calendar year for the same Designated Heritage Property.

Policy, Heritage and Design Division's 2021 Operating Budget allocated \$65,000 for the DHPG Program.

The estimated project costs total \$118,612.29 private investment towards the restoration and maintenance of the Town's built heritage resources associated with this round of applications. Of this amount, the Town will contribute, \$27,771.07 to cover eligible costs. The allocation of \$27,771.07 is shown on Schedule A to this report and consists of nine (9) eligible projects and two (2) projects being subject to conditions.

Upon completion of the work and confirmation of paid invoices, the Heritage Review Group, Heritage Planner, and Planning Technician will undertake a site inspection to ensure the work is satisfactory prior to processing the grant claim.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

It is recommended that the nine (9) grants listed in Schedule A be approved for a total of \$27,771.07 funded from the DHPG Program. The 2021 budget for the Designated Heritage Property Grant Program is \$65,000 from account #01-02-405-44070-365-62319. The remaining balance of \$37,228.93 (\$65,000 - \$27,771.07) will be available for the Fall 2021 DHPG round. There is also an additional \$10,548.96 from the 2020 Heritage Property Reserve available for the DHPG Program for 2021, if required.

### **COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

Connected Community – Preserve heritage and natural resources

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Schedule A: Spring 2021 Heritage Grant Program Summary