

Staff Report 2022-0169

Meeting Date: April 14, 2022

Subject: Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence

Submitted By: Sally Drummond, Heritage Resource Officer, Strategic Policy Planning

RECOMMENDATION

That a Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence Program, be established as per Option 1 outlined in Staff Report 2022-0169; and

That the nomination criteria for the Award of Excellence, as outlined in Schedule A to Staff Report 2022-0169, be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2011, Heritage Caledon initiated the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence to recognize individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to heritage conservation and stewardship within the Town of Caledon.
- Through the success of the Award Program, nominees have been recommended to Council and nine awards have been approved. Due to the pandemic, the program was suspended in 2020-2021.
- Recent review of the nomination criteria has identified that this successful award program and its criteria were never formally established by Council.
- Heritage Caledon is intending to resume nominations for the award in 2022, subject to Council approval of the establishment of the award program and approval of its nomination criteria.

DISCUSSION

The Town's Heritage Caledon committee (Heritage Caledon) initiated an Award of Excellence program in 2011, in conjunction with the celebration of its 35th anniversary. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to heritage conservation within the Town of Caledon through the preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes.

Since the program's inauguration in 2011, nine awards have been approved by Council, of which eight have been presented by the Mayor at Heritage Caledon-sponsored events. Presentation of the 2019 Award of Excellence and consideration of award nominations in 2020-2021 were suspended due to the pandemic. Past recipients of the Award of Excellence include owners of designated properties and individuals who have been recognized for their restoration of individual structures, commitment to local heritage conservation and stewardship, and advocacy of local and provincial heritage conservation initiatives. Heritage Caledon intends to resume issuance of the award in 2022.

Recent review of the nomination criteria identified that the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence program and its criteria had never been formally established and approved by Council. Council approval is required prior to resumption of the program.

The review has provided an opportunity to obtain input from members of Heritage Caledon on the success of the program and to consider whether or not the program's nomination process should align with that of other award programs initiated by Committees within the Town.

Below are two examples of other Town of Caledon award programs that similarly require nominees to meet criteria in order to be recognized and considered. These examples include a public nomination process where members of the public in addition to those on the Committee/Board may file nominations.

Accessibility Award for Caledon Businesses

The Accessibility Award for Caledon Businesses was launched in 2017 by the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The award focuses on the third initiative within their work plan being community outreach with a purpose of exploring ways to create community engagement regarding accessibility awareness for local businesses. The Committee seeks to make citizens of Caledon aware of accessibility by highlighting businesses or organizations that have contributed by taking the initiative to make their premises more accessible. Nominations may be filed by members of the public as well as members of the Committee. The nomination period is advertised through the Town's media channels. Members of the Committee oversee the nomination process and provide recommendations to staff for Council's consideration.

Community Recognition Night - Community Champion Award

The Community Champion Award is a prestigious award within the Community Recognition Night Program. The Community Champion is recognized among the other recipients as an outstanding example of a Caledon resident who gives back to the community without hesitation and without any expectation of reciprocity. The Community Champion builds a strong sense of community with a focus on high quality of life. The award selection committee is comprised of Town staff representing various departments within the corporation as well as a community representative who has served on the award selection committee for 15+ years. Nominations may be filed by members of the public. The nomination period is advertised through the Town's media channels. Members of the award selection committee oversee the nomination process and provide recommendations to staff for Councils consideration.

Staff are proposing the following nomination process options for consideration for the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence.

Option 1 – Committee-Initiated Award Program

Under Option 1, which is the process used since 2011, nomination of an individual or organization that meets the criteria outlined in Schedule A is at the discretion of Heritage Caledon members. The Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence may be given annually to a recipient(s) that meets the nomination criteria. Should nominees not meet the criteria, in any given year, Heritage Caledon will not proceed with the award program. A working group of committee members will oversee the nomination process for the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence program.

Proposed Nomination Process

- Nominations may be submitted by members of Heritage Caledon to the Town's Heritage staff or Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence Working Group,
- No formal nomination period, and
- Heritage Caledon will evaluate nominations received and provide staff with recommendations to bring forward to Council for consideration.

Option 2 – Committee and Community-Initiated Award Program

Option 2 offers potential enhancements to the nomination process, namely introducing the ability for members of the public, along with members of Heritage Caledon to file nominations for the award program for either individuals or organizations that meet the criteria outlined in Schedule A. Encouraging broader community engagement in the award program is intended to promote greater awareness of heritage conservation and stewardship efforts within the Town of Caledon. The Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence may be given annually to a recipient(s) that meets the nomination criteria following a more formal process. Should nominees not meet the criteria, in any given year, Heritage Caledon will not proceed with the award program. A working group of committee members will oversee the nomination process for the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence program.

Proposed Nomination Process

- The nomination period will be open to the community; timing of the nomination period may vary each year,
- The nomination period will be advertised through the Town's media channels,
- Nominations may be submitted to the Town's Heritage staff or Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence Working Group, and
- Heritage Caledon will evaluate nominations received and provide staff with recommendations to bring forward to Council for consideration.

Feedback from Heritage Caledon

At a regular meeting on April 4th Heritage Caledon was informed of the oversight regarding Council establishment of the Award of Excellence and discussed the program's nomination criteria and selection process.

Heritage Caledon reconfirmed that this program is intended to recognize individuals or organizations who have made a significant contribution to heritage conservation within the Town of Caledon. The Committee also expressed a preference that both the nomination and selection process remain with the Committee, as the viewpoint of the Committee members is that they have the greatest knowledge and awareness of ongoing heritage conservation efforts in the Town.

Staff recommend approval of the establishment of the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence program and approval of its nomination criteria as outlined in Schedule A to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence medallions and presentation boxes are purchased through the Heritage Caledon annual operating budget.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Connected Community

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Proposed Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence Nomination Criteria

Nomination Criteria for the Heritage Caledon Award of Excellence

Nominees shall meet the criteria set out in Sections 1, 2 and 3 in order to be eligible.

1. Nominees have made significant contributions to the preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes within the Town of Caledon.
2. Nominees shall meet one or more of the following:
 - a. be a resident in the Town of Caledon,
 - b. own property in the Town of Caledon,
 - c. operate a Caledon-based business or organization,
 - d. be a member within the development community actively operating in the Town of Caledon.
3. Nominees are not, and have not been for the previous two years, a member of Heritage Caledon, Town of Caledon Council, or Town of Caledon staff.