

Staff Report 2023-0600

Meeting Date: November 21, 2023

Subject: Designated Heritage Property Grant Program – Fall 2023

Submitted By: Cassandra Jasinski, Heritage Planner, Strategic Policy Planning,
Planning Department

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed Designated Heritage Property Grant Program recipients listed in Schedule A to Staff Report 2023-0600, be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Designated Heritage Property Grant (the “DHPG”) Program provides financial assistance to owners of properties designated under Part IV or Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (the “Act”) for the conservation of their cultural heritage resources.
- The DHPG By-law (2013-99) and the program guidelines were amended earlier this year to increase the maximum General Conservation grant amount, expand the list of eligible work, and introduce a new Special Projects grant stream for multi-component projects and priority sites.
- There are two grant application rounds in a calendar year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall, subject to available funding.
- The DHPG Program provides grants of 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$6,000 per grant for the General Conservation stream and \$15,000 per grant for the Special Projects stream. Subject to funding and eligibility, Council can approve two (2) General Conservation grants for a property in the same calendar year.
- The 2023 budget for the DHPG Program is \$80,000 plus an additional \$8,617.21 from the 2022 Heritage Property Reserve, of which \$46,238.18 was allocated to Spring 2023 grants. The balance of \$42,379.03 is available for the Fall 2023 application round.
- The Town received eleven (11) applications for the Fall 2023 application round, which were screened and evaluated by the DHPG Review Group.
- Of the applications received, ten (10) were deemed eligible and one was deemed ineligible. Of the eligible applications, one was removed from consideration as the Owner intends to apply for the Heritage Tax Rebate instead.
- The nine (9) applications under consideration total over \$110,000 of private investment towards the conservation of the Town’s cultural heritage resources.
- The DHPG Review Group recommends allocation of \$42,379.03 to nine (9) recipients identified in Schedule A.

DISCUSSION

Designated Heritage Property Grant Program History

The Designated Heritage Property Grant Program (the “DHPG” Program) was established by By-law 2006-34 as a financial incentive program to promote and support stewardship of residential properties designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (the “Act”). Originally administered for the Town by the Caledon Heritage Foundation, management of the DHPG Program was returned to the Town in 2010 (Council Resolution 2010-032).

The Town has amended the DHPG Program several times since 2010 including:

- 2013: Establishment of the Designated Heritage Property Grant Review Group (the “Grant Review Group”) and a new set of DHPG Guidelines (By-law 2013-99).
- 2019: Amendment to the DHPG Guidelines to include ‘contributing’ properties designated under Part V of the Act (By-law 2019-16).
- 2021: Amendment to the DHPG Guidelines following introduction of the Heritage Tax Rebate Program in 2021 (By-law 2021-017).
- 2023:
 - March: Increase in the maximum General Conservation grant amount to \$6,000 (previously \$4,000), an expansion of the list of eligible work, and an update to the DHPG Guidelines to make them more user-friendly (By-law 2023-023).
 - October: Creation of the Special Projects grant stream for multi-component projects and priority sites, limited to two such grants annually (By-law 2023-091).

DHPG Program Overview

The DHPG program provides grants of 50% of costs for eligible work, subject to available funding to a maximum of:

- Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for General Conservation projects. Council can approve two (2) grants for a property in the same calendar year. In the event a second grant is approved, the recipient waives their right to apply for a grant under the DHPG program in the following calendar year for the same property.
- Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for Special Projects. The project must have multiple components and/or pertain to a Priority Site and must be approved by Staff as a Special Project prior to applying. A maximum of two (2) Special Projects grants may be approved annually. The recipient of a Special Projects grant waives their right to apply for a grant in the following calendar.

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Grant applications are reviewed against the DHPG Guidelines by the Grant Review Group, comprising several Heritage Caledon Committee members and Heritage staff. The Grant Review Group's recommendations are then brought to Council for approval.

Fall 2023 Applications

The Town received eleven (11) submissions for the Fall 2023 DHPG application round. One application was deemed ineligible as the work had been completed without Heritage staff approval of an Emergency Grant prior to the work starting. One application was removed from consideration as the Owner intends to apply instead for a 2023 Heritage Tax Rebate. Nine (9) applications were determined to be eligible for grant consideration.

The estimated project costs for the nine (9) applications being considered totals over \$110,000 of private investment towards the conservation of the Town's cultural heritage resources. The Grant Review Group recommends allocation of \$42,379.03 towards the eligible work in the nine (9) applications as identified in Schedule A to this report.

Upon completion of the approved work and confirmation of paid invoices, the Grant Review Group will undertake a site inspection to ensure the work is satisfactory prior to recommending release of the grant funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total 2023 budget for the DHPG Program (account #01-02-405-44070-365-62319) was \$88,617.21, comprising the annual budget of \$80,000 plus an additional \$8,617.21 from the 2022 Heritage Property Reserve. Council allocated \$46,238.18 to Spring 2023 DHPG program recipients. It is recommended that the remaining balance of \$42,379.03 in the DHPG 2023 program budget be allocated to the nine (9) applications identified in Schedule A to this report.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Strategic Plan 2023-2035

Community Vitality and Livability

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Fall 2023 Town of Caledon Designated Heritage Property Grant Program
– Application Summary