

STAFF REPORT: CAO



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: July 23, 2007
REPORT NO.: CAO .07.12
**SUBJECT: Frank and Jessie Smith
 Memorial Garden**
PREPARED BY: Paul Graham, CAO

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive report CAO.07.12 entitled "Frank and Jessie Smith Memorial Garden" and,

THAT Council directs the CAO to proceed to finalize an agreement with Mr. Mac Smith, to be brought back to Council for its approval, for his gifting of land to the Town at the northeast corner of Mill Street and King Street in Thornbury for the purpose of creating the Frank and Jessie Memorial Garden.

B. Background

Earlier this year, Mr. Mac Smith suggested that he was prepared to gift the lands at the northeast corner of Mill Street and King Street in Thornbury to the Town of The Blue Mountains. More recently, on July 4th, Mr. Smith and his Lawyer, Bob Hamilton, met with Mayor Anderson, several councillors, and Paul Graham to further discuss this matter.

During that meeting, the Town was given a memorandum regarding the gifting of these lands, which is attached to this Report. The memorandum is self-explanatory and anticipates that the Town will work with the community to develop the Frank and Jessie Smith Memorial Garden.

The Town representatives, at the July 4 meeting, indicated that they are very interested in this project and undertook to bring a report to Council in the near future to gain Council's preliminary support for the project. The resolution, above, solicits that support and directs the CAO to finalize an agreement with Mr. Smith for the development of this Memorial Garden.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal #4 of the Strategic Plan reads "Supporting the development of social and recreational programs that meet the broad range of needs of the community". The Community has now prepared a Leisure Activities Plan. The Leisure Activities Plan anticipates the creation green spaces such as this Memorial Garden. Properly done, the Garden can be reminder of a piece of Thornbury's cultural heritage.

The proposed site is ideally located near to Town Hall and will very nicely compliment a smart growth vision for the Highway 26 corridor in that area.

D. Budget Impact

Mr. Smith's vision is that community groups, volunteers and the business community will donate their time, materials and/or funds to create the Memorial Garden, thereby minimizing the financial impact on the Town itself.

This project will require a significant amount of staff time to recruit the community partners to implement the plan. Staff will work to build enthusiasm for the creation of this Garden Project which will help with fund raising. In the final analysis, the Town would be responsible for any short fall in funding. It's impossible to forecast the financial impact on the Town at this time.

E. Attached

1. Memorandum from Bob Hamilton re Gift of land to the Town of The Blue Mountains dated July 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Signature