

STAFF REPORT: ADMINISTRATION

REPORT TO: Finance and Administration
MEETING DATE: September 23, 2008
REPORT NO.: A.08.10
SUBJECT: Cultural Heritage Plaques
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.08.10, "Cultural Heritage Plaques" for information purposes and direct Staff to release details of a Cultural Heritage Plaque Program to the public.

B. Background

The writer was recently asked by a Thornbury resident if the Town offered any sort of plaque program that would recognize original owners and building dates of heritage homes and buildings within the Town.

The individual did not wish to seek a formal Heritage Designation for the property, rather, simply a plaque noting the original owner, his profession or purpose of the building and date of construction. The individual had the pertinent information so some research must have been conducted.

As one of the Goals of The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan is to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the community, it is proposed the Town offer a plaque program similar to that in place for memorial benches and trees. Property owners could provide proof of information and pay costs associated with preparation of a plaque which would be ordered by the Town so as to establish a consistent design and theme.

Notice of the program could be included in the two Community Pages when advertising space was available.

Should the program prove popular, a walking tour map could be prepared in connection with Town trail mapping or existing mapping.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal: Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features and cultural heritage of the community

Action: Develop information and educational initiatives to promote cultural heritage.

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Budget Impact

Staff Time to process applications and plaque orders.

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Keast, Clerk