

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Item 10, Report No. 31, of the Committee of the Whole which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 16, 2015, as follows:

That the World War II plaques be displayed in the front foyer of City Hall for the month of November accompanied by the Canadian flag.

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COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES DISPLAYED IN FORMER CITY HALL

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated September 9, 2015:

Recommendation

The City Clerk, in consultation with the Cultural Services Manager, Manager of Facilities, and Interim City Archivist, recommends:

1. That this report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

The City of Vaughan Archives ensures administrative efficiency, government transparency and public accountability through the management and preservation of the Corporation's records. The plaques previously displayed at Old City Hall sustain the rich history of Vaughan's government and also honour the brave citizens who gave their lives during the two World Wars.

Economic Impact

Depending upon the nature and extent of Council's recommendation in this matter, funds will be required to be allocated to properly display the plaques. Should the plaques be displayed within the Archives, installation costs can likely be absorbed within existing budget.

Communications Plan

This report will be made available on the City's website and in the Committee of the Whole agenda. Should it be determined that the plaques are to be placed on public display, a communication plan will accompany installation.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Council's request for an update on plaques previously on public display at Old City Hall.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on June 23, 2015, Council adopted Item 24, Report No. 24 of the Committee of the Whole entitled 'New Business – Request for a Report on the Plaques Previously Displayed at the Old City Hall', brought to the attention of the Committee by Councillor Iafrate. In doing so Council requested that the report include the current location and intent for the plaques.

Fifteen plaques were removed from Old City Hall on June 8, 2012 by Building and Facilities staff and transferred to the City Archives. The Archives' storage space is a climate controlled, secure facility which manages and preserves the City's permanent records.

The collection of fifteen plaques currently in the City Archives consists of:

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1. One wooden plaque with the badge of the Royal Canadian Navy (Attachment 1).
2. One wooden plaque with the badge of the Royal Canadian Air Force (Attachment 2).
3. One wooden plaque with the badge of the Canadian Army (Attachment 3).
4. One wooden plaque with a list of the names of soldiers from Vaughan who died in World War I (Attachment 4).
5. One wooden plaque with a list of the names of soldiers from Vaughan who died in World War II (Attachments 5).
6. One cast bronze plaque with an image of Garnet A. Williams, 1915-1982, who was Councillor, Deputy-Reeve, Reeve and Mayor, and dates of office (Attachment 6).
7. One cast bronze plaque with an image of Albert H. Rutherford, 1911-1971, who was Councillor, Deputy-Reeve, Reeve and Local and Regional Councillor, and dates of office (Attachment 7).
8. One cast bronze plaque with an image of Daniel Reaman, 1832-1885, who was a Councillor, and dates of office (Attachment 8).
9. One cast aluminum plaque commemorating the opening of Old City Hall in 1982 with the names of employees and elected officials at the time (Attachment 9).
10. One title frame with the text "Reeves of the Township of Vaughan" (Attachment 10).
11. One framed mural with images of the Reeves of the Township of Vaughan from 1850 to 1908 (Attachment 11).
12. One framed mural with images of the Reeves of the Township of Vaughan from 1909 to 1970 (Attachment 12).
13. One title frame with the text "Reeves of the Village of Woodbridge" (Attachment 13).
14. One framed mural with images of the Reeves of the Village of Woodbridge from 1882 to 1935 (Attachment 14).
15. One framed mural with the images of the Reeves of the Village of Woodbridge from 1936 to 1970 (Attachment 15).

The modern design and architecture of New City Hall needs to be considered if it is contemplated that the plaques be re-hung. The new City Hall features clean lines and elegant symmetry. Central to the theme of the new building is openness and transparency as represented by its many glass doors and walls. Opaque artwork and plaques have a tendency to overpower their spaces, and so any area created for the plaques should be sympathetic to this modern architecture.

There are several options for displaying the plaques. One possibility is to display the plaques in a rotating exhibit or to only bring them out during special occasions. The extreme weight of each plaque would require special hanging apparatus, and damage to walls would need to be repaired each time the plaques were removed. Another possibility is to display them in a building other than City Hall, such as the Joint Operations Centre, Vellore Hall or other heritage building. The security of the plaques in a heritage building cannot, however, be assured. A third possibility, is to display the plaques in the City Archives as there is a large amount of white wall space available for use, and the medium of the plaques would complement the environment and tone of the Archives' space.

There are no immediate plans to display the plaques. As artifacts of Vaughan's past, however, it is important that they continue to be preserved and that the Archives continues to provide access to the plaques for both City staff and the public.

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Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The storage and preservation of these plaques in the City Archives relates directly to the goal of service excellence and the specific objective of preserving our heritage.

Regional Implications

None.

Conclusion

The plaques from the former City Hall building are now stored in the City Archives. They document the rich history of Vaughan's municipal government and past citizens and will continue to be preserved and made available for research. While they are commemorative pieces and deserve recognition, any presentation of the plaques in City Hall should not undermine the clean, modern lines of the new architecture and should be sympathetic to the building's design.

Attachments

Photos of subject plaques are included for informational purposes. The following is a list of the attached photos:

1. Badge of the Royal Canadian Navy.
2. Badge of the Royal Canadian Air Force.
3. Badge of the Canadian Army.
4. World War I Plaque with Names.
5. World War II Plaque with Names.
6. Garnet A. Williams.
7. Albert H. Rutherford.
8. Daniel Reaman.
9. Opening of Old City Hall.
10. Title Frame for the Reeves of the Township of Vaughan.
11. Images of the Reeves of the Township of Vaughan (1850-1908).
12. Images of the Reeves of the Township of Vaughan (1909-1970).
13. Title Frame for the Reeves of the Village of Woodbridge.
14. Images of the Reeves of the Village of Woodbridge (1882-1935).
15. Images of the Reeves of the Village of Woodbridge (1936-1970).

Report prepared by

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)