



Date: September 23, 2024

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Courtney Godfrey, Manager, Parks, Recreation and Facilities

RE: Veterans Sculpture and Garden - Lakeside Park

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council **DIRECT** Administration to remove the Veteran Memorial Sculpture, stone curb and associated Garden at Lakeside Park.

BACKGROUND

On July 1st, 1919, the Women's Patriotic league planted a memorial tree and stone curb in memory of our brave men who died in the service of their king and country during the war of 1914-1918.

On September 21st, 1983, the stonework was restored and rededicated by Lt. Col. F.K. Jaspersen (Br. 188) Kingsville Royal Canadian Legion

In 2017, the Parks and Recreation department established that the 100-year-old heritage tree was no longer viable, and a memorial carving was established using the trunk of the tree. At the time the memorial carving was discussed with the former Parks Recreation Advisory Committee and the Legion.

DISCUSSION

The current state of the wooden carving and surrounding stonework is in disrepair. The garden that surrounds the sculpture has been maintained by the Kingsville Horticultural Society for many years. The Horticultural Society has noted concerns with taking care of this garden and others due to a decline in membership. On top of this garden the Horticultural Society has given back 9 gardens to the Town, one of which includes the Peace Garden. This was a major impact on grounds operations this past summer.

The Town wants to acknowledge the many years of hard work and dedication that the Horticultural Society has put into the beautification of the Town. This continues as this Society gives back to the community through beautification on an ongoing basis. This is a valuable and endearing group of volunteers that makes the Town proud.

The sculpture itself despite annual maintenance has been subjected to the elements of nature and has noticeable animal intrusions in multiple areas.



The stonework surrounding the sculpture is in a dilapidated state which would require significant work to restore.



The cost to replace the wooden sculpture is quoted at \$5200, the yearly upkeep is \$500 plus inflation. Given ongoing upkeep and cost, administration recommends removing the sculpture and donating the two plaques to the historical society or the legion.

Removal of the sculpture, stone curb and garden would create additional green space that would add value to the families using the area and could include space for children

running around, to use the open space to picnic or add more space for those hosting events or programs in the park.

Lakeside Park is the heart of Kingsville and is seen as a focal active park to our community with trails, playgrounds and a splash pad. Lakeside Park no longer reflects a passive park that would offer a somber sentiment that a veterans memorial sculpture truly deserves.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cost to replace wooden sculpture is \$5200
Yearly upkeep is \$500 plus inflation

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATIONS

Kingsville Administration
Kingsville Horticultural Society

PREPARED BY:



Courtney Godfrey
Manager of Parks, Recreation and Facilities

REVIEWED BY:



Shaun Martinho
Director of Public Operations



John Norton
CAO