



Date: January 13, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Angela Toole, Acting Manager of Municipal Governance & Clerk
RE: Kingsville Military Museum – Four Year Funding Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to prepare a 4-year Funding Agreement between The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville (the “Corporation”) and Kingsville Historical Park Inc. in the amount of \$10,000.00 per year to begin in 2025 and expire at the end of 2028;

And that the Mayor and Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign the Funding Agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

BACKGROUND

The Kingsville Military Museum (the “Museum”) operated by Kingsville Historical Park Inc. (“KHPI”) and located at 145 Division Street South is an important cultural and historical hub highlighting the region’s military contributions through its display of over 3000 artifacts from the Fenian Raids, Boer War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, Cold War, the Bosnian War etc. The Museum aims to educate current and future generations on the sacrifices men and women from the region have made with their involvement in global conflicts and Canadian peacekeeping missions.

The Museum is volunteer-run and primarily relies on admission donations and fundraising through bingos, membership dues, and grants to cover its day-to-day operating expenses. Prior to 2020, KHPI applied for and received grants through Kingsville’s Community Grant Process. Beginning in 2020, the Town of Kingsville began providing KHPI with financial support in the amount of \$10,000.00 per year through a long-term Funding Agreement (the “Agreement”) which expired at the end of 2024.

DISCUSSION

Volunteers from the KHPI have been in contact with Administration inquiring if the Town will continue to provide financial support by way of a new Agreement and have requested that the Town provide KHPI \$10,000.00 a new funding term, beginning in 2025.

KHPI and the Museum will face significant financial challenges in 2025.

In 2024, KHPI publicly presented its plans to physically expand the Museum which will provide more space for presentations, lectures, group meetings, and work areas. KHPI has received quotes from contractors with the lowest being \$381,000.00. Currently, KHPI plans to use the \$160,000.00 in savings it has accumulated over 31 years and will also apply for the Trillium Capital Grant in hopes it is granted the maximum \$200,000.00. Given the quote, KHPI's savings combined with a full Trillium Capital Grant (should the KHPI be successful in receiving the maximum amount) would not fully cover the lowest quote.

Administration recognizes the valuable cultural and historical impact the Museum has on the community and the region and recommends that the Town continue to provide financial support to KHPI. This continued financial support will enable the Museum to offset its day-to-day operating expenses and costs related to the planned expansion.

Key Terms of the Funding Agreement

The key terms of the new Funding Agreement include:

- A four-year term beginning January 2025 and expiring at the end of 2028, so that the length of the funding agreement aligns with the length of a Council term and ensuring that each subsequent Council has the opportunity to consider the funding agreement at least once in their four year term;
- An agreement that KHPI will give an annual presentation to Council with updates on the Museum's activities and operations;
- KHPI agrees not to apply for additional grant funding through the Town's Community Grant process;
- An understanding that the Agreement is not intended to form a partnership between the Town and the KHPI;
- An Agreement that the KHPI will maintain adequate insurance and indemnify the Town of any claims against KHPI inclusive of the Museum; and,
- A clause the Agreement is void should the Museum cease to operate.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If approved, the Town will provide KHPI with \$10,000.00 annually for the next four (4) years. The 2025 contribution is included in the approved 2025 Municipal Budget under 'Programs & Events'.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

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