



Date: June 16, 2025

To: Mayor and Council

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RE: Kingsville Heritage Plaque Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council **approve** the creation of the Kingsville Heritage Plaque Program to recognize historically significant properties within the Town;
And that Council **direct** staff to develop the necessary procedures, application process, and funding arrangements for its implementation.

BACKGROUND

The Kingsville Heritage Plaque Program (KHPP) has been under discussion for the past eight months, with input from the Kingsville Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (KMHAC). The program was first introduced during the October 7, 2024 Council meeting, and subsequent discussions have refined the proposal. The KMHAC is advocating for a collaborative approach to heritage recognition and preservation, focusing on voluntary participation by property owners as alternatives to the more formal designation processes under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

DISCUSSION

The goal of the program is to recognize historically significant properties within the Town, whether for their architectural, historical, or cultural value (e.g. important individuals, or buildings in town). By formally acknowledging these properties, the program seeks to foster pride among property owners and the community while promoting local heritage. The Town will also benefit from increased visibility and potentially enhanced tourism, as seen with similar programs in other municipalities. Details of the policy and procedures for the program are outlined in **Appendix A**.

Program Purpose and Benefits

The KHPP is designed to recognize properties that have significant historical, cultural, or architectural value. By recognizing these properties, the program not only preserves the Town's heritage but also educates the public and fosters pride among residents. It also has the potential to enhance tourism, by attracting visitors and bolstered the local economy.

Program Procedure

Property owners or applicants can nominate properties for recognition through a formal application process. The KMHAC will review the nominations based on established criteria, and if approved, the Town will provide a plaque for the property. Property owners will be responsible for installing the plaque in a visible location. This program will also involve educating the public about the significance of these properties, including details such as architectural style, historical events, and notable figures.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The program's costs, including plaque production and installation, will be partially covered by a \$100 application fee. Any additional funding for program administration or promotion will be assessed as the program evolves.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant environmental concerns identified for the KHPP at this time.

CONSULTATIONS

- Kingsville Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
- Kingsville Economic Development Officer

PREPARED BY:



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