



PO Box 1749
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Halifax Regional Council
August 7, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Dunphy".

Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: July 27, 2007

SUBJECT: **Starr Manufacturing Company-Historic Event Designation**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Request from Harbour East Community Council, February 6, 2003, for staff to proceed with an application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) to designate the Starr Manufacturing lands as a National Historic Site.

BACKGROUND

An application was prepared and submitted on April 30, 2004 as requested. On July 28, 2004 staff were advised by Michel Audy, Executive Secretary of the HSMBC that the 'Starr manufacturing buildings are no longer extant and would thus preclude consideration by the HSMBC as a site. May I suggest as a possible alternative that the HSMBC consider Starr manufacturing, its history and achievements, as a national historic event?'

An application for status as a National Historic Event was sent on November 25, 2004. A letter was received from the Minister of the Environment, John Baird, on June 8, 2007 confirming the founding of 'the Starr Manufacturing Company as an event of national historic significance'.

DISCUSSION

According to the criteria taken from the HSMBC web site: ‘ **An event** may be designated of national historic significance if it represents a defining action, episode, movement, or experience in Canadian History. Events that **occurred at least 40 years ago** may be considered for designation of national historic significance. Historic events that continue into the more recent past will be evaluated on the basis of what occurred at least 40 years ago.

Considerations for designation of national historic significance are made on a **case-by-case basis**, in accordance with the above criteria and in the context of the wide spectrum of Canada's human history.

‘The Starr Manufacturing Company (1867-1996) was one of the most important industrial enterprises in the history of the Halifax Regional Municipality. The use of water power to drive its machinery (at least until 1949), its situation next to the historic Shubenacadie Canal (with its unusual inclined plane), and Starr’s worldwide reputation for making ice-skates all combine to make the firm’s history significant on several levels as:

- (1) an example of Canadian technological innovation in the first wave of industrialization;
- (2) an example of Canadian cultural influence being exported around the world; and
- (3) a component of an urban cultural landscape that included aboriginal, European and Canadian elements.

It can also be fairly stated that Starr Manufacturing played a central role in the promotion of hockey as a pastime in Nova Scotia, in Canada and internationally.’¹

A plaque will be installed on the Starr site at a location as yet to be determined. The text of the plaque will outline the significance of the designation for the understanding of all visitors to the site.

This designation fits in well with the Canal Greenway project, which is currently underway. The history of the Shubenacadie River as a transportation route and the subsequent founding of the Starr Manufacturing Company on their site at the harbour end of the canal are a part of the history that the Project is protecting

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications

¹Submission to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter from the Hon. John Baird, Minister of the Environment, June 08, 2007

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Betty Ann Aaboe-Milligan, Heritage Tourism Officer 490-5113

Report Approved by: A. Whittemore
Andrew Whittemore, Acting Manager, Community Relations 490-1585

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

Ms. Betty Ann Aaboe-Milligan
Heritage Tourism Officer
Culture and Heritage
Halifax Regional Municipality
Post Office Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

JUN 08 2007

Dear Ms. Aaboe-Milligan:

I am pleased to inform you that I recently designated the founding of the Starr Manufacturing Company an event of national historic significance.

When it met in December 2005, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada considered the national significance of the founding of the Starr Manufacturing Company and recommended its designation. An excerpt from the minutes of that meeting is enclosed for reference.

Preparations for a plaque unveiling ceremony entail consultation with you and other interested parties regarding the plaque text and other related matters. Generally, this process requires at least 18 months. Ms. Linda Frank, Field Unit Superintendent, Mainland Nova Scotia, or her designate will advise you as plans for the event are developed. For further details, I invite you to contact Ms. Frank by telephone at 902-426-4944, by fax at 902-426-4228 or by e-mail at linda.frank@pc.gc.ca.

In view of their interest in this matter, I have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Member of Parliament for Dartmouth – Cole Harbour and the Nova Scotia Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

John Baird, P.C., M.P.

Enclosure

c.c.: Mr. Michael John Savage, M.P.
The Honourable Len Goucher, M.L.A.

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