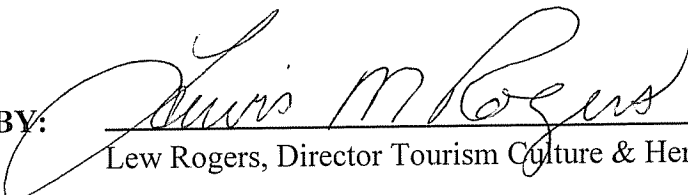

Halifax Regional Council
29 January 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Lewis Rogers, Director Tourism Culture & Heritage

DATE: 25 January 2002

SUBJECT: Fleming Park and Dingle Tower - Request for Information

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the November 6, 2001 meeting of Halifax Regional Council, Councillor Linda Mosher, requested information from staff on the process of designating Sir Sandford Fleming Park and the Dingle Tower as a National Historic Site (Item 12.5.1).

BACKGROUND

There is growing interest in the municipality and District 17 to commemorate Sir Sandford Fleming Park and the monument known as the Dingle Tower. Staff sought information from Parks Canada to respond to this request. This report provides information on the how the park and monument could be designated as a National Historic Site.

DISCUSSION

The process of designating National Historic Sites is managed by Parks Canada, through the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board. The designation is the highest form of commemoration afforded to a historic person, place or event in Canada. Given the status conferred on a property when it is called a National Historic Site, there is a formal process consisting of research, nomination, review and recommendation to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. This process typically takes one to two years.

Municipal Program Context:

Halifax Regional Municipality is presently the steward of five municipally- owned National Historic Sites: the Halifax Public Gardens, Historic Properties, Halifax City Hall, Africville (now Seaview Park) and the Halifax Hydrostone District. These sites were identified within the Heritage Tourism Strategy approved by Council in July 2000. The Heritage Tourism Strategy is one of five key program objectives of the Culture and Heritage Unit in the Tourism, Culture and Heritage Division.

To realize the benefits of the Heritage Tourism Strategy the municipality is presently developing a more robust program of National Historic Site preservation, presentation and promotion. For example, on December 9th, 2001 the municipality held a ceremony in the Hydrostone District to unveil a new Interpretive Plaza, built through partnership with Parks Canada. The site presents information on large bronze plaques to improve public understanding of the Hydrostone District . The redevelopment of the Hydrostone Park also creates a special, accessible place to build heritage tourism in the municipality. A third benefit of developing a more robust program at National Historic Sites in the municipality is to gain access to federal heritage programs that preserve and restore National Historic Sites for future generations.

To ensure that the municipality maximizes all three benefits, Culture and Heritage staff are actively working with Council and the community to develop programs related to existing sites. An equally important action is to identify historic sites that may be suitable for national commemoration. Councillor Mosher's request for the municipality to explore the possible designation of the Sir Sandford Fleming Park and Dingle Tower is fully in keeping with the objectives of the Culture and Heritage program noted above.

Nomination Process:

The process for designation of a National Historic Site has six steps, as outlined below:

1. **Proposal for Designation:**
This can be from the public, provinces, territories or federal government.
2. **Preparation of Research and Development of Agenda Paper:**
Development of supporting visual and written material.
3. **Consideration by Historic Sites and Monuments Board:**
A twice a year review by a National Board.
4. **Recommendation to Minister:**
On designation and form of commemoration.
5. **Ministerial Decision:**
Approval, refusal or request for additional information.
6. **Action Program:**
Development of historic marker, agreement with owner and/or acquisition, preservation and presentation options.

Response to Council Request:

Staff are working with Parks Canada to determine if municipal resources could be used to facilitate the nomination process. A positive response was received from Parks Canada that the municipality could prepare the Research Report along with supporting visual and written materials. To address Councillor Mosher's request HRM staff will prepare a Research Report. The report will be forwarded, first to HRM Council as it will impact a municipally owned site. Then, if considered appropriate by Council, the research report will form part of a municipal Proposal for National Historic Site Designation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This request can be addressed through the Culture and Heritage program budget of the Tourism, Culture and Heritage business unit.

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.

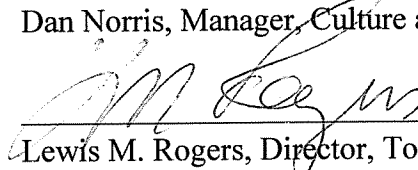
ATTACHMENTS:

none.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Dan Norris, Manager, Culture and Heritage

Report Approved by:


Lewis M. Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture & Heritage