



Halifax Regional Council
June 25, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer



Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 19, 2002

SUBJECT: Grand Parade Electrical Upgrade Project - Phase 2 - Lighting

ORIGIN

1. April 16, 2002 Regional Council Approval of Tender # 01-167 - to provide power capacity for events and lighting.
2. Halifax Foundation agreement to partially fund Phase 2, Lighting for the Grand Parade

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council increase the 2002/03 Capital Budget in the amount of \$121,000 for upgrades of structural lighting for City Hall, and the War Memorial Cenotaph, as well as lighting of the tress on the Grand Parade, with funding, as indicated in the Budget Implications Section of this report, as a withdrawal from the Heritage & Cultural Tourism Reserve, Q312 and cost sharing from the Halifax Foundation.

BACKGROUND

Council approved the electrical upgrade for the Grand Parade at the Regional Council meeting held on April 16, 2002. The approval provided for the upgrade of electrical capacity on the Grand Parade to provide sufficient electrical capacity for events, and power for structural lighting of City Hall and Cenotaph as well as lighting of the trees in the Grand Parade. At the time Council approved the program, staff advised there would be a further report on the funding of the lighting component of the program.

The Heritage & Cultural Tourism Reserve was established to provide resources to showcase HRM's heritage assets and improve their use and importance for the benefit of citizens and visitors. The recommended lighting program mirrors the importance other capitals and historic cities place on their major heritage facilities and important places.

The current City Hall lights are not of a type designed to specifically enhance the historic value of the building. The lights installed at the Cenotaph are no longer functioning. Lighting the trees on the Grand Parade will enhance its reputation as the jewel of the Capital District and act to improve safety.

DISCUSSION

In the past, the Halifax Foundation has been the leader in providing City Hall with its clock and chimes system. The Foundation has also worked in partnership with HRM's Millennium Committee to provide enhancements to Halifax Hall and other visible and aesthetic reminders of the importance of HRM's heritage.

The Grand Parade lighting program is supported by the Halifax Foundation and their leadership in presenting City Hall as a centrepiece of HRM's heritage collection is acknowledged and appreciated. The Halifax Foundation has provided a commitment of \$20,000 toward this project (\$5,000 per year over 4 years) and members of the Foundation have been instrumental in this project for a considerable length of time (Attachment #1).

The Grand Parade and its adjacent City Hall and Cenotaph are considered the centre of HRM and an extremely valuable heritage asset. They form the centre piece of the Regional Municipality's Capital District and are perceived by residents of HRM and Nova Scotia as a "very special place".

Improved lighting for this area is being recommended to:

- 1) Create a strong sense of place for residents and visitors;
- 2) Highlight its status as the centre of HRM;
- 3) Showcase its historical importance;
- 4) Improve safety and provide a greater feeling of comfortableness;
- 5) Enhance its appearance as a gathering and event location.

As well, the enhanced lighting of the Grand Parade area strengthens the activities and stated direction of HRM's Capital District. It will also provide an attraction on a year-round basis.

Installation of lighting in the trees on the Grand Parade has been approved by HRM Parks & Recreation Business Unit and the services of HRM Arborist John Simmons has been fundamental to this project.

As the lead time for the procurement of this lighting is considerable, it is planned that installation begin in October and be complete by late November/early December. It is also advisable to install the lights when the trees are without leaves to minimize damage.

It is anticipated that tender amounts for the necessary lights and equipment will not require further Council approval.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the Lighting project is \$121,000. This amount is available in the Heritage & Cultural Reserve (Q312). The Halifax Foundation has kindly agreed to contribute \$20,000. The balance of the total cost will be drawn from HRM's Heritage Reserve Fund. HRM Financial Services has confirmed the availability of the funds from the Heritage & Cultural Tourism Reserve, Q312.

FINANCES MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating budget, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating Reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved, this will increase the 2002/03 Capital budget and increase the required withdrawals from the Heritage & Cultural Tourism Reserve.

This initiative is responsive to three of the primary goals of the Capital District Business Plan as laid out for 2002/03. In particular it:

- Recognizes the Capital District as a unique economic and geographic place
- Enhances the heritage, cultural, natural, and economic benefits provided to HRM by the Capital District
- Provides leadership in promoting the Capital District's cultural and economic asset/opportunities

HRM 20/20 Vision:

Preserving our heritage. This means that we:

Recognize the value of buildings and street scapes which reflect our past

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Fund one portion of the project this year, the others in future years. Not recommended. The Grand Parade will be on the world stage in December (World Hockey Championships) . The Grand Parade will create a significant impact if all components are in place.
- 2) Council could decide not to proceed to the lighting phase of the electrical upgrade. Not Recommended. Capacity built in to the upgrade would go under utilized.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Edmund Morris D.C.L., Chairman, Halifax Foundation

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: 
Michael Gillett, Civic Events & Festivals Co-ordinator, 490-4740

Report Approved by: 
Lewis M. Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture & Heritage, 490-5978



12 June 2002

Dear Bob

Fellow-Directors, at our Board meeting yesterday, we were pleased to approve financial support to HRM, for the provision of trees' lighting in the Grand Parade, of \$20,000. total, in four annual payments of \$5000, each commencing with the current fiscal year (April 2002 - March 2003).

The Foundation is pleased to provide this further enhancement for the Grand Parade, City Hall and Cenotaph in addition to the Chimes, clock and clock face in the City Hall tower, and masonry repairs to the Cenotaph, which it provided earlier.

A condition of this \$20,000. support is that it be used by HRM solely for provision and installation of the trees' lighting and not at all for operational costs.

The Foundation has also been providing HRM with annual assistance of \$2500. for maintenance of the Dockyard Clock at Crebucto landing and the City Hall clock and clock face. Directors are pleased now to add the Alderney Landing clock for maintenance purposes from this annual \$2500. support subject to continuing condition that any accumulated balance from present and earlier years' payments be reserved for maintenance of the three clocks and the clock face, and not taken into general accounts of HRM.

With every best wish.

Yours sincerely
Edmund Morris

Mr Robert Stapells
Secretary, Halifax
Foundation

Mr Harold Crosby, F.C.A.
Treasurer, Halifax Foundation

Mr Philip Tolson
Capital Projects Coordinator, HRM

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