



Subject: York Region District School Board Heritage Fair – May 13, 2017

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Department: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Date: May 2, 2017

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming General Committee or Council meeting agenda for discussion.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the Aurora Museum & Archives has partnered with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) to develop and host a Regional Heritage Fair at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Background

The York District School Board has revived their Heritage Fair program for students as part of the celebrations for Canada 150. The Aurora Museum & Archives approached the organizers of this event to partner for this event as an opportunity to showcase Aurora's History and Heritage as per the Museum's mandate.

Analysis

Local Students to Explore History

YRDSB's Regional Heritage Fair provides students with opportunities to engage in historical/geographical inquiry to explore stories of our diverse population. Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 students have been given an assignment to research an area of the history of Ontario and/or Canada (with a particular emphasis on Canada 150), and present their discoveries using mediums of their choice (diorama, performance piece, web-based project, video, PowerPoint presentation, display board etc.). Students will first be presenting their projects at their respective schools. Eleven schools from the Region

are taking part including Dr. G.W. Williams High School in Aurora. The Town's Curator will be acting as a judge for this qualifying event on Thursday, May 4, 2017. Projects that have won their school fairs will be displayed/presented as part of the Regional Heritage Fair and compete with other students in the Region on May 13, 2017.

This event will allow participants to share their new learning as well as take part in a variety of experiential learning workshops. The Aurora Museum & Archives has met with representatives from the Aurora Historical Society, Sharon Temple, and the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame to coordinate a series of hands-on workshops for the students. Students will be able to learn about and actively participate in a variety of activities including deciphering primary documents relating to WWI and practicing their cursive writing; examining the social custom of calling cards and creating their own printed version; learning about the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion and creating their own Rebellion Boxes, among other activities offered by local area museums, archives and historical organizations. During the day students will have a presentation time where they will present to the judges, or a single judge assigned to review their project. The day will include activities that are currently being planned, and end with the winners being announced.

Advisory Committee Review

None required.

Financial Implications

None

Communications Considerations

No communications considerations at this time. Communications are being handled through the York Region District School Board. While the general public are free to attend, this event is targeted specifically at students within the Board.

Link to Strategic Plan

Partnering with the YRDSB on the Heritage Fair supports the Strategic Plan goal of Supporting an Exceptional Quality of Life for All through its accomplishment in satisfying requirements in the following key objectives within this goal statement:

Expand opportunities and partnerships that contribute to the celebration of culture in the community.

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

None.

Conclusions

To inform Council about this partnership with YRDSB in developing and hosting a Regional Heritage Fair to be held at the SARC on May 13, 2017.

Attachments

None.

Previous Reports

None.

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on April 13, 2017

Departmental Approval



Al Downey
Director
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Approved for Agenda



Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer