

# Corporate Report

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<b>REPORT NUMBER</b> 416-2024-Infrastructure & Operations-Parks	
<b>DATE PREPARED</b>	November 19, 2024
<b>FILE</b>	
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	December 2, 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Update on the Waverley Park Fountain and Cenotaph Restoration Project

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

WITH RESPECT to Report 416-2024 – Infrastructure and Operations - Parks & Open Spaces dated November 19, 2024, we recommend that Outstanding Item 2024-104-INO be removed from the Outstanding List;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Safety and Well-being**

GOAL: Enhance safety and well-being at the community level through climate action and environmental design.

- B. Implement action plans to advance crime prevention through environmental design.*
- C. Promote and enable neighbourhood beautification.*

GOAL: Create and maintain strong neighbourhoods and Indigenized spaces where people connect and engage.

- A. Encourage and support residents to implement initiatives that connect neighbourhoods.*
- C. Facilitate consistent accessible programming for lively community spaces.*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On June 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole passed a resolution following a deputation from the Coalition for Waverley Park that the contents of the deputation be referred to Administration for review including the addition of the Waverley Fountain maintenance costs into the Parks & Open Spaces 3-year capital budget and the use of funding from the sale of surplus park lands to report back on or before December 2, 2024 to inform the 2025 Budget.

This report provides an update to City Council on the planning and budgeting for the Waverley Park Fountain and Cenotaph Restoration project including 2025 capital budget impacts, recommended project staging, and opportunities to secure external funding.

## ***DISCUSSION***

### **Fountain Maintenance**

The Hogarth Fountain located in Waverley Park has been out of service since 2017 due to water leaks in the pool structure. Prior to this, routine maintenance and yearly commissioning and decommissioning was undertaken by the Parks & Open Spaces Parks North staff with assistance from the Environment Division. The yearly commissioning and decommissioning were problematic as it needed to be done in a confined space chamber under the fountain that could only be accessed by a smaller flexible person. In addition, the fountain utilized a flow through water supply system with no backflow preventor or meter and the drain system was via a wood stave pipe. Updating the fountain to automated modern standards will greatly reduce maintenance requirements for the fountain in the future, as well as increase safety for workers and the water/wastewater system. Similar to existing park splash pads, this system can be maintained by Parks staff funded through the regular Park Operating Budget.

### **Proposed Project**

The Parks & Open Spaces Division has identified three components to the larger overall project of the Waverley Park Fountain and Cenotaph Restoration. The first is to modernize and make the fountain operational. The second is to improve the area around the fountain to improve aesthetics, functionality and accessibility. The third is to improve the Cenotaph area accessibility and connectivity to Red River Road and the Fountain as well as improve the venue for the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony. The Coalition for Waverley Park has advocated that while the work can be phased it should be thought of as one larger Park Improvement project for budgeting and funding applications.

Administration is proposing a slightly different version to the Coalition for Waverley Park's phased approach to the restoration of the Fountain, Cenotaph and surrounding area than what was presented at their last deputation. Administration's first priority is to make the fountain operational and its surrounding area functional. As such, Administration has included \$100,000 in the 2025 Capital Budget toward the hiring of a Consultant Team whose scope would involve three parts:

- 1) Structural, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers to provide further assessment, design and Tender Documents for new mechanical and electrical systems, as well as water supply and sanitary drain systems.
- 2) A Specialty Fountain/ Historical Restoration Consultant to provide Tender Documents for restoring the aesthetics and structure of the fountain itself.
- 3) Landscape Architecture Consultant to provide Tender Documents to redevelop the aesthetics, accessibility, circulation, the provision of site amenities and seating, lighting and site safety to CPTED principles for the area surrounding the fountain.

The Project Tender ready package would also include Class B cost estimates to be able to update future budget allocations.

It is anticipated to take the duration of 2025 to complete the consulting work with construction following in three phases over separate years to spread out the annual work and funding requirements. Year One would be the restoration of the Fountain itself with a current estimated cost of approximately \$1,000,000. Year Two would be the restoration of the Fountain area with a current estimated cost of approximately \$400,000. Year Three would be the design and restoration of the Cenotaph area with a current estimated cost of approximately \$1,000,000.

Following their past deputation to City Council, the Coalition for Waverley Park has been pursuing external funding sources to help with funding the Fountain and Cenotaph Restoration. To date the Coalition has secured a \$50,000 grant from the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Corporation and has applied to the NOHFC and recently entered the second stage of the application for \$1,129,316 (approximately 50% funding) through the Community Enhancement Program.

Stage two of the NOHFC application will require a resolution confirming the City's 50% funding contribution for the project, as well as City Council's support for a joint funding application in order to proceed to evaluation. Administration is committed to making the City's 50% funding contribution a high priority for the 2026 capital budget to facilitate stage two of the NOHFC application.

### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATION***

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The Parks & Open Spaces Section has included \$100,000 in the proposed 2025 Capital Budget for Consulting Fees to complete a Tender-ready construction package for the restoration of the Waverley Park Fountain and surrounding area. This will provide an updated and more accurate detailed Class 'B' costing of the proposed work for future budgeting purposes.

## **CONCLUSION**

Administration has provided this Report to update City Council on the planning and budgeting for the Waverley Park Fountain and Cenotaph Restoration Project as requested at the June 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting and recommends this item be removed from the Outstanding Reports List.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Hogarth Fountain located in Waverley Park has been out of service since 2017 due to water leaks in the pool structure. In 2018, a company that specializes in the rehabilitation of historical fountains was retained to assess the Hogarth Fountain and advise on the work and costs to restore the fountain and upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems to current standards.

On May 6, 2019 Committee of the Whole passed a resolution following a deputation from the Coalition for Waverley Park recommending that the proposed plan for the Hogarth fountain be referred back to Administration for further information and to report back on or before Sept 16, 2019 as to the status of this project and potential inclusion in the 2020 budget.

On January 12, 2023 Administration provided a Memorandum to the Committee of the Whole – Special Session on January 17, 2023 to provide Council with estimated costs for design work related to professional repairs to the Fountain and Cenotaph for Council's consideration in the 2023 budget in response to a deputation from the Friends of Waverley Park who wish to see work in the park advanced.

On June 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole passed a resolution following a deputation from the Coalition for Waverley Park that the contents of the deputation be referred to Administration for review including the addition of the Waverley Fountain maintenance costs into the Parks & Open Spaces 3-year capital budget and the use of funding from the sale of surplus park lands to report back on or before December 2, 2024.

In the summer of 2023, a structural assessment of the fountain and Cenotaph was undertaken, and no significant structural issues were identified that could have caused significant changes to the proposed work plan identified in the Memo to Council of January 12, 2023.

### **The Coalition for Waverley Park**

The Coalition for Waverley Park is a volunteer group that was formed in 1994 to express concerns about the condominiums being proposed to be built at that time on the site of the former Central School and encouraged the City to allow Magnus Theatre to be relocated to that site. Since that time, they have advocated for the park. In 2017 the group helped secure a total of \$300,000 from various external funding sources to

have the multi-use pavilion/ bandstand designed and built on the former location of the Rotary bandshell. They have also been helping to program the space by organizing the Monday night Concert in the Park series as well as Picnic in the Park and Jane's Walk events.

Following deputations to City Council, the Coalition suggested a phased approach to the project and has been pursuing external funding sources to help with funding the Fountain and Cenotaph Restoration. To date the Coalition has secured a \$50,000 grant from the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Corporation and has applied to the NOHFC and is the second stage of the application for \$1,129,316 (approximately 50% funding) through the Community Enhancement Program.

The Coalition for Waverley Park has committed to continue to raise additional funds for the project and applying for other grant funding as it might become available in the future. In addition, they have also been in discussion with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 5 specifically for the Cenotaph Restoration portion of the project.

***REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED***

None.

***REPORT PREPARED BY***

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***REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY***

Ian Spoljarich, Acting Commissioner – Infrastructure & Operations  
11/22/2024