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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Planning and Development Services

Re: Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-02 – Aurora War Memorial and Cenotaph (14659 Yonge)

To: Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Adam Robb, MPL, MCIP, RPP, CAHP, PLE
Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage

Date: February 3, 2025

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-02 – Aurora War Memorial and Cenotaph (14659 Yonge Street) be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Heritage Permit Application HPA-2025-02 be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

The Aurora War Memorial property was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 2008. The property is significant as it recognizes the sacrifices made by local heroes during the First and Second World Wars and other conflicts. The Cenotaph was constructed in 1925 out of granite and stands at 73 feet high. The Altar of Sacrifice was erected in 1960. The Aurora War Memorial and Peace Park has important contextual value as one of Aurora's best-known landmarks.

Analysis

The designating by-law for the property recognizes protections for all inscriptions and engravings on the memorials, as well as for natural park elements. As such, the proposed inscription corrections and general park enhancements and preventative maintenance measures being considered are subject to review by the Heritage Advisory Committee and Council.

An overview of the proposed work is as follows:

1) Correction of a Misspelled Name

- Fred Luxon is listed on the memorial however his last name is misspelled as Luxton, which will be corrected (see supporting evidence under Attachment #1)

2) Correction of Medal Attribution

- Wilfred Petermann has a Military Cross incorrectly attributed to his name, which will be corrected (see supporting evidence under Attachment #2)

3) Park Enhancements

- Removal of the existing lock stone, re-levelling of the base, re-installation of the stones and spray/sealing of the asphalt pathways.
- Addition of permanent seating by including 4 benches.
- Electrical upgrades to supply additional lighting around the Korean War Memorial and Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV).
- Re-fabrication and Replacement of wreath standards.

4) Preventative Conservation Maintenance

- Touching up general painting or lead lettering, cleaning of masonry, etc.

The Heritage Advisory Committee has the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed work prior to a future recommendation report being presented to Council.

Attachments

1. Attachment #1 – Documentation on Spelling of Luxon
2. Attachment #2 – Documentation on Petermann
3. Attachment #3 – Consultant Summary of Work