

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 26, 2021
TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Cynthia Moyle, Acting Clerk
SUBJECT: Countdown Public Art Legacy Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to partner with Lanark County Interval House and Community Support (LCIHCS) on the Countdown Public Art Legacy Project at the location of (TBD) with a financial commitment of \$1,100.

BACKGROUND:

Council accepted at their regular January 12, 2021 meeting as information correspondence received from Lanark County Interval House and Community Support a request to partner with the agency on an initiative that honours those facing, those who have been taken and those healing from all forms of violence. This would be a collaboration amongst partners to create a permanent art piece in the form of a pebble mosaic. This art piece would be similar to the pebble mosaic located in the park behind Carleton Place Town Hall.

Erin Lee, Executive Director of LCIHCS presented the project idea to Council at the most recent Council meeting. She highlighted why Mississippi Mills was chosen as a community partner and went on to explain one of their founding mothers, leader, advocate, writer, and educator is Fern Martin who has strong roots in Mississippi Mills and our unfortunate tragic murder of former Councillor Bernard Cameron that occurred because of domestic violence.

LCIHCS would engage a team of artists through Red Dress Productions to engage the local community in the creation of the pebble mosaic. The mosaic and informational plaque would be built, installed, and restored in the event repairs are required or damage occurs in the future.

Mississippi Mills responsibility would be to approve a suitable public space for the pebble mosaic, site preparation including excavation to a depth of 8" and 6' X 6' in diameter, access to a water supply, 4" concrete base and assist in championing the project.

DISCUSSION:

Option # 1 – Almonte Old Town Hall

The Almonte Old Town Hall is the central hub for our community hosting theatre, musical performances, craft shows, weddings, conferences, exhibitions, community dinners and events, feature films and professional music recordings. As well as the location for Mississippi Mills Information and Tourism Centre. Residents and tourists can stroll along the Riverwalk path enjoying “Fern Martin’s” Musical Fence ending at the Bernard Cameron Memorial Fountain.

Option # 2 – Mississippi Mills Public Library, Almonte Branch

The Almonte Branch has a beautiful park with a community garden in our backyard. The Almonte & District Horticultural Society maintains the garden. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, volunteers diligently work in the garden growing flowers and food for the foodbank. There are benches in the garden and benches along the OVRT. This park is truly a community space.

Option # 3 – Another Suitable Locations

The Town of Almonte has other points of interest where the pebble mosaic can be located such as along the scenic path of the Riverrun Walk or the Metcalf Geoheritage Park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

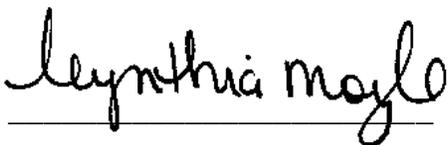
In consultation with the Acting Public Works Director, our financial commitment for this project will be approximately \$1,100. Public Works Department would excavate the area and have our concrete contractor pour the slab. As soon as the location is approved by Council, the project will be added to their spring project list.

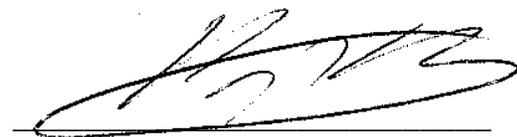
SUMMARY:

Staff recommendation is to partner with Lanark County Interval House and Community Support honouring survivors of sexual violence.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:





Cynthia Moyle,
Acting Clerk

Ken Kelly,
Chief Administrative Officer