



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC)

From: Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

Meeting Date: February 9, 2017

Subject: Report ACHAC17-012
hiSTORIES Project

Purpose

A report to recommend that the ACHAC receive a presentation on the development of an electronic exploration app of the City's heritage sites.

Recommendation

That the ACHAC approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC17-012, dated February 9, 2017 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That the presentation by Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator and Andrew Nichols, GIS Analyst on the development of an exploration app by the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with this recommendation.

Background

Following Martha Kidd's passing in 2012, the PACAC decided to commemorate her work as a driving force for heritage in the City. Several projects were considered but proved either too costly or limited in their community accessibility. In the summer of 2016 the committee commissioned a report on the feasibility of creating a tour of the City's heritage buildings that included an oral history component to help capture the intangible heritage of Peterborough's historic places. The work included determining community capacity to provide the stories, creating a set of pilot recordings, and providing recommendations on how best to present them. The demonstration version of the project can be viewed at <https://peterboroughhistories.wordpress.com/>

The Peterborough hiSTORIES project is based broadly on similar projects developed in Toronto and Europe that tie audio clips and images to map points. The oral histories are linked directly to specific buildings and landmarks in Peterborough in order to provide locals and tourists with interesting personal stories, memories, and facts in order to connect the individuals on a more personal level with the places that they are visiting. Developed as an application for mobile devices, the information can be accessed while visiting the site itself.

The City has recently upgraded its mapping systems and now uses a highly functional software called ESRI that would be able to support the project as envisioned in the 2016 report. Geomatics staff is reviewing the project to see how best to fit it into the City map system. As the app develops, more sites can be added to create unique themed maps and walking tours.

Submitted by,

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