



# ***Township of Wilmot*** **REPORT**

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**REPORT NO.** CL2016-06  
**TO:** Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Barbara McLeod, Director of Clerk's Services  
**DATE:** April 4, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Canada's Past Prime Ministers Statue Project  
2017 Sesquicentennial Initiative  
Township of Wilmot Administration Grounds

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## **Recommendation:**

**THAT Report No CL2016-06 dated April 4, 2016 and prepared by the Director of Clerk's Services, be endorsed, and further;**

**THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement between the Township of Wilmot and Createscape Waterloo Region and to sign the associated By-law.**

## **Background:**

The Past Prime Ministers of Canada Statues Project is the work of a citizens' group led by Co-Chairs Jim Rodger and Dave Caputo, both Wilmot residents. The Project involves the creation of a series of life-size bronze monuments that portray and commemorate Canada's past Prime Ministers and includes educational / cultural components into its design. The first statue in the series of Sir John A. Macdonald, was created by Wilmot's own local artist, Ruth Abernethy. The Project will involve the work of other artists nationwide as well, to encompass the completion and installation of 22 statues over an extended period of time.

## **Discussion:**

As Council is aware, Canada's sesquicentennial occurs on July 1, 2017. In consideration of this momentous event, Township staff met with Jim Rodger and Ruth Abernethy to determine the status of the statue project. (which was identified in the media as needing relocation).

A meeting was held with them on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Mayor Armstrong, CAO Grant Whittington, Director of Finance R. Tse, Director of Castle Kilbride/Curator T. Loch, and the writer were in attendance. At the meeting staff were advised that the costs of the project to create and install the statues are funded by a combination of private donations and senior level government applicable grants. The organizers are in partnership with 'Createscape Waterloo

Region' who manage all of the fund-raising and provision of receipts to private donors for this project.

During the meeting, Mr. Rodger advised that their group is interested in considering Wilmot as one of three (3) potential relocation sites to permanently provide a home for their project and that they were very pleased that positive interest had been shown to them by the Township. A conceptual site plan depicting the existing designated greenspace located at the Township administration grounds in Baden was discussed at the meeting as a preferred site for the relocation of this project. The statues are proposed to be located along the urban walkway adjacent to the municipal office (see Appendix 'A' attached to this report).

From a staff perspective, the preferred location of the Baden Administration grounds is based on the following factors:

- the tie-in of the existing National Historic Site and tourist attraction of Castle Kilbride
- James Livingston, the owner of Castle Kilbride, was a former Federal Member of Parliament,
- The Township is a local government office,
- the additional project would serve to enhance the existing attraction by adding value of a historical, cultural, educational and heritage nature
- the project is befitting as the Township of Wilmot's patriotic contribution to the celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial
- the project is in line with the Township's Strategic Plan

Following the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Rodger has advised Township staff that his Co-Chair and Createscape Waterloo Region partners are in agreement to pursue the Baden Office site as the preferred location for the statues and that they wish to proceed to the Council approval stage. (see Appendix 'B' attached to this report) Pending Council approval, the timeframe for the installation of the first statue in the series is July 2016.

The Senior Management Team of Wilmot has reviewed the conceptual plan, associated information and have endorsed the proposal.

Jim Rodger will be in attendance at the Council meeting to respond to any questions of Council.

**Strategic Plan Conformity:**

This initiative is in conformity with the Township's Strategic Plan by promoting historical walking tours, continuing to promote Castle Kilbride / Wilmot Township as a destination for tourism, encouraging private sector investment and champions that focus on tourism and by participating with area tourism associations to support ongoing initiatives. The project will promote our art and cultural heritage not only in this community but nationwide and will help to mark the sesquicentennial of Canada.

**Financial Considerations:**

The Past Prime Ministers Statue Project will be funded by private donations and applicable senior level government funding.

**Conclusion:**

Staff are enthusiastic to recommend that this aspiring and patriotic project to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for years to come, be endorsed by Council and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into an Agreement with Createscape Waterloo Region and to sign the associated By-law.

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Barbara McLeod, Director of Clerk's Services

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Reviewed by CAO



Castle Kilbride and Administration Complex Grounds



## CREATESCAPE

March 29, 2016

Mayor Les Armstrong  
Township of Wilmot  
60 Snyder's Road West  
Baden, ON N3A 1A1

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Createscape Waterloo Region is a registered charitable organization based in Waterloo Region. One of the purposes of Createscape is to promote art in advancing education of the public. Createscape has been involved with a number of projects to date, such as Open Ears, Box and the KWCF's art bank. It focusses its attention on Waterloo Region.

One of Createscape's projects to advance the education of the public is The PM Statues Project. The PM Statues Project is intended to create statues of former Prime Ministers of Canada – but not for sake of those statues but to assist the public in understanding Canada's past and how that past influences us today. Perhaps more importantly, the Project is intended to engage the public about Canada's future. An understanding of history is important on its own, but the usefulness of doing so is to help us to define our future.

Art is also important in and of itself. Art helps us to create an emotional attachment or reaction to a person, an event or an issue – which in turn causes us to consider and think about that person, event or issue and how it impacts us today and will do so in the future. Art, to do so, must have artistic merit, which is a driving force for Createscape.

The PM Statues Project, though, is about more than the statues. Critically important are the educational materials that are being created as part of the overall Project. These educational materials are intended to assist teachers in elementary and secondary schools across Canada in their classrooms. These materials are also intended to help the general public in understanding the persons, events and issues that Canada has faced over the years – and to guide discussion of how we define our future.

Createscape would like to work with the Township of Wilmot as a potential host for The PM Statues Project. The grounds of Castle Kilbride and its adjacent areas are, in our view, an excellent location for this Project. Physically, it provides an excellent location for a curated walk. Secondly, Castle Kilbride is an important part of Waterloo Region's history, created by an individual who contributed to Canada's political and business life. Third, the Township has an appreciation and legacy of supporting an understanding of Canadian history and how it influences our future.

Yours truly,



Don Bourgeois  
cc. Grant Whittington