

# Background Report

Report From: Dawn Mittelholtz, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

Meeting Date: April 14, 2025

Subject: Cenotaph ad hoc Committee Final Recommendations.docx

Attachment(s): None

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## **Background/Analysis**

On December 16, 2024, Council approved the creation of a Cenotaph ad hoc Committee whose primary goal was to review the four options presented in the RJ Burnside report and provide Council with recommendations for the revitalization of the Southampton Cenotaph. This report confirms those final recommendations.

Starting on January 15, 2025, the Cenotaph ad hoc Committee met to discuss and consider recommendations to Council on the Southampton Cenotaph (the Cenotaph) project.

Council has heard from members of the public, the Southampton Legion, and Consultants retained for the High Street Reconstruction project on what the repair, reconstruction, or replacement of the Cenotaph could encompass.

The Cenotaph ad hoc Committee was struck, and their mandate includes the following:

*The Cenotaph is a focal point on the picturesque streetscape of High Street in Southampton. Residents, visitors, and businesses all recognize the significance of the monument in honouring the men and women of Southampton and Saugeen First Nation who gave their lives in World War I and World War II. Its importance to the community cannot be understated.*

*The Cenotaph site and elements (Cairn and Cross) are currently within the scope of the High Street reconstruction project and to be included in that project, a path forward needs to be approved by Council by June 2025. In that spirit, the Cenotaph ad hoc Committee's mandate is to provide recommendations for Council's consideration on works to be done to upgrade, rebuild, restore, and / or replace the Cenotaph, Cairn and/or Cross.*

Over the course of five meetings, the Committee considered the four Options (included below) but also discussed other elements that may be considered for recommendation to Council.

- Option 1 – Rebuild or Restore the Existing Cairn and Cross (Legion proposal)
- Option 2A – Proposed 2 Stone Columns (designed by the Cenotaph Committee)

- Option 2B – Proposed 2 Stone Columns with Existing Cairn and Cross (designed by the Cenotaph Committee)
- Option 3 – Rebuild/Restore the Existing Cairn and Cross with a Memorial Wall

### Final Recommendations:

At the March 19, 2025 Committee meeting, the Committee approved the following for recommendation to Council:

That the Cenotaph ad hoc Committee recommend to Council:

- That Option 1 from the RJ Burnside report be approved and that the intersection of High Street and Huron Street include design elements to further honour Southampton and Saugeen First Nation veterans, including a proposed memorial wall on the curb extensions;
- That the preferred revitalization is for the existing Cairn, Plaques, and Cross to be restored and maintained according to Town procurement processes;
- That the landscaping on the traffic island be rejuvenated;
- That the Mosquito Bomber Interpretive Plaque from the George Marion Park be moved to a location closer to the Cenotaph; and
- That benches and a duplicate of the Women in Military Interpretive Plaque be installed on the curb extensions at the intersection of the Southampton Cenotaph.

### **Linkages**

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 4: Fostering a Vibrant Place to Live and Visit
- Business Plan Alignment: Community Services Business as Usual

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding**

Costs are unknown at this time and will be detailed in a future report.

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