

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 25, 2015
FROM:	KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION
SUBJECT:	CANADA 150 FUNDING PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Community & Economic Innovation, the *Celebrating our Heritage, Honouring our Heroes* project **BE SUPPORTED** for application for federal funding under the Canada 150 Infrastructure Fund and the Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to take all necessary steps to submit the City of London's application for funding in advance of the program deadline.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Council Resolution of July 29, 2014 – Approval for operational funding to hire a Coordinator to prepare for the 150th Anniversary of Canada Celebration in 2017

BACKGROUND

In 2017, Canada will be celebrating 150 years since Confederation. This historic milestone will be celebrated in communities across the country, with an overarching Canada 150 theme of "Strong. Proud. Free." City Council's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan includes a specific strategy to "Fund and partner with the community to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017." Plans are well underway for celebrations in London.

In preparation for the sesquicentennial, the Government of Canada is investing in programming and infrastructure to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary. Specifically, the 2015 Federal Budget included two funding programs:

1. An infrastructure fund, to support the renovation, expansion and improvement of existing community infrastructure, with \$150 million to be used for up to 1,800 projects across Canada; and
2. A programming fund, to support activities and events celebrating Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017, with \$210 million nationally over four years starting in 2015–16.

This report recommends making an application under the first fund, the Canada 150 Infrastructure Fund, which requires support from City Council in advance of the application deadline of June 9, 2015. This report also provides a brief summary of the programming plans underway for London's Canada 150 celebration.

The Canada 150 Infrastructure Fund

The Canada 150 Infrastructure Program is designed to rehabilitate, renovate, and expand

community infrastructure in advance of Canada's 150th anniversary. Funding for the program is \$150 million nationally to be used for up to 1,800 projects. Southern Ontario, through FedDev, has been allocated \$44.4 million over the next two years. Details of the program were announced on May 15th and applications must be submitted by June 9th.

The program does not apply to new construction. Applications must be for the renovation, expansion, or rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. Expansions cannot result in an increase of more than 50% of an existing asset's footprint. The Government of Canada will contribute up to 50% (with a priority for projects seeking 33.3%) of project costs up to a maximum of \$1 million. Project costs incurred before April 1, 2016 are not eligible. Projects must be scheduled for completion before June 30, 2017.

This report recommends that the City of London submit an application to the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program titled ***Celebrating our Heritage, Honouring our Heroes***. This project envisions signature investments in London's community infrastructure – specifically, investing in the sites where Londoners gather to celebrate Canada's heritage and honour our veterans and national heroes.

- Harris Park – as the site of London's annual Canada Day celebration and many community events including citizenship ceremonies, Harris Park is an important and historic gathering place for Londoners. Funding from the Government of Canada would support renovations to the 30-year-old pavilion stage area. This renovated facility would serve as a focal point during the Canada 150 celebrations in 2017, and be a legacy investment to be enjoyed by the community for years to come.
- Victoria Park – London's Cenotaph is an important monument honouring those who have given their lives for their country, and is the gathering place for Londoners during annual Remembrance Day ceremonies and throughout the year. A recent condition assessment identified that the Cenotaph is in a state of continuing deterioration. Federal funding would facilitate restoration of the Cenotaph to address water damage and hairline cracks. It would also support enhancements to the site in advance of the Canada 150 celebrations.
- Canada 150 Tree Planting – should funding be received, the City of London would work with community partners to plant trees in a signature location, to commemorate the sesquicentennial in the Forest City.

Applications submitted by municipalities require a resolution reflecting support from City Council. With this support, Civic Administration will also seek letters of support from local Members of Parliament and community partners.

Canada 150 Fund

The goal of the Canada 150 Fund is to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada. This fund will allocate \$210 million over four years, starting in 2015-16, to support activities, events and celebrations across Canada.

In July 2014, City Council provided support to London Celebrates Canada, a not-for-profit incorporated organization led by volunteers. Specifically, Council provided operating funding to support hiring of a 150th Anniversary of Canada Coordinator. The Coordinator was hired in March 2015, and is working with the lead partners for London Celebrates 150: London Celebrates Canada, the London Heritage Council and the City's Culture Office as well as the Celebrate 150 Programming Committee of community partners in preparation for 2017.

Appendix A includes a listing of the activities planned to date.

There is no deadline for the Canada 150 Fund. It is anticipated that London Celebrates Canada 150 Programming Committee will be submitting an application under this funding program at some point in 2015.

CONCLUSION

Canada’s 150th anniversary is an important historic milestone, and London is well positioned to contribute to its celebration. The importance of the sesquicentennial is also specifically referenced in Council’s 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

The Government of Canada is investing in infrastructure and programming to mark the occasion. The City of London is seeking to partner with the Government of Canada on key infrastructure investments and programming to ensure that Londoners have every opportunity to recognize and celebrate Canada’s heritage in 2017.

This report was prepared with prompt contributions from many individuals. Acknowledgement with appreciation is extended to Robin Armistead, Ben Fraser, Lia Karidas, Jim Klingenberger, Andrew Macpherson, Tim Wellhauser, Jim Yanchula, and the Senior Leadership Team.

RECOMMENDED BY:
KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION

Appendix A

LONDON, ONTARIO CANADA 150 PROGRAMMING BREAKDOWN (To Date – as of May 20, 2015)

New Year's Eve- December 31, 2016 - We plan to treat this evening as the official “kick-off” of the Canada 150 initiative in London, Ontario. The goal is to consider Rockin' New Year's Eve to be the keystone event, featuring top-tier entertainment and a decidedly patriotic theme.

Outdoor OHL Game and Sports Festival - February 10, 2017 - *Tourism London* is planning to quarterback an exciting signature initiative in the area of Sport Tourism for February 10, 2017. This event, embodying “Culture, Spirit and Heritage” will be the first-ever outdoor OHL game in history (to take place in Labatt Park), and will combine with an outdoor festival. There is an opportunity to connect visions with the Tournament of Hearts and Curling Canada based on the timing of this one.

Flag Day- February 15, 2017- Celebrating the 52nd anniversary of The Canadian Flag, London Celebrates Canada has secured Budweiser Gardens for a day of celebration, patriotism and fun. Flag Day will also be the site and event that will host the painting of the Canada 150 Mosaic (London portion), a project that will establish 150 years of Canadian history through thousands of paintings from coast to coast creating one unified mural (www.canada150mosaic.com).

Governor General Visit to Western University- Date TBD, likely March 2017- Western University is actively seeking to host a visit from the Governor General on-campus in spring of 2017.

VMPCP Vimy Ridge Commemorative Treeplanting- June 2017- As part of a 3-pronged tree planting initiative, the Veteran's Memorial Parkway Community Project team will be planting a “Living Guard of Honour” (consisting of 100 trees, to commemorate the centennial of the Battle of Vimy Ridge) at or near the Veteran's Memorial Parkway, or at another suitable site in London, with additional blocks of 150 trees (to commemorate the sesquicentennial). The trees would be a mix of Sugar or Red Maples (representing native trees and peoples) and Regal Petticoat Maples, a native tree born in Nova Scotia, a cultivar of the Sycamore Maple introduced to Canada 400 years ago (representing all peoples who immigrated to Canada and created something new). The trees are to be planted in late June 2017.

Canada Day at The Forks of The Thames (Harris Park) - July 1, 2017- London Celebrates Canada's signature event will take on a decidedly sesquicentennial spin, and with the help of the 150th Anniversary of Canada Coordinator and Programming Committee, will be expanded upon in terms of scope, programming, and will serve as the keystone event of 2017 (also marking the half-way point of the 150th Portfolio).

50th Anniversary of The London Room at London Public Library- July 31, 2017- This date is place held for an activity or event that will commemorate the legacy of The London Room on our community's understanding and appreciation for local heritage, as well as an opportunity for hone in on the locality London's 150th Anniversary of Canada celebrations. Discussions with London Public Library have revealed desires to complete digitization of the card catalogues, and engage the Rotary Club as a sponsor.

150th Anniversary of Western Fair District- September 2017- In the spirit of *recognizing excellence* (one of the themes presented by the federal government's Canada 150 plan), we intend to fold local milestones into the greater narrative of celebration presented by Canada 150. One of these major milestones is the 150th Anniversary of Western Fair District, and we anticipate a significant level of overlap between the national sesquicentennial celebrations and Western Fair's own sesquicentennial.

50th Anniversary of Fanshawe College- September 2017- Another exciting local milestone is the 50th Anniversary of Fanshawe College, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of many colleges in the country. We are in communication with Fanshawe about the possibility for a signature event linked to the sesquicentennial, but plan on acknowledging this milestone nonetheless.

Culture Days/ Doors Open London- September 2017- In communications with several representatives of the Canada 150 Committee, a favorable 'best practice' is to assess existing activities and annual events, and employ a 150th 'spin' for the 2017 edition of each activity. A prime example of this would be Culture Days/Doors Open London, and the opportunity to employ Canadian themes at each site.

Reforest London- The 150 Forest (Planting)- September 2016 OR 2017 ReForest London hopes to connect strongly with the Canada 150 programming by way of facilitating the planting of trees across the city. In conjunction with London's title of "The Forest City", RFL plans to continue its 1Million Tree Challenge, by planting a 150 Forest as a legacy piece by the year 2017. Adjacent to this plan are similar treeplanting initiatives aimed for both private property and low income neighborhoods. The best time to plant trees is in September, so the 150 Forest would likely be planted in September 2016 or 2017.

"Classes Without Quizzes"- Canadian Edition - October 2016-April 2017 Western University aims to integrate a series of community lectures focused specifically on Canadian topics. Dates won't be solidified until August 2016.

SESQUI Roadshow - Date TBD 2017- London is on the list of "intended stops" for a unique national roadshow called *SESQUI*. This production will take place within a 360 degree dome that will travel from community to community, and feature a combination 360-video spectacular and live performer showcase that highlights the natural beauty of Canada. The 70' in diameter dome would be in London for a 3-week period in 2017, and can be installed indoors or outdoors. There is no cost to have the dome installed and running in your community, but there may be costs associated with the venue that is ultimately chosen to house this production. (<http://www.sesqui.ca>)

New Year's Eve- December 31, 2017- Bookending the year with a closing ceremonies-style presentation featuring festivities, connections to other communities, a retrospective on the previous year, and top-tier entertainment.