

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Community Human Services
Administration

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Dr. April Rietdyk, General Manager
Community Human Services

Date: July 7, 2021

Subject: County of Kent Crest Corn Mural

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The County of Kent Crest corn mural currently on display at the Public Utilities Commission office located in the McGeorge building in Chatham, be offered to an interested party in the Chatham-Kent community through a closed bid process.

Background

The County of Kent Crest corn mural is displayed in the office area of the McGeorge Building. The mural was commissioned by Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited and was donated to the County of Kent on October 31, 1984. The artist was Bill Green of Stable Studios in Charing Cross. Attached (Appendix A) is a picture of the mural. In 2015, staff within the Clerk's Office were contacted by a volunteer of the Chatham-Kent Agriculture Hall of Fame committee regarding the possibility of the mural being moved to the John D. Bradley Centre. At this time it is unclear why the relocation of the corn mural to John D. Bradley Centre did not occur.

Comments

In 2015, The Curator, Chatham-Kent Museum confirmed that the corn mural in question is not the property of the Museum. It was not accessioned into the museum's collection, nor has it ever been treated as a museum artifact.

In June, 2021, the General Manager, Public Utilities Commission contacted the Municipal Clerk's office to inquire about the removal of the corn mural in question due to upcoming renovations at the McGeorge building. Subsequently, the Municipal Clerk

reached out to the Arts and Culture division of Community Human Services, for advice on the disposition of the corn mural.

The Acting Curator of the CK Museum advised that, at the present time and for the foreseeable future, the Museum is not accepting artifacts due to COVID concerns, space, handling and storage limitations.

The Curator, Chatham-Kent Thames Art Gallery, confirmed that the piece is not part of the gallery collection and recommended that the original donor be contacted to determine if they would like the corn mural returned to them. Contact was made with Corteva's (formally Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd.) Government and Industry Affairs Leader, Canada, by the General Manager, CHS. Corteva does not have the capacity to take ownership of the corn mural and supports the piece being offered to a local interested party.

Parties interested in assuming responsibility for the corn mural in question are encouraged to submit their interest in writing to the Municipal Clerk's office by September 15, 2021. If there are multiple submissions, the award will be by lottery. The individual or organization wishing to take ownership of the corn mural will be responsible for costs associated with its relocation.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

The Assistant Curator, Chatham-Kent Museum was consulted regarding museum assets. The Curator, Thames Art Gallery was consulted regarding best practices for disposition of the mural. The Municipal Clerk and the Manager, Corporate Accounting were consulted on the process of disposition of Municipal assets.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Prepared by:

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General Manager
Community Human Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Judy Smith, Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

Brock Priddle, Manager, Corporate Accounting

Heather Slater, Manager, Arts and Culture

Attachment: Appendix A-Photo of County of Kent Crest Corn Mural

C: Judy Smith, Judy Smith, Director Municipal Governance/Clerk
Brock Priddle, Manager, Corporate Accounting
Heather Slater, Manager, Arts and Culture
Lydia Burggraaf, Assistant Curator, Chatham-Kent Museum
Phil Vanderwall, Curator, Thames Art Gallery

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Mural.Docx

Appendix A – Photograph, County of Kent Crest Corn Mural
Location: McGeorge Building, Chatham

