

Date: 14 June 2011



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Tara Rickaby and Lori Nelson

**Re: Heritage Kenora Recommendation to extend Harbourtown Centre
Community Improvement Plan**

Recommendation:

That Staff be directed to submit a report and recommendation to Council, as part of 2012 budget submissions to extend the Community Improvement Plan program for the Harbourtown Centre.

Background:

Heritage Kenora is the approval authority for applications for the sign replacement and façade improvement program offered as part of the CIP to target improvements to existing buildings and properties, and is not directed towards future new developments in the Harbourtown Centre. To March 1, 2011, the City has funded approximately \$150,000 in improvements to storefronts and signage projects. The objectives of the Harbourtown Centre CIP are to:

1. To encourage the continued vitality and economic viability of the commercial core.
2. To stimulate new investment in public and private lands;
3. To encourage consistency in urban design and signage while recognizing the importance of diversity and character of the existing built form;
4. To create an attractive image of the City that reflects the historic character and heritage of the community;
5. To reinforce the commercial core as a focus for the community, including commercial and residential uses;
6. To improve pedestrian and vehicular connections within the area
7. To provide incentives for rehabilitation of the downtown core and Harbourfront as an attractive destination for shopping, dining and sightseeing.

The results of this program are clearly visible, both to residents and visitors.

The original budget for this program, which was part of the City's contribution to the funding program through FedNor and NOHFC, was \$250,000. While there is still approximately \$90,000 left in the budget, and therefore the program, Heritage Kenora recommends that the program be continued beyond the \$90,000 left to spend, in order to provide businesses with the opportunity to improve their image and the City to further entrench its goals for the Harbourtown Centre.

Budget: 2012 Capital Budget, as required

Communication: Budget process (agendas and minutes)