



Date 12 May 2011

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Tara Rickaby, Planning Administrator

Re: Heritage Kenora Recommendation for Nomination for Cultural Heritage Award

Recommendation:

That the Council of the City of Kenora supports the recommendation of Heritage Kenora to nominate Ancestor Seekers of Kenora (A.S.K.) for an Ontario Heritage Trust "Cultural Heritage Award" for two heritage projects they have implemented; the digitizing of information included on headstones in the Lake of the Woods Cemetery and the digitizing of archived newspapers from as early as 1891; and That Council of the City of Kenora recognizes these projects as important in identifying, preserving, protecting and promoting Kenora's heritage.

Background –

Annually, any resident of Ontario, over 18, who has made outstanding volunteer contributions in their community in the area of built, cultural or natural heritage conservation is eligible for nomination for the Ontario Heritage Trust's Cultural Heritage Award. Heritage activities must have been provided without payment. Duties performed during the normal course of elected, professional or business work are not eligible. Small project groups, such as "ASK" – Ancestor Seekers of Kenora, may be nominated for built, cultural and natural heritage conservation.

"ASK" has implemented, and continues the transcription of the information from every headstone in the Lake of the Woods Cemetery and the entering of this information onto a searchable database. This project is ongoing and allows people doing family history research, or any Kenora history research, access to the cemetery information regardless of their physical location. The second project undertaken by the group is digitizing the Kenora Public Library's collection of local newspapers, dating back to 1891. Presently they are working on the newspapers of the 1920s. These are available through the Kenora Public Library's website and allows researchers access to those newspapers whether they are in Kenora or not. The group has contributed significantly to the local research resources and their accessibility through these two significant projects

Heritage Kenora recommends that the "ASK" group is nominated for their work and dedication to preserving, protecting and promoting Kenora's heritage.

Budget: n/a

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

By Property and Planning Committee and Council agenda, copy to Heritage Kenora;
resolution only required.