

**MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES - CULTURE AND SPECIAL EVENTS**  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Dave Benson, Heritage Coordinator  
**DATE:** January 27, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** War of 1812 Bicentennial Projects Update

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This report is for the information of Council.

**BACKGROUND**

From 2012 to 2015, Canada will commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Since 2006, the provincial Ministry of Tourism and Culture has been working with seven regions throughout the province to assist in the identification and development of legacy projects and events that will commemorate this anniversary, and subsequently, stimulate the economy.

Chatham-Kent is part of the Southwest region, which also includes Windsor and Essex County. Both the Chatham-Kent Economic Development Services Strategy and the Cultural Plan have identified the Bicentennial Commemoration as a significant tourism opportunity for Chatham-Kent. Chatham-Kent and its regional partners in Windsor and Essex County have been working together over the past five years with historical groups and individuals to identify and further develop legacy projects and commemorative events in the Southwest region.

In February 2010, a War of 1812 Bicentennial Project Facilitator was hired, funded by Tourism Development Fund through the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. This position reports to the Manager of Tourism, Chatham-Kent and Tourism Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island. They work with groups throughout Essex County and Chatham-Kent with an office located at the Tilbury Municipal Centre. In addition, the Manager of Tourism and the Heritage Coordinator are also heavily involved in 1812 Bicentennial projects.

In Chatham-Kent, the re-development of the Tecumseh Monument site and the Tecumseh Parkway were identified as legacy projects. This report is intended to provide an update, proposed funding information, and timelines on these projects, along with several other Bicentennial initiatives that will involve the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

## **COMMENTS**

The following are War of 1812 Bicentennial Projects that are currently being developed that have a direct impact on Chatham-Kent.

### The Tecumseh Parkway

The Tecumseh Parkway is a municipal War of 1812 Bicentennial legacy project that will create an east/west driving route through Chatham-Kent. This route is aligned with the Thames River and follows the pursuit of the British and First Nations forces by the American army during the retreat up the Thames in October, 1813, that culminated in the Battle of the Thames, the death of Tecumseh, and the burning of Fairfield. Eleven pull-off sites will be developed utilizing both signage and digital/cell phone interpretation systems.

The Parkway project is now at the stage where most in-house work is complete and construction of pull-off sites and the creation of the signage and digital tour can begin. Construction of several of the pull-off sites is presently underway. The Public History graduate program at the University of Western Ontario is partnering with the Southwest 1812 Region (which Chatham-Kent is a part of) to create a smart phone tour that will begin in Amherstburg and follow the Tecumseh Parkway in Chatham-Kent. The Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation (SWOTC) provided funding to the Southwest 1812 Project for the smart phone application. The funding will be handled through the Southwest 1812 Project. The completion date for the Parkway is scheduled for June, 2012.

### Tecumseh Parkway Budget:

In 2009, Council allocated \$40,000 for the development of signage and site designs for the Parkway. Funding (\$13,000) from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture was also utilized for design work. Council allocated \$35,000 per year since 2007 (\$140,000) for War of 1812 Bicentennial projects. In addition, in 2011, Council approved \$275,000 in the Capital Budget to build the infrastructure along the route. With this confirmed funding from the Municipality, other grants will be applied for as listed in the following chart (\*to be confirmed). If no additional funding is received, the project will be downscaled to match the corresponding budget dollars.

<b>REVENUES</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Municipal Funds - Signage and Site Designs	(40,000)
Province of Ontario (Ministry of Tourism & Culture as noted above)	(\$13,000)
Municipal Funds - \$35,000/yr for 4 years	(\$140,000)
Municipal Capital Budget	(\$275,000)
Ontario Trillium Foundations (as a component of Peace Garden application - * to be confirmed)	(\$46,850)
Federal 1812 Commemoration Fund (*to be confirmed)	(\$50,000)

<b>REVENUES</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Trans Canada Trail Cost Sharing (for Sites #1, 3, 4) (*to be confirmed)	(\$51,981)
Federal/Provincial Summer Student Grant (*to be confirmed)	(\$4,500)
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$621,331</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Design work	\$19,574
Reproduction/copyright fees	\$5,000
Text translation to French	\$4,000
Interpretive Signage	* \$126,050
Directional Signage (municipal roads)	\$30,000
Directional Signage (Hwy 401 & Hwy 40)	\$35,000
Gateway Signage	\$100,000
Site Preparation and Construction	\$171,760
Equipment Rental	\$5,000
Summer Student (summer 2012)	\$6,500
Landscaping	\$11,200
Tecumseh Monument Initiatives – allocated to “Friends” group	\$40,000
Contingency	\$67,247
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$621,331</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*This total includes \$31,350 for interpretive signage development at the Tecumseh Monument site.

### The Tecumseh Monument Re-development Project

The Tecumseh Monument Re-development Project is one of the eleven sites along the Tecumseh Parkway route and is a separate, large scale initiative that is being developed by the Friends of Tecumseh Monument. Due to the fact that the potential scale of this project is so large, this group was formed as a non-profit organization to further this initiative. The Municipal Heritage Coordinator, Manager, Tourism and War of 1812 Project Facilitator are also members of this committee. Since the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812, there has been much discussion about the need for a proper commemoration to Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and the Battle of the Thames in order to reflect the international significance.

An original master plan for the Tecumseh Monument site was developed in 2009 by Ekistics consultants. This was funded by the Province of Ontario. In 2011, a more detailed Interpretive Master Plan for the proposed new Tecumseh Monument was also completed by Ekistics that was necessary in order to begin fundraising. This Interpretive Master Plan was funded by the Federal Government and was presented to Council on September 26, 2011.

In addition, coordination is ongoing with the Friends of Tecumseh Monument to incorporate the Tecumseh Parkway signage into the overall monument re-development

plan and will be installed for the opening of the Parkway in June, 2012. As well, \$40,000 of municipal War of 1812 bicentennial funding has been allocated to the Friends of Tecumseh Monument. This funding will be used for a topological survey of the site and to assist them in accessing professional fundraisers to develop a strategic plan and make contacts with potential corporate and private donors. A gala fundraising launch for the Tecumseh Monument re-development will be held at the John D. Bradley Convention Centre on January 26, 2012.

A further report will be forthcoming with respect to a land use agreement for the Tecumseh Monument site and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of Tecumseh Monument and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

### Peace Gardens

Bicentennial peace gardens are an initiative of the Bi-national Tourism Alliance. Groups can create gardens of any sort but must be a minimum of 500 sq. ft., publicly accessible, and located near a site of War of 1812 significance. These peace gardens are then promoted internationally by the Bi-national Tourism Alliance and the plan is to develop a peace garden driving route.

A peace garden has already been established at Fairfield National Historic Site (Site #11 on the Parkway), as of August, 2011. Members of St. Peter's Church near Jeanette's Creek are developing a peace garden on their property which corresponds to Site #1 on the Tecumseh Parkway and a third peace garden is in the early phases of development on municipal property south of Thamesville adjacent to the Sherman Cemetery/Farm (site #9 on the Parkway). Maps of each location are found in Attachment A.

The Kent Military Re-enactment Society has agreed to work on the development of the site through the Heritage Coordinator and Chatham-Kent Public Utilities who manages this land. A joint Ontario Trillium Foundation application was submitted to fund these peace garden initiatives which, if successful, will greatly complement the Tecumseh Parkway and increase international exposure of Chatham-Kent.

### The Southwest 1812 Regional Project

The Southwest 1812 Regional Project has several ongoing initiatives that will be visible in Chatham-Kent. Heritage Canada has already leant financial support to the Southwest Region with two projects:

- The Friends of the Tecumseh Monument
- A musical CD that features local musicians and songwriters telling the stories of the Southwest and the War of 1812

The Southwest 1812 Project Facilitator recently received a commitment of \$120,000 for some very specific marketing initiatives for the 1812 Project in Southwest Ontario from the newly formed Regional Tourism Organization called the Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation (SWOTC). The marketing projects being funded include the following:

- The 'Smart Phone App' that follows the retreat out of Amherstburg (i.e. Tecumseh Parkway)
- A printed and digital Regional 1812 map (listing sites and projects)
- A lure brochure
- Supplemented downtown street banners for all participating communities
- 1812 give-a-way items (which will be available at appropriate events throughout the region)
- Marketing templates that will be available to the entire Southwest region
- Regional and international advertising funds

The 1812 Project Facilitator works with all the community stakeholders throughout the Southwest region, including Chatham-Kent.

### Web Site

A War of 1812 Bicentennial web site has been established for the southwest region that includes Chatham-Kent. This was unveiled in August and can be found at [www.1812Ontario.ca](http://www.1812Ontario.ca).

### Ontario Visual Heritage Project

The Ontario Visual Heritage Project that produced the historical documentary *Chatham-Kent: A place of Refuge* several years ago is in the process of creating a new documentary called, "*A Dessert Between Us and Them – Raiders, Traitors and Refugees in the War of 1812*" that will look at the many smaller skirmishes and conflicts that occurred in Southwestern Ontario during the War of 1812 including events in Chatham-Kent. In addition, much of the filming will be done in Chatham-Kent. More information can be found at [www.visualheritage.ca/1812](http://www.visualheritage.ca/1812). Chatham-Kent Tourism provided \$5,000 towards the development of this project in 2010.

### The Battle of the Thames Re-enactment

A group led by Dr. Mark Dickerson is preparing a major re-enactment of the Battle of the Thames, scheduled for October 4, 5, 6, 2013. The re-enactment will take place on the actual site of the battle adjacent to the Tecumseh Monument.

### Officer's Ball

In conjunction with the Battle of the Thames re-enactment, the Kent Military Re-enactment Society is organizing an Officer's Ball on October 5, 2013 at the Chatham Armoury.

### Archaeological Dig – Tecumseh Park

Plans are underway to coordinate an Archeological Survey at the same time as the Battle of the Thames celebration is taking place in Chatham-Kent. A Ground Penetrating Radar Survey has already been conducted and preliminary findings are promising. Four potential grave shafts have been identified along with two buried rubble piles.

It is the intent to arrange a live interactive dig or survey through professional archeological service providers. The archeologists will conduct the survey and be able to interact and engage the public who have an interest in the history of the War of 1812.

This exercise has been previously identified as a necessary process in the Tecumseh Park Master Plan and has been approved by Council.

### Fairfield Museum Activities

Fairfield Museum has already developed a wild flower garden that was designated as a Bicentennial Peace Garden in August 2011. Fairfield is planning to expand the Peace Garden and develop a native plant healing garden that will be used as part of the site's interpretation.

## **CONSULTATION**

The Manager of Tourism was consulted and provided information on the Ontario Visual Heritage Project.

The War of 1812 Bicentennial Project Facilitator was consulted and provided information on the War of 1812 Bicentennial activities and projects.

The Manager-North, Water & Wastewater Services has been consulted and has provided information related to establishing a peace garden on Chatham-Kent Public Utilities land south of Thamesville.

The Director of Public Works South was consulted and has provided input on the establishment of Tecumseh Parkway pull-off sites.

The Director of Public Works North was consulted and has provided input on the establishment of Tecumseh Parkway pull-off sites.

The Manager of Parks, Cemeteries, and Horticulture was consulted and has provided input on Trans Canada Trail linkages and funding opportunities pertaining to the Tecumseh Parkway, as well as input regarding development plans for Tecumseh Park, Sherman Cemetery and the Tecumseh Monument site.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In 2007, Council allocated \$35,000 per year for four years (\$140,000) for War of 1812 Bicentennial projects. In 2009, Council approved \$40,000 for signage and site design for the Tecumseh Parkway. In 2011, \$275,000 was approved in the Capital Budget to build the infrastructure along the route. Along with this confirmed funding, a number of other grants will also be applied for.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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Evelyn Bish, Director  
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Don Shropshire, General Manager  
Community Development

Attachment A: Maps of Peace Garden Locations

- c. Joy Sim, Manager, Tourism
- Charlene Houle, War of 1812 Bicentennial Project Facilitator
- Robin Dudley, Manager - North, Water & Wastewater Services
- Pat Bruette, Director, Public Works South
- Wayne Pollock, Director, Public Works North
- Tom Beaton, Manager, Parks, Cemeteries and Horticulture

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# Peace Garden Locations

Attachment A

