

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Report Date	October 03, 2018
Meeting Date	November 05, 2018

His Worship Mayor Darling and Members of Common Council

***SUBJECT: Heritage Grant Budget 2019.docx***

### ***AUTHORIZATION***

Authors	Commissioner/Dept. Head	Chairperson
<b><i>Heritage Development Board</i></b>	<b><i>Jacqueline Hamilton / Amy Poffenroth</i></b>	<b><i>Robert Boyce</i></b>

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

The Heritage Development Board recommends an increase to the Heritage Grant Program operating budget to \$200,000 for the 2019 operating year.

### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

For over a decade, the Heritage Grant Program has seen marked success in helping property owners revitalise and maintain designated heritage properties throughout Saint John. 2018 has shown to be an exceptional year for applications to the program, with many thanks to Common Council and Growth Committee for increases to this year's budget to accommodate these applications. To better provide predictability and clarity for the program and to ensure that eligible applicants receive funding when requested, the Heritage Development Board is requesting that His Worship and Members of Common Council commit to an increase in the 2019 Heritage Grant Program operating budget.

### ***REPORT***

#### **BACKGROUND**

Given that the Central Peninsula has seen the highest amount of growth within Saint John in recent years, and given that the highest concentration and majority of designated heritage buildings are within this area, the Heritage Development Board is seeing and is encouraged by an increased interest in building redevelopment and maintenance. To date in 2018, the program has seen a higher number of applications than in the past two years, with over \$400,000 in estimated value of work. Prior to the most recent budget top-up recommended by the Growth Committee and approved by Common Council, almost \$19,000 of

grants, supporting \$130,000 of investment were waitlisted due to full allocation of the budget. As the Heritage Grant Program is, for many, a key contributor to the success of their projects, the Heritage Development Board would like to ensure that it can adequately support all appropriate projects that wish to receive funding. Where the Heritage Grant Program operates on a 'first-come, first-serve' basis, it is a disservice to Heritage Conservation and to the City when applicants are unable to access the program for work completed.

### **ANALYSIS**

There are two key factors prompting this request from the Heritage Development Board:

1. The increase in applications for Conservation Plan Grants.
2. The intent of the Heritage Development Board to request of Common Council through future policy the ability to incentivise the installation of aluminum-clad wood windows in addition to wood windows, and

There has been a marked increase in applications for Conservation Plan Grants, which enable a property owner to access the higher values for grant funding, from a maximum of \$750 annually to a new maximum of \$7500 annually. As Conservation Plans are an investment on the part of a property owner, they signal intent to carry out substantial, high value work over a number of years. With seven applications for Conservation Plans alone this year, that increases potential grant distribution by over \$40,000. The Heritage Grant program should be able to adequately reimburse any eligible property owner who has committed to continued care of a property by investing in a Conservation Plan.

The Heritage Development Board has adopted standard procedure of approving aluminum-clad wood windows by select manufacturers as an alternative to the installation of pure wood windows. These windows have become the preferred option for most property owners due to their increased durability and lifespan, and their matching proportions to a traditional window. As windows are one of the most important and expensive facets of any project, and where the Heritage Development Board reviews window applications most frequently, it is expected that in supporting aluminum-clad windows, there will be a substantial increase in applications for funding based solely around this item. Since 2015, aluminum-clad window replacements carried out with Heritage Permits have resulted in a minimum of 75 new windows installed annually, averaging an estimated minimum of \$100,000 in work per year.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The Heritage Development Board is:

- in favour of an increase to the operating budget for the Heritage Grant Program to a minimum of \$200,000;
- in favour of being able to adequately reimburse all those heritage property owners who perform eligible work;
- in favour of being able to provide funding for those materials and products approved consistently and regularly by the Heritage Development Board.

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

1. Heritage Grant Program Policy