
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report EDT-03-2020 Downtown Area Community Improvement Plan – 35
Caithness Street East, Caledonia



For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 6, 2020

OBJECTIVE:

To seek approval of an application for funding made under the Haldimand County Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report EDT-03-2020 Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan – 35 Caithness Street East, Caledonia be received;
2. AND THAT the project as outlined in Report EDT-03-2020 be approved for a grant to be funded from the Community Improvement Plan Reserve, to a maximum of \$15,000;
3. AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan Financial Incentive Program Agreement with the respective property owner.

Prepared by: Alison Earls, BA, MEDI, Senior Economic Development Officer

Reviewed by: Lidy Romanuk, BA, EcD, Manager, Economic Development and Tourism

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This proposal is to undertake various façade improvements to the property at 35 Caithness Street East, Caledonia. Economic Development and Tourism staff recommend that this application be approved for funding under the Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan Financial Incentives Program, as all program eligibility requirements have been met.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2008, Haldimand County Council adopted the Haldimand County Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and corresponding Downtown Community Improvement Project Areas (CIPAs). The CIP provides Council with the ability to offer financial incentives to private property owners to revitalize, redevelop, and renovate properties and buildings within the CIPAs. The CIPAs are identified as the downtown areas of the communities of Caledonia, Cayuga, Dunnville, Hagersville, Jarvis and Selkirk.

In September 2013, Council approved the Rural Business and Tourism Community Improvement Plan (RBTCIP). The RBTCIP targets key Haldimand County economic objectives by supporting hamlets, commercial roofed accommodations and value added agricultural businesses. Amendments in

November 2014, added a new program to the Downtown Areas CIP to include interior renovations for places of assembly related to arts and culture, commercial roofed accommodations and restaurants, and expanded eligible costs for existing programs based on supporting the growth of the County's tourism businesses.

Economic Development and Tourism (EDT) staff continue to promote both financial incentive programs to the communities and stakeholders. EDT staff also assist proponents with their applications, in order to bring eligible projects before Council in a timely manner. Further, staff continue to work with applicants to ensure that their projects move forward to completion.

As of this report date, one hundred and thirty-one (131) Downtown Areas CIP applications and twenty-five (25) RBTCIP applications have been approved (including reports EDT-03-2020, EDT-04 2020 and EDT-05-2020 (which are all being presented at the October 6th CIC meeting)). One hundred and twenty-nine (129) of the previously approved Downtown Areas CIP applications have been completed; twenty-one (21) Rural Business and Tourism files have been completed; and the files have been closed on three (3) applications which were not started. Downtown area grants have been approved in Caledonia, Cayuga, Dunnville, Hagersville, Jarvis and Selkirk. Grants have been approved for value added agriculture projects in the rural areas of Haldimand County; as well, projects in the hamlets of Fisherville, Port Maitland, Rainham Centre and York have been approved under the RBTCIP.

Summary of the Downtown Areas CIP and RBTCIP Applications (including EDT-03-2020, EDT-04-2020 and EDT-05-2020) Considered by Council:

Financial Incentive Program (Including EDT-03-2020, EDT-04-2020 and EDT-05-2020)	Downtown Areas	Rural Business and Tourism
Application & Permit Fee Refund	\$223,727	\$19,889
Building Restoration, Renovation and Improvement	\$73,527	\$184,984
Downtown Housing Grant	\$157,971	N/A
Heritage Improvement Grant	\$20,000	\$49,923
Façade Improvement Grant	\$815,695	\$107,127
Total value of CIP grants provided by the County**	\$1,290,920	\$361,923
Total construction value of CIP Projects	\$10,353,709	\$1,250,897
Grant values as a percentage of construction values	13%	29%
Council approved transfers from CIP Reserve for other initiatives	\$6,360	
Total funds remaining in CIP Reserve	\$111,795***	

* **Grant as a % of Construction** – This calculation shows the leveraging factor; basically, how much funding the County is contributing to the project compared to the total cost of the project. As it currently stands, for every dollar granted by the County, approximately \$7.00 of additional private funding has

been invested in the Downtown Areas of the County. The Kinsmen Park Revitalization and Dunnville Farmers Market Project are not included in the total construction values.

** Includes grant amounts related to staff approved projects under \$5,000.

*** Includes contribution from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for Main Street Revitalization Funding Program in the amount of \$69,936 (Report PED-EDT-05-2018) plus interest earned on the program funds.

ANALYSIS:

The final completed application for the property known as 35 Caithness Street East, Caledonia was received in late June 2019. Applications were held off until approval of the 2020 Operating budget by Council as funding for the Community Improvement Program was exhausted in June 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a temporary hiatus of economic development functions with staff focussing on the completion of Haldimand County's Business Recovery Priorities. With CIP projects now positioned to again be processed/move forward, staff connected with the applicant to confirm their intent to move forward with their Community Improvement Plan Project – response was in the affirmative. A location map has been included in this report as Attachment 1.

This application will utilize one of the incentives available to eligible properties under the Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan (DACIP) - the Façade Improvement Grant program. One previous DACIP application for the Façade Improvement Grant Program was approved under the current ownership of this building for the removal of aged aluminum siding and installation of new board and batten style siding on the front of the building. The owner would now like to move forward with completing similar renovations to the side and rear of the building.

The following provides an overview of the improvements proposed under the Facade Improvement Grant:

Façade Improvement Grant

The existing façade of the building is board and batten style siding on the front of the building and aged aluminum siding on the side and rear. Photos of the building and the earlier improvements can be found in Attachment 2. Improvements under the Façade Improvement Grant program will include removing the existing siding on the two sides and rear of the building, replacement of any damaged wood and installation of board and batten siding on the to replace current aluminum siding. The proposed work outlined in the application is consistent with the Urban Design Guidelines.

Local Economic Impacts

The proposed upgrades will improve the physical and visual qualities of the downtown core of Caledonia. The sides and rear of this building are highly visible at the main intersection of Argyle Street and Caithness Street in Caledonia. Therefore, upgrading the current façade will improve overall appearance of downtown Caledonia. Additionally, the rear of the property is visible from the Grand River, therefore these improvements will enhance views of the shoreline for residents and tourists enjoying the Grand River. This project will leverage significant private sector investment, and enhance the profile of the County.

Review Panel Recommendation			The application is complete and recommended for approval		
File No.	Community	Address	Value of Project	Value of Grant	Grant as % of Construction
144	Caledonia	35 Caithness Street East	\$37,800	\$15,000	40%
Façade Improvement Grant					\$15,000
Total Grant for 35 Caithness Street East, Caledonia					\$15,000
Project Description	Removal of existing siding on sides and rear of building.				
Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If siding is removed and substantial upgrades are required to underlying wood, the proponent must contact the GRCA (519-621-2763 ext. 2237) to determine if permits for the replacement will be required. 2. Property taxes must be in good standing and the property must be in conformity with all County/Provincial/Federal by-laws and legislation throughout the term of the program – i.e. property standards, zoning by-laws, official plan, etc. 				

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Downtown Areas Community Improvement Plan (CIP) was established in 2008, with an annual allocation of \$100,000 contributed to a Community Improvement Plan Reserve to be used to fund approved grant applications under the financial incentives component of the Downtown Areas CIP. In 2013, the annual contribution was increased to \$150,000 to incorporate the Downtown Areas CIP and the Rural Business and Tourism Community Improvement Plan. Upon approval of this application, Council will have approved a total of \$1,659,204 from this Reserve. This application requires \$15,000 in funding from the Reserve. There are currently sufficient funds within the Community Improvement Plan Reserve to accommodate this application.

Legal: A grant agreement will be prepared for execution by the Mayor and Clerk should Council approve this application. The grant agreement was reviewed by legal counsel in the spring of 2008.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

All Community Improvement projects are circulated and reviewed by a staff committee that consists of representatives from Building & Municipal Enforcement Services, Planning and Development, Community Development and Partnerships (Heritage and Culture) and Finance Divisions. Once this project has received Council approval, staff from the Economic Development and Tourism Division are to ensure that all proposed works are carried out in the manner applied for, and that terms and conditions are met.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: Yes

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Location Map.
2. Existing Conditions (Photos).