



DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – COMMISSIONER
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November 12, 2013

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES INFORMATION REPORT
COMMISSIONER (2013-59)**

TO: Members of Council
SUBJECT: Fernbank Farmhouse
ORIGIN: Commissioner Development and Infrastructure Services

COMMENTS

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council regarding the Request for Proposal to secure a suitable charitable and/or not for profit organization dedicated to serving Newmarket for use of the Fernbank Farmhouse. As was recommended by staff in Community Services and Development & Infrastructure Joint Report 2013-05 and as was adopted by Council on April 15, 2013 staff will have almost completed a Request for Proposal to the public. It is our intention to issue the RFP early in January.

To promote the opportunity to the local community, the existing Town of Newmarket Library databases of community organizations would be utilized, as well as promotion through media releases, the Town page, the Town website and Bidingo.

The Town will invite proposal submissions from responsible suitable charitable and/or not for profit organization dedicated to serving Newmarket to enter into a lease agreement for the Fernbank Farmhouse that supports the Town's goals of:

- Adhering to the parameters of use as laid out in the Town of Newmarket's original sale agreement with the property owners (i.e.: that the house and outbuildings be used for a heritage museum and/or historical/agricultural interpretive centre for educational purposes or other similar or recreational public uses). In addition, through meetings with the former property owners staff have also obtained their consent to expand the uses to include a *"community based charitable and/or not for profit organizations serving the needs of Newmarket residents"*;
- Ensuring the farmhouse's continued use with as minimal architectural changes to the interior as possible in order to respect its original layout;
- Finding a use that would benefit Newmarket residents;
- Use of the farmhouse not conflicting with (and ideally complementing) existing programming on the site specifically the Heritage Gardens, Community Gardens, sports fields, and the existing trail network.
- Minimizing any operating budget impact associated with supporting future use of the house.

The lease includes the sole use of the Farmhouse, 2 door garage and a garden shed. The lease does not include the use of the driving shed, Community Gardens or Heritage Gardens.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Well Respected

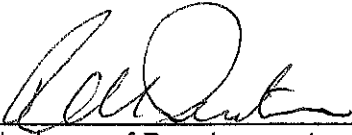
- Being tradition-based and forward looking
- Being a champion for cooperation and collaboration

BUDGET IMPACT

Impact on the Operating and Capital Budgets is dependent on the scope of the proposals received. Specific details will be provided to Council once the proposals have been received.

CONTACT

For more information on this report, contact Robert Prentice, Commissioner Development & Infrastructure Services ext. 2201.



Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services

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