

CHOOSE AN ITEM. **REPORT OF THE MUSEUM CURATOR**

### DESCRIPTION

**Re: Additions to Miners' Memorial Park**

### RECOMMENDATION

Choose an item.

**THAT** the "Elliot Lake Miners Monument" contract with LBB Inc. be approved as presented;

**AND THAT** the required funds be withdrawn from the Miner's Memorial Care Fund.

## BACKGROUND

The Miners' Memorial is dedicated to all of the workers who died as a result of workplace accidents or occupational illness while working at the mines in Elliot Lake. The names of these workers are engraved on black granite columns in memoriam and are overseen by the bronze statue of the Miner.

While there are a finite number of workers who are eligible for this honour, we anticipate an influx of individuals who would qualify due to recent efforts of workers' rights advocates. Thanks to the tireless work of individuals like Janice Martell with her McIntyre Powder Project, more occupational illnesses are being recognized and compensated by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. Recognition from the WSIB is an integral part of the review process by the Miners' Memorial Name Selection Committee.

Each year on the Day of Mourning, April 28<sup>th</sup>, new inductees are added and unveiled at the discretion of the Miners' Memorial Name Selection Committee and Council. At the 2022 Day of Mourning ceremony, four new names were inducted to the Wall. These names have not yet been engraved as there is currently only room for one more name on the third column.

Due to the lack of space available for new inductees, it is essential that an additional column is procured for the Miners' Memorial so that we can continue to provide this service and recognition.

Artist Laura Brown Breetvelt has been consulted and it is her recommendation that an additional column be installed opposite the current three, behind the statue of the Miner. This column will be manufactured in similar style and media to its predecessors.

At the January 24, 2022, Council meeting, an initial report regarding the addition of a fourth column at the Miners' Memorial Park was received with the following resolution carried:

### **Res. 22/22**

Moved By: S. Finamore

Seconded By: E. Pearce

That the report of the Museum Curator, dated January 19, 2022, be received;

And that the required funds for the addition of a fourth column at the Miners' Memorial be withdrawn from the Miner's Memorial Care Fund.

For (7): D. Marchisella, L. Cyr, E. Pearce, N. Mann, S. Finamore, C. Patrie, and T. Turner

With this approval, we approached Laura to finalize the work order.

## ANALYSIS

Through the process of finalizing the invoice for the Miners' Memorial Park project, we were informed by LBB Inc. that due to container costs and labour prices going up, the original quote could not be honoured. The projected cost of the fourth column increased from \$22,000 (prior to tax) to \$28,000.00 (prior to tax). In addition, we received the cost for the bronze miner helmet at \$9,500.00 (prior to tax) for a total project cost of \$37,500.

The bronze miner helmet is an additional installment to the statue of the Miner, to be placed to the right (when facing the statue) of the miner and his lunchbox. Like the miner's helmet on this statue, the newly commissioned helmet will also have an internal light that illuminates the fourth column. This will help to integrate the new column with the old, as well as to carry over the artist's sentiment of a light eternally shining over the names of the fallen workers.

If we are to proceed with this work order, installation will be accomplished before the end of November 2022, as stated in the contract. This will ensure that the wall is in place for the 2023 Day of Mourning ceremony, ready to induct new members.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The total cost of the granite column and bronze miner helmet, including tax, is \$42,375 (please see attached invoice for breakdown and further details).

As of July 25, 2022, the current balance of the Miner's Memorial Care Fund is \$66,584.28. If the \$42,375 needed for these monuments is approved, the Miners' Memorial Care Fund will be left with a balance of \$53,532.78, pending future brick purchases and donations.

Another potential extraction from this fund is \$13,051.50 for the purchase of another hundred granite memorial bricks. Should this proposal be approved, a balance of \$53,532.78 will remain in the Fund. This remaining balance will go towards covering the \$42,375 needed for the LBB Inc. project, and the remaining \$11,157.78 after these expenses will cover any extraneous costs associated with the installation.

Additional costs for this project would exist in the staff time it would take to prepare the foundation for the column, as well as the necessary interlocking brick work. It is believed by staff that all installation preparation can be handled in-house, and the \$11,157.78 will be ample to cover labour and equipment costs. As we await further specifications from LBB Inc, the exact parameters of these costs cannot be determined.

Please note that the LBB Inc. contract quotes will expire August 14, 2022, and that a 25% down payment is required upon acceptance of the project, with the remaining balance due upon installation.

## **LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This project aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through efforts to:

- Support the Arts and Culture Community
  - To maintain and improve arts and cultural facilities

## **SUMMARY**

An additional column for the Miners' Memorial is essential as there is currently no space for the names of new inductees to the Wall. It has become a tradition for the City to engrave the names of Elliot Lake mine workers who have passed due to occupational injury and illness, and it would be in our best interest to uphold this honour and recognize those who gave their lives in contribution to building the community as we know it today.

While not essential to the integrity of the Memorial, the bronze miner helmet is a complimentary piece that will complete the artist's vision and connect the new column to the pre-existing columns by carrying on the tradition of illuminating the names of all future inductees.

For these reasons, both the fourth column and the bronze miner helmet should be contracted through LBB Inc. as additions to the Elliot Lake Miners' Memorial Park.