



March 26, 2026

**BY EMAIL**

Honourable Stan Cho  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming  
111 Sheppard Avenue West  
North York, ON M2N 1M7  
Email: [stan.cho@pc.ola.org](mailto:stan.cho@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy**

At its Regular Council Meeting held on March 16, 2026, Council supported the enclosed correspondence dated February 17, 2026 from the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

**R26-03-103**

Moved By Mayor Bondy  
Seconded By Councillor Allard

**That** the correspondence from the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy be received and supported; and

**That** Council direct Administration to prepare and send a letter of support from the Town of Essex to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, MPP Anthony Leardi, AMO and our local municipalities.

**Carried**

I trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "jmall", written in a cursive style.

Joseph Malandrucolo  
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk  
[jmalandrucolo@essex.ca](mailto:jmalandrucolo@essex.ca)

Enclosure

cc. Anthony Leardi, MPP Essex [Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org](mailto:Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
Town of LaSalle [jastrologo@lasalle.ca](mailto:jastrologo@lasalle.ca)  
Town of Amherstburg [clerk@amherstburg.ca](mailto:clerk@amherstburg.ca)  
Municipality of Lakeshore [clerk@lakeshore.ca](mailto:clerk@lakeshore.ca)  
Town of Kingsville [atoole@kingsville.ca](mailto:atoole@kingsville.ca)  
Town of Tecumseh [jalexander@tecumseh.ca](mailto:jalexander@tecumseh.ca)  
Township of McNab/Braeside [mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com](mailto:mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com)



Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026  
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED  
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS** Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

**WHEREAS** Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

**WHEREAS** Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by: _____	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),  
 abstained from discussion and did not vote