

April 12 2021

This is a letter to both the Brampton Council and Peel Council about a tribute to Bill Davis for his accomplishments as a politician and his fine service as the most outstanding citizen in Peel. I talked to Bill on November 28 2020 about the idea of this recognition and he modestly agreed saying "yes but don't make a big fuss about it."

Next I talked to a Peel artist/sculptist to help me with the conceptual design and complete costing. When we were finished she said she would love to undertake the project at a modest cost. You could see one of her works at Holland Christian Homes on the front lawn in Brampton. Steve Paikin of T.V.O. recently wrote a book titled "Bill Davis". He agreed to help select the suitable words for the base of the sculpture to be on the four bronze plaques on a granite plynth, and to supply photos of Bill (when he was the age of Premier) to the artist.

The next step was to see if I could get some political support from the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel. Both Mayor Patrick Brown and Regional Chair Nando Iannicca were immediately enthusiastic. They both said they would go to their respective councils and would ask them to provide one hundred thousand dollars for the statue and surrounding installations. As an insurance I talked to Lisa McLeod our Ontario Heritage Minister. She said "when the funding cycle opens again that P.A.M.A. should apply for a grant and the Province would look favourably."

You can see time is slipping away with lots of encouragement but little action! The Regional staff are preparing a report because there is no precise "policy" about giving specific recognition to politicians or citizens in Peel and how the costs should be shared by the municipalities. I certainly hope this report will come to Regional Council this April 22nd. To date I do not believe there is a Council resolution from the City of Brampton to allocate their share of funding.

- There are many other details upon which to reach agreements before proceeding:
- approximate height of the monument.
 - pose of Bill Davis (standing or sitting)
 - any symbol included, like a Brampton Rose or Ontario Trillium
 - location of the statue, night lighting and photo security
 - granite plinth
 - selection of the artist
 - wording on the plaques & author of the script
 - will Art cast of Georgetown be the company asked to do the casting and four plaques (Art cast is nationally recognized eg having done the Terry Fox monument on the Trans Canada Hwy)
 - Is the Main Street front lawn of the Old Peel Court House a suitable location? (Bill Davis has expressed that is his choice.)
 - will P.A.M.A. staff supervise the bank account, the deposit to Art cast, the request for a grant to Ontario Ministry of Heritage, pay the bills and organize a public unveiling of the statue?

You can see such an undertaking has many details and I am sure I have not listed all of them. I will volunteer my services if there is any role I can play to encourage the successful completion along the path of this recognition for Premier Bill Davis - Peel's most accomplished personality and politician.

Personal regards,

Peter Robertson M.Ed.

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