

## Report to Council

**Report Title:** 25th Walkerton Water Commemoration - Update

**Prepared By:** Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator, and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

**Department:** Economic Development

**Date:** April 8, 2025

**Report Number:** ED2025-05                      **File Number:** C11ED

### Attachments:

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### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number ED2025-05 – 25th Walkerton Water Commemoration Update, prepared by Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator, and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so, Council recognizes that this is a significant and meaningful event in the community's history, deserving of respect at the local, provincial, and national levels; and furthermore, Council approves the self directed events as outlined as an opportunity for individuals to engage in selected activities and reflections to observe this anniversary in a manner that is personally meaningful to them.

### Background:

The 25th anniversary of the Walkerton water contamination will take place in May 2025. Council and staff have been discussing appropriate ways to mark this significant milestone. During the March 18, 2025 Council Meeting, a motion was passed in support of a self-directed commemorative event. Previously, Brockton Council approved the revitalization of the Heritage Water Garden, a project already underway. This park will be maintained to a high standard, offering residents and visitors a place for quiet reflection. It will also serve as a public monument to a significant chapter in Brockton's history.

### Analysis:

Self-directed reflections can take many forms, including quiet introspection, shared moments of remembrance, and educational efforts. Some residents and visitors may wish to learn more about how the Brockton community was impacted by the water crisis and the resilience efforts. To support this, staff will launch a dedicated page on the municipal website in May, showcasing key public spaces and landmarks that are of significance, supported by community efforts and related to the events of May 2000. These will include but are not limited to the stained-glass windows and gazebo at Victoria Jubilee Hall, the fountain at the Heritage Water Gardens, and the training facilities at the Walkerton Clean Water Centre.

Additionally in May, local students from Bruce and Grey Counties will be encouraged to apply for the Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Award through Community Foundation Grey Bruce. This scholarship, established in 2020, supports students pursuing careers in environmental science or clean water management. Promoting the Legacy Award offers another meaningful way for the community to recognize the past while supporting advancement for the future. Established in 2004, the Walkerton Clean Water Centre works to enhance drinking water systems across Ontario and has trained over 80,000 individuals in clean water drinking management.

**Strategic Action Plan Checklist:**

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision                       | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community              | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life                               | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development                          | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance                          | Yes |

**Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Monies are included in the 2025 budget for the renewal of the Heritage Water Garden.

**Reviewed By:**



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**



Christine Brandt, Community Development Coordinator



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer