

## **JAMES STREET AND SURROUNDING AREA REVITALIZATION PLAN**

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**WHEREAS** the CTV W5 program “Steel Town Down” focused on the opioid crisis across Canada, and how it is affecting mid-sized cities like Sault Ste. Marie; and

**WHEREAS** the program featured Sault Ste. Marie’s Jamestown neighbourhood as one of the areas in Sault Ste. Marie where the use of opioids and other substances is prominent; and

**WHEREAS** the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre’s GIS department has been presenting data to stakeholders in the community for a number of years on the lack of park services and outdoor recreation activities in the Jamestown area and throughout the downtown core; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of activities in Sault Ste. Marie was cited as one of a wide number of factors that results in individuals turning to substance use, and ultimately substance abuse, in Sault Ste. Marie; and

**WHEREAS** the provision of park services and outdoor recreational activities is an area of direct municipal responsibility and an area where the City can play a leading role in combating part of this issue;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Community Development and Enterprise Services staff, in consultation with the Innovation Centre’s GIS department, be requested to bring forward to City Council forthwith a James Street and surrounding area revitalization plan, including, but not limited to:

- possible expansion of Anna Marinelli Park;
- conversion of unused green space in the area for recreational use; and
- an examination and assessment of James Street and a recommendation on how best to use James Street as a public space; and
- recommendations on the creation of a park or green space in the Downtown core.