Communication Update

To:	Mayor and Members of City Council
Date:	November 19, 2026
Subject/Report No.:	Temporary Closure of Dundurn Castle for Major Capital Renewal
Ward(s) Affected:	Ward 1
Submitted By:	Lisa Abbott Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development
Signature:	
Submitted By:	Debra Seabrook Manager, Museums and Heritage Planning and Economic Development
Signature:	

Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with notification that Dundurn Castle National Historic Site (610 York Blvd.) will be closed in **early 2027** to undergo a capital renewal project which includes the replacement of the Castle's end-of-life HVAC system. The Castle is anticipated to reopen in **spring 2028** with visitor services and outdoor programming being maintained during closure.

Background

The project was identified through previous capital budget processes. Pre-work for the castle has commenced and construction is scheduled to begin early 2027. The work will include replacement of the building's end-of-life HVAC system, tower roof and interior improvements. The project will proactively address critical infrastructure needs, improve environmental conditions, protect historic artifacts, and support the long-term preservation of one of Hamilton's most recognized heritage landmarks.

The Dundurn National Historic Site capital renewal project is part of a robust preventative maintenance program managed through the Tourism and Culture Division in Planning and Economic Development supporting site stewardship of 39 historic buildings which includes the Hamilton Civic Museum properties.

Details

The Castle at Dundurn National Historic Site will temporarily close in early 2027 to allow for the replacement and modernization of its HVAC system previously installed in 1967. This major capital renewal project also includes associated tower structural repairs and roof replacement work and delivering interior capital improvements. Due to the scope of the work, a full closure is required to ensure the safety of visitors, staff, contractors and the City's cultural and heritage assets. The closure period will also allow for interior capital improvements, such as painting of the floors and new carpet installations. The closure will enable all required work to be completed at one time, minimizing service disruptions.

This is the first closure of Dundurn Castle for a major capital improvement in more than 50 years and represents a significant investment in one of Hamilton’s most important heritage landmarks.

During the castle closure, visitors can still enjoy one of Hamilton’s most significant heritage sites by attending outdoor programming opportunities, and visiting the Hamilton Military Museum, Dundurn's Historic Kitchen Garden, Museum Gift Shop, and extensive parkland.

Next Steps

Should you require further information please contact Debra Seabrook, Manager, Museums and Heritage, Planning and Economic Development by email at Debra.Seabrook@hamilton.ca or by phone (905) 546-2424 ext. 2521.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

None