

## **REPORT**

**REPORT TO:** Chair and Members of the Community and Corporate Affairs Committee

**REPORT FROM:** Heather Kaufmann  
Recreation Supervisor - Community Development

**DATE:** August 9, 2019

**REPORT NO.:** RP-2019-0026

**RE:** Municipal Assistance Program Requests

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Report RP-2019-0026 dated August 9, 2019 regarding requests for municipal assistance be received;

AND FURTHER THAT funding in the amount of \$7,422.35 for the Halton Hills Chinese Association Moon Festival and Seniors Programs be derived from the Municipal Assistance program as the proposal meets the eligibility criteria;

AND FURTHER THAT funding in the amount of \$665.86 for Bruce Trail Conservancy Toronto Section Trail Hike event be derived from the Municipal Assistance program as the proposal meets the eligibility criteria;

AND FURTHER THAT funding in the amount of \$730.44 for Kinsmen Club of Georgetown Christmas Tree Sales be derived from the Municipal Assistance program as the proposal meets the eligibility criteria;

### **BACKGROUND:**

In September of 2008, Council adopted a revised Municipal Assistance Program Policy CL-2008-0001. The Policy reflects the values and benefits of the municipality working in collaboration with community partners to provide opportunities and services that promote and enhance a healthy, safe and active community. Seven categories of assistance have been established for the Community and Corporate Affairs Committee of Council to evaluate requests for municipal assistance from community members, organizations, and businesses based on the principles contained in the policy.

**COMMENTS:**

	Organization	Description Rationale	2017	2018	Amount Requested 2019	
1	Halton Hills Chinese Association – “Moon Festival”	Special Purposes, Projects, or Start-up Costs	N/A	N/A	<b>Requested:</b> \$1,855.59	<b>Eligible:</b> \$1,855.59
	<b>Total</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$1,855.59</b>	<b>\$1,855.59</b>
<b>Meets Criteria</b>		Yes, not for profit organizations are eligible for Municipal Assistance. This project engages the community and provides Halton Hills residents with a new cultural offering.				
<b>Comments</b>		<p>The Halton Hills Chinese Association is offering a Moon Festival; open to members of the public, on Friday, September 13, 2019 between 7:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre. This event will have free admission and will include a Chinese dance performance in the John Elliott Theatre, history of the Moon Festival video, an interactive Tai Chi class in the Helson Gallery, Chinese games and Moon cake sampling in the Studio Room.</p> <p>The Halton Hills Chinese Association also in addition to the Moon Festival is offering a weekly Sunday morning program at the Kinsman Hall at the Gellert Community Centre from September 22, 2019 through to March 15, 2020. The program will run from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. and is open to members of the public. The activities in this program will vary from week to week and offer Chinese cooking classes, dance classes and calligraphy.</p> <p>The total cost of the start-up project is \$7,422.35 Under the Special Projects, Purposes and Start-up Costs Category groups are eligible for up to 25% of the total project costs up to a maximum of \$5,000. Therefore if approved the Halton Hills Chinese Association would receive \$1,855.59.</p>				

	Organization	Description Rationale	2017	2018	Amount Requested 2019	
2	Bruce Trail Conservancy Toronto Section – “End to End Hike”	Waiver of Municipal Fees	N/A	N/A	Requested: \$665.86	Eligible: \$665.86
	<b>Total</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$665.86</b>	<b>\$665.86</b>
<b>Meets Criteria</b>		Yes, not for profit organizations are eligible for Municipal Assistance. This project engages the community and provides Halton Hills residents with an outdoor physical activity offering.				
<b>Comments</b>		<p>In connection with the Bruce Trail Conservancy’s objective of encouraging hiking and awareness various hikes are organized during the year. The entire trail is approximately 900 km long, extending from Queenston in the south to Tobermory in the north and is divided into 9 sections. Halton Hills is included in the Toronto Section which covers the trail from Milton (Highway 401) to the Cheltenham Badlands. In addition, there is a Halton Hills Chapter resident in Halton Hills which leads hikes and provides awareness to the general public at various events held in Halton Hills during the year.</p> <p>The Toronto Bruce Trail Club offers an End-to-End Hike to cover the Toronto Section, a current total of approximately 53 km. Each year they offer a two-day hike from Cheltenham to Limehouse and from Hilton Falls (Highway 401) to Limehouse. This year they are also offering a one-day hike for the entire 53 km. The one-day hike is offered on alternative years. This year’s event is on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.</p> <p>These hikes are offered to the general public on a first come, first served basis through the Toronto Club’s website for a nominal fee to defray the costs of buses, food, water and other associated costs. Each hiker passes through a check-point where they stop for refreshments and check-in with the volunteers.</p> <p>The waiver of fees being requested is for the rental and use of Limehouse Park.</p>				

	Organization	Description Rationale	2017	2018	Amount Requested 2019	
3	Kinsmen Club of Georgetown – “Christmas Tree Sales”	Waiver of Municipal Fees	N/A	N/A	Requested: \$730.44	Eligible: \$0.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$730.44</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Meets Criteria</b>	In the absence of the revised policy and given that all service club events have been approved in the past, staff recommend approving this request.
<b>Comments</b>	The Kinsmen Club of Georgetown sells Christmas trees as an annual fundraiser. Proceeds from the sales go to various community projects that benefit youth and families in the community. In 2018, the group was displaced from their location due to the construction of retail space. The group joined forces with Light up the Hills to use a parcel of Dominion Gardens Park for the sale of the Christmas trees. The group requires an ongoing rental of Dominion Gardens for the month of December. Typically the group collects approximately \$4,500.00 to contribute to community projects.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

- A.2** To attract and retain a suitable range of health and social services.
- A.3.** To provide a broad range of educational, recreational and cultural services that meet the needs of our residents.
- A.9** To support and enhance a variety of arts and cultural opportunities for the enjoyment of residents.
- A.10** To encourage and promote community volunteerism.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Municipal Assistance Program 2019 budget (Appendix A) does not contain funds to support all requests in this Report. All anticipated returning requests for 2019 have been received though new requests may be received throughout the year. The program is over budget by \$27,472.84 or 26%. Staff will report back in the fall of 2019 once the actuals are finalized to address any funding shortfall from the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund. In past years, the funding shortfall at year end has been lower due to reconciliation of applicants' costs being less than budgeted, or a reduction in submissions in all categories (e.g. special projects). However, due to increasing program requests and rates for Town services (waiver of fees), annual costs have risen and the budget has not been increased since 2013. The program has been over budget for the past 3 years, based on applications approved by Council.

## **CONSULTATION:**

Organizations requesting assistance were provided with information and support from Recreation and Parks Department staff. Where appropriate, staff in other Departments was consulted.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

No public engagement was required at this time.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the cultural vibrancy and social well-being pillar(s) of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is good.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Upon authorization, staff will notify all applicants in writing with the outcome of Committee's decision and assist applicants with the processing of their requests.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The Town of Halton Hills appreciates and recognizes the value and benefits of working in collaboration with agencies, governments, businesses, groups and individuals as demonstrated in the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Municipal Assistance Policy.

As a result, Council for the Town of Halton Hills established a municipal assistance program budget and criteria for determining eligibility for receiving municipal support. All proposals received are reviewed and evaluated for eligibility. Staff request Committee's evaluation of the Municipal Assistance Program proposals received for this review period.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Okimi".

Kevin Okimi, Manager of Parks and Open Space

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Harris".

Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Marshall".

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer