

DATE: April 17, 2023
REPORT NO: T-09-2023
SUBJECT: **2023 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants**
CONTACT: Donna DeFilippis, CPA, CA, Treasurer/Director of Finance

OVERVIEW:

- Community Sponsorship applications received total \$66,248.25, with a recommended funding totaling \$19,983.
- Grant applications from the Cemetery and Hall Boards who operate and maintain the Cemeteries and Community Halls were received in the amount of \$19,600 and a total grant allocation is recommended of \$16,000.
- The grants to the Cemetery and Hall Boards provide a base level of funding for items such as repairs, maintenance, equipment, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That, Recommendation Report T-09-2023 regarding “2023 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants”, dated April 17, 2023 be received; and,
- 2) That the Community Sponsorships and the Cemetery and Hall Board grants for 2023 as recommended in this report, be approved.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme #4

- Local Attractions: West Lincoln has amenities, programs and services that bring the community together to celebrate small-town and rural way of life.

BACKGROUND:

A copy of the Community Sponsorships Policy (POL-C-02-02) is attached to this report. Copies of each group’s grant request and their financial information has been provided to the Treasurer and is available should any Councillor have a question. A notice for local non-profit organizations was placed in the local newspaper on January 13, 2023 indicating that the Township was accepting applications under the Sponsorship Fund Program. The ad and information including the policy and application forms were also posted on the Township’s website. The deadline for submission was February 18, 2023.

As per the Township policy, a Community Group is defined as follows: “Community Groups shall mean service clubs, sports, cultural, recreational and youth groups and other similar types of associations recognized by the Council and who represent primarily the residents of West Lincoln and/or whose membership primarily constitutes residents of the Township of West Lincoln”.

CURRENT SITUATION:

As part of the 2023 Operating Budget, an amount of \$19,990 has been included as the allocation for Community Sponsorship (Sponsorships & Events) grants. The chart below outlines the applications received and the recommended grants:

| COMMUNITY GROUP | 2022 REQUEST | 2022 Grant | 2023 REQUEST | 2023 Recommended Grant |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$7,500 | \$5,000 |
| Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 (Smithville Branch) | \$12,000 | \$4,300 | \$10,000 | \$2,000 |
| West Niagara Agricultural Society | \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$5,000 | \$3,000 |
| West Lincoln Chamber of Commerce | \$3,000 | \$1,300 | \$5,000 | \$1,300 |
| Caistor Plowmens Association (Plowing Match) | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 |
| Foundation of Resources for Teens (FORT) | \$6,000 | \$5,000 | \$6,000 | \$5,000 |
| Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara | \$1,500 | \$0 | \$2,000 | \$0 |
| Niagara 4H Association | \$2,500 | \$1,200 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Smithville Garden Club | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| West Niagara Palliative Care Services Rose Cottage Visiting Volunteers | \$3,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Jeff McKillop Mental Health | \$2,000 | \$500 | \$2,000 | \$400 |
| Smithville Terry Fox Run | Use of Municipal Office, Green Space & Washroom | Use of Municipal Office, Green Space & Washroom | Waive Facility Rental Fee, Use of Community Green Space & Washrooms and Sign Advertising | Recommend approval, with cost of waiver estimated at \$83.00 |
| Community Living | \$0 | \$0 | \$8,048.25 | \$0 |
| Robert Land Academy | \$0 | \$0 | \$15,000 | \$0 |
| United Way Niagara – Niagara Community Garden Network | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,500 | \$1,000 |
| TOTAL | \$39,700 | \$19,500 | \$66,248.25 | \$19,983 |

Many of the applications received in 2023 are from groups that the Township has a long partnership with and have supported them on an annual basis, those groups are:
West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade, West Niagara Agricultural Society, West Lincoln

Chamber of Commerce, Caistor Plowmen's Association, FORT, Niagara 4H Association and the Smithville Terry Fox Run. All of these organizations provide community activities within the Township. Please note that the 2021 Financial Statements from FORT indicated that they received funding from Ontario Trillium and the United Way. The West Niagara Agricultural Society's 2022 Financial Statements indicated the receipt of a \$5,062 grant from OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs).

The request from the West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade has increased by \$4,500 over last year. This is in light of increased costs related to entertainment such as the marching bands and increased costs related to Health and Safety protocols, including the use of Niagara Regional Police. Staff have increased their grant allocation in 2023, however, it does not represent the full amount of their request.

The request from the Smithville Legion is to provide funding towards a kitchen upgrade. The Township has provided grants totalling \$11,600 to the Legion over the years 2019 to 2022. The allocation in 2023 has been reduced to accommodate a larger allocation to the West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade and to provide funding to the United Way for expansion of the Smithville Community Gardens.

The Smithville Garden Club has requested \$1,000 through the Township program. The application indicates that the funding would be applied to installing a butterfly garden at Hank MacDonald Park, in conjunction with Smithville Community Gardens. The Smithville Garden Club does receive an annual grant of \$1,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The Jeff McKillop Memorial Fund is a Smithville based organization whose mission statement is to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention through public education. Their purpose is to work towards ending the stigma associated with mental illness. They are requesting funding so that they can provide financial assistance to individuals seeking counselling that have no other means of attaining it. Staff have allocated \$400 to this group in 2023.

The request from the United Way Niagara-Niagara Community Garden Network is to provide funding towards the addition of 5 to 6 garden plots to accommodate demand at the community gardens at Hank McDonald Park. The request was also to cover the cost of bringing hydro to the existing Greenhouse. The recommended grant of \$1,000 will cover the cost of building the additional garden plots.

The following two groups have not been allocated grant funds: Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara and Community Living- Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln Foundation. These two organizations may serve clients in West Lincoln, however, they are not as West Lincoln focused as the other applicants. In addition, the request from Robert Land Academy of \$15,000 to fund scholarship funds to offset tuition fees for students has not been recommended. Robert Land Academy does not meet the definition of a Community Group- it is a private school.

In reviewing all of the applications, staff recognizes the importance of all community groups and events. The decision making process was based on focusing on West Lincoln based groups and activities.

2023 Hall Board Grant:

Annually, the Township requests grant applications from the Hall Boards who operate and maintain the Community Halls. The grants provide a base level of funding for maintenance/minor capital at these facilities. The Township owns all of the properties below, except for the Fulton Hall. In addition, Silverdale Hall is also owned by the Township and this grant is available to that Hall Board. However, an application has not been received from that Board since 2015.

| Hall Boards | 2022 REQUEST | 2022 Grant | 2023 REQUEST | 2023 Recommended Grant |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Wellandport Hall | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Fulton Hall | \$2,000 | \$1,600 | \$2,000 | \$1,650 |
| Caistor Community Centre | \$4,000 | \$2,600 | \$3,000 | \$2,650 |
| TOTAL | \$7,000 | \$5,200 | \$6,000 | \$5,300 |

2023 Cemetery Board Grants:

The Township currently maintains 21 cemeteries. In addition, there are six active cemeteries which are maintained by other cemetery boards. In 2022, Council approved \$10,300 in grants to these boards. The funds were allocated to general operations and various capital improvements such as headstone repairs and equipment purchases. The grant allocation is based on a calculation of \$666/per acre. This was determined in 2009 by the Municipal Cemetery Board.

At the February 24, 2023 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting discussion regarding the 2023 Draft Operating and Capital Budget included an item regarding the annual grants that are provided to cemeteries. In particular, Councillor Rehner inquired regarding a request from Kimbo Cemetery for a 2023 grant of \$2,800. Staff is recommending that a review be taken of the Cemetery Grant calculation and a report be presented to Council prior to the approval of the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget.

The requests have been reviewed and the charts below show the previous year's grant, the 2023 request and the proposed 2023 recommended grant:

| Cemetery | 2022 REQUEST | 2022 Grant | 2023 REQUEST | 2023 Recommended Grant |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Caistorville United Church | \$4,500 | \$4,000 | \$4,500 | \$4,100 |
| St. Luke's Anglican | \$1,400 | \$1,200 | \$1,400 | \$1,300 |
| Kimbo Free Methodist | \$1,000 | \$900 | \$2,800 | \$1,000 |
| Smithville United Church | \$3,000 | \$2,300 | \$3,000 | \$2,400 |
| Elcho United Church | \$ 500 | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| St. Martin's Catholic Church | \$1,400 | \$1,400 | \$1,400 | \$1,400 |
| TOTAL | \$11,800 | \$10,300 | \$13,600 | \$10,700 |

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

All of the funding amounts are within the 2023 approved budget.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

This report was reviewed by the CAO.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that Council approve the Community Sponsorship and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants as outlined in this report.

Prepared & Submitted by:



Donna DeFilippis, CPA, CA
Treasurer/Director of Finance

Approved by:



Bev Hendry
CAO