

DATE: April 15, 2024
REPORT NO: T-07-2024
SUBJECT: **2024 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants**
CONTACT: Katelyn Repovs, CPA, CA Acting Director of Finance

OVERVIEW:

- Community Sponsorship applications received by the Township totaled \$27,464, with a recommended funding of \$14,400.
- Grant applications from the Cemetery and Hall Boards who operate and maintain the Cemeteries and Community Halls, respectively, were received and a total grant allocation is recommended of \$21,390.
- The grants to the Cemetery and Hall Boards provide a base level of funding for items such as repairs, maintenance, and equipment.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That report T-07-2024 titled “2024 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants”, dated April 15, 2024 be received; and
- 2) That the Community Sponsorships and the Cemetery and Hall Board grants for 2024 as recommended in report T-07-2024 titled “2024 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants”, dated April 15, 2024, be approved.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Theme #1: Build a safe, connected, caring and active community.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Township accepts applications from local non-profit organizations for consideration under its Corporate Sponsorship Fund program. A notice was placed in the newspaper on January 8, 2024. Information on this program was also posted on the Township’s website. The deadline for submission was March 1, 2024. Each group’s application and their financial information is available should a Councillor have a question.

The Community Sponsorships Policy (POL-C-02-02) is attached to this report. As per the Policy, a Community Group is defined as follows: “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”.

The Policy notes, under Eligibility Criteria, that “Community Groups already receiving funding assistance from other levels of government may not receive assistance from the Township, dependent upon the need of the Group”. Therefore, Staff has provided Council with this information, where applicable, for their consideration.

CURRENT SITUATION:

2024 Community Group Grants:

As part of the 2024 Operating Budget, an amount of \$15,300 has been included as the allocation for Community Sponsorship grants. The chart below outlines the applications received and the recommended grants. The community group grant recommendation totals \$14,400, which is \$900 lower than the allotted budget.

COMMUNITY GROUP	2023 REQUEST	2023 Grant	2024 REQUEST	2024 Grant - Recommended
West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 (Smithville Branch)	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$2,000
West Niagara Agricultural Society	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
West Lincoln Chamber of Commerce	\$5,000	\$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	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Niagara 4H Association	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,764	\$1,500
Smithville Garden Club	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Jeff McKillop Mental Health	\$2,000	\$400	\$1,000	\$400
Smithville Terry Fox Run	Waive Facility Rental Fee, Use of Community Green Space & Washrooms and Sign Advertising	Recommend approval, with cost of waiver estimated at \$83.00	Use of Community Green Space, Parking & Washrooms	Recommend approval of request
Community Living	\$8,048.25	\$0	\$0	\$0
Robert Land Academy	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
United Way Niagara – Niagara Community Garden Network	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$66,248.25	\$19,983	\$27,464	\$14,400

All of the applications received in 2024 are from groups that the Township has a long partnership with and have supported them on an annual basis. Those organizations provide community activities within the Township. 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. It is important to note that there is limited funding available and there is no guarantee that all applications will be approved or in the full requested amount.

There are a few Community Groups that received funding from other levels of government:

- FORT received funding of \$43,400 from Ontario Trillium Foundation, along with a \$14,521 Canada Summer Jobs grant.
- West Niagara Agricultural Society received a \$5,000 grant from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, along with a \$9,391 Canada Summer Jobs grant.
- Jeff McKillop Mental Health received funding of \$2,181 from the Town of Grimsby.
- The Smithville Garden Club received an annual grant of \$1,000 from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The grant funding for the West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade has been eliminated, as the Township is now covering all costs of the Parade event. This is in response to staff report REC-05-2023 “Recreation Staffing and Resources Recommendation for Upcoming Programming and Events”, presented at the September 18, 2023 Public Works & Recreation Committee meeting, and approval of the 2024 budget.

2024 Hall Board Grants:

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. Staff want to highlight that Silverdale Hall has submitted an application this year; prior to this, this group not submitted an application since 2015.

As part of the 2024 Operating Budget, an amount of \$5,430 has been included as the allocation for Hall Board grants. The chart below outlines the applications received and the recommended grants. While the total hall board grant recommendation exceeds the allotted budget by \$370, staff will utilize the community group grant savings noted above to offset this.

Hall Boards	2023 REQUEST	2023 Grant	2024 REQUEST	2024 Grant - Recommended
Wellandport Hall	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Fulton Hall	\$2,000	\$1,650	\$2,000	\$1,650
Caistor Community Centre	\$3,000	\$2,650	\$3,000	\$2,650
Silverdale Hall	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
TOTAL	\$6,000	\$5,300	\$6,500	\$5,800

2024 Cemetery Board Grants:

The Township currently maintains 21 cemeteries. In addition, there are 6 active

cemeteries, which are maintained by other cemetery boards. With the Township’s funding, the Cemetery Boards allocate the funds to general operations and various capital improvements, such as headstone repairs and equipment purchases.

At the September 18, 2023 Administration Committee Meeting, Council approved staff report T-24-2023, Grants to Cemetery Boards, which increased the annual cemetery grant allocation to \$1,719 per acre (from a historical allocation of \$666 per acre). This revised amount is more reflective of the current cost of operating and maintaining a cemetery. The practice of administrating a grant on a per acre basis is an objective method of allocating the funds.

Therefore, as part of the 2024 Operating Budget, an amount of \$15,600 was included as the allocation for Cemetery Board grants. The chart below outlines the applications received and the recommended grants. The cemetery board grant recommendation totals \$15,590, which falls within the allotted budget.

Cemetery	2023 REQUEST	2023 Grant	2024 REQUEST	2024 Grant - Recommended
Caistorville United Church	\$4,500	\$4,100	\$4,500	\$5,140
St. Luke’s Anglican	\$1,400	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,520
Kimbo Free Methodist	\$2,800	\$1,000	\$2,800	\$1,570
Smithville United Church	\$3,000	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$4,100
Elcho United Church	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$850
St. Martin’s Catholic Church	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$2,410
TOTAL	\$13,600	\$10,700	\$13,500	\$15,590

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total of the funding amounts is within the 2024 approved operating budget.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

The Finance Department would like to recognize the Clerk Department’s significant contribution to the success of the Township’s Corporate Sponsorship Fund program.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that Council approve the 2024 Community Sponsorship and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants as outlined in this report.

Attachment : Schedule A - Community Sponsorships Policy (POL-C-02-02)

Prepared & Submitted by:

Katelyn Repovs

**Katelyn Repovs, CPA, CA
Acting Director of Finance**

Reviewed & Approved by:

Donna DeFilippis

**Donna DeFilippis, CPA, CA
Interim CAO/Treasurer**