

DATE: June 16, 2025

REPORT NO: CS-06-2025

SUBJECT: **2025 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants**

CONTACT: Cynthia Summers, Director of Community and Protective Services

OVERVIEW:

- Community Sponsorship applications received by the Township totaled \$22,100, with a recommended funding of \$15,610.
- 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 \$21,450.
- 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, Recommendation Report CS-06-2025 titled “2025 Community Sponsorships and Cemetery and Hall Board Grants”, dated be received; and
- 2) That, the Community Sponsorships and the Cemetery and Hall Board grants for 2025 as recommended 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. Information on this program was posted on the Township’s website and reminder letters sent to past applicants. The deadline for submission was April 16, 2025. 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:

2025 Community Group Grants:

As part of the 2025 Operating Budget, an amount of \$15,610 has been included as the allocation for Community Sponsorship grants. The chart below outlines the applications received and the recommended grants.

COMMUNITY GROUP	2024 REQUEST	2024 Grant	2025 REQUEST	2025 Grant - Recommended
West Lincoln Santa Claus Parade	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 (Smithville Branch)	\$7,500	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$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	\$1,500
Caistor Plowmens Association (Plowing Match)	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Foundation of Resources for Teens (FORT)	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000
Niagara 4H Association	\$1,764	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,500
Smithville Garden Club	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
Jeff McKillop Mental Health	\$1,000	\$400	\$400	\$410
Smithville Terry Fox Run	Use of Community Green Space, Parking & Washrooms	Recommend approval of request	Use of Community Green Space, Parking & Washrooms	Recommend approval of request
Junior Achievement South Western Ontario	n/a	n/a	\$2,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$27,464	\$14,400	\$22,100	\$15,610

All of the applications received in 2025 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.

Additionally, this year we received a new application from “Junior Achievement South Western Ontario” requesting funding for two (2) Junior Achievement learning experiences to approximately 50 students in West Lincoln. These are hand on experiences on financial health, work readiness and entrepreneurship. All these experiences are aligned with the Ministry of Education curriculum and delivered at no cost to schools. Junior Achievement relies on the financial support of donations, corporations and granting foundations.

2025 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.

As part of the 2025 Operating Budget, an amount of \$5,540 has been included as the allocation for Hall Board grants. The chart below outlines the applications received and the recommended grants.

Hall Boards	2024 REQUEST	2024 Grant	2025 REQUEST	2025 Grant - Recommended
Wellandport Hall	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Fulton Hall	\$2,000	\$1,650	\$2,000	\$1,540
Caistor Community Centre	\$3,000	\$2,650	\$3,000	\$2,500
Silverdale Hall	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
TOTAL	\$6,500	\$5,800	\$6,500	\$5,540

2025 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 administering a grant on a per acre basis is an objective method of allocating the funds.

Therefore, as part of the 2025 Operating Budget, an amount of \$15,910 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 \$15,910, which falls within the allotted budget.

Cemetery	2024 REQUEST	2024 Grant	2025 REQUEST	2025 Grant - Recommended
Caistorville United Church	\$4,500	\$5,140	\$5,000	\$5,140
St. Luke's Anglican	\$1,300	\$1,520	\$1,500	\$1,520
Kimbo Free Methodist	\$2,800	\$1,570	\$2,800	\$1,890
Smithville United Church	\$3,000	\$4,100	\$5,000	\$4,100
Elcho United Church	\$500	\$850	\$500	\$850
St. Martin's Catholic Church	\$1,400	\$2,410	\$2,400	\$2,410
TOTAL	\$13,500	\$15,590	17,200	\$15,910

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total of the funding amounts is within the 2025 approved operating budget.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

This report was reviewed by Corporate Services, Legal and Legislative Services and Community and Protective Services.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that Council approve the 2025 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:

Reviewed & Approved by:

Cynthia Summers
Director, Community/Protective Services

Truper McBride, CAO