

**TOWN OF MINTO****DATE:** May 26, 2016**REPORT TO:** Mayor and Council**FROM:** Bill White, CAO/Clerk**SUBJECT:** Intake Two Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program

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**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

- 5.1 Actively seek out Federal and Provincial grants and revenue-sharing programs, and promote sustainable and equitable funding programs that require a minimal amount of reporting and promote local autonomy.
- 5.4 Support and encourage volunteer fund-raising where local interest groups contribute to value added Town facilities and services, and facilitate activities that help such groups raise funds to support community services.
- 7.2 Promote and pursue in partnership with trail groups and landowners a trail link from Palmerston to Harriston to Clifford, and develop additional trails, paths and walking tours throughout each area to link parks, natural and historic areas.

**BACKGROUND:**

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the Federal Government announced the second intake of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The Town's 2015 application to complete the Trail Link from Palmerston to Harriston to Clifford was denied. Applications for the second allocation of \$44.4 million are due June 24.

The program theme is "Giving Back to Canada" supporting rehabilitation, renovation and expansion of existing community centers, recreation facilities, local arenas, cultural centers and other community infrastructure.

An on-line guide and application is available for the grant program which covers up to 50% of project costs incurred between April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The following project categories were identified for municipalities:

- community centres, cultural centres and museums
- parks, recreational trails, including fitness trails, bike paths and other types of trails
- libraries, recreational facilities including local arenas, gymnasiums, swimming pools, sports fields, tennis, basketball, volleyball or other sport-specific courts, golf courses, ski hills or other types of recreational facilities
- tourism facilities, docks; cenotaphs
- other existing community infrastructure assets for public benefit that have local community impact such as local roads, drinking water treatment and distribution systems, connectivity and broadband, local airports, solid waste management and wastewater infrastructure

**COMMENTS:**

It is not clear why the Sesquicentennial Trail Link was not approved except the criteria allow for "extending a trail or bike path by no more than 50 percent of its existing length". To

meet these criteria the length of the Town trail was calculated to include side trails in Clifford and Harriston. Also land acquisition created challenges to meet the prescribed time frame although alternate routes were shown in the submission.

Projects up to \$1 million can be submitted, but the Town has strategically selected projects in the \$100,000 range to increase chances of approval with 444 municipalities in Ontario all seeking funding. Projects considered in 2012 under a similar Community Investment Fund were Clifford Soccer & Ballfield relocation (approved), Harriston Town Hall Theatre Accessibility (now complete), Harriston Train Station (now completed), 16<sup>th</sup> Line Culvert (completed under previous grant), and Palmerston Lions Park (mainly complete).

In 2015 Department presented options such as the Harriston Kinsmen Pool Repair and Upgrade (Underground infrastructure, walls, lining, water umbrella \$250,000), Palmerston Railway Heritage Museum Upgrades (Accessibility, access, displays, storage \$ 75,000), Clifford Main Street sanitary sewer, water, and roadway ( \$1,700,000) and the Trail System Link Palmerston, Harriston, Clifford (+8km of trail \$100,000). T

The Trail Link was not successful and it is not recommended the Town re-apply. A compromise route using roadways is being developed into Harriston. More work is needed on the Harriston Clifford to link. Clifford Main Street is funded for 2017 and 2018 under the Connecting Link Program. The Palmerston Railway Heritage Museum Upgrades have begun in partnership with the County and may be in part funded by Town budgeted IPM funds. The Harriston Kinsmen Pool is still a pending project.

The following is a list of some potential projects:

1. Harriston Kinsmen Pool Repair and Upgrade (underground infrastructure, walls, lining, water umbrella)	\$250,000
2. Harriston Trailer Park Re-design and Upgrade (landscape plan, naturalization; clean up, planting, etc.)	\$150,000
3. Palmerston Arena Dressing Room Repairs/Expansion (dressing room addition, re-design and re-furbish existing)	\$600,000
4. Palmerston Rail Bridge Lighting (various decorative lighting options being considered)	\$145,000
5. Clifford Ann Street Trail Link (regrading, fencing, landscaping, naturalization)	\$100,000
6. Clifford Old Rotary Park Refurbishment (upgrades, tree planting, )	\$100,000

All the projects have significant merit, but the most overall benefit might be from an application on the Harriston Kinsmen Pool upgrades which include some work on the reclaimed trailer park. The Palmerston Rail Bridge lighting is an attractive alternative as is the Ann Street trail upgrades which will help finish off a developing residential area.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Local infrastructure projects are eligible for up to a minimum of 50% of funding with priority given to projects leveraging 66.6% or more from other sources. This is almost the exact same criteria for the 2012 Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund which provided

\$49.6 million over two years when the Town received \$54,000 of a \$165,000 project to assist with improvements to John Hobelmann Rotary Park in Clifford.

The Town should always take the opportunity to apply for these grant programs when available. Council is reminded however that in 2016 to support just the approved grant programs almost \$5 million was needed as per chart below:

2016 tax	\$ 400,000
Connecting Link	\$ 400,000 (90% funding)
OCIF Merit	\$1,600,000 (Jane & Inkerman)
OCIF Formula	\$ 90,000
SCF	<u>\$2,500,000 (Brunswick St.)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,990,000</b>

To meet those obligations the Town is borrowing in 2016, and would need to do the same in future years if there is continued success in these programs. The above SCF amount is not yet funded as its approval is pending. If the Town continues to be successful with these grant programs there will be more pressure on the tax rate to match funding obligations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receives the C.A.O. Clerk's report dated May 26, 2016 regarding Intake Two of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program and provides direction to staff to apply for a project outlined in the report acceptable to the majority of Council, and that the appropriate resolution be prepared as required by the program guidelines.

Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk