



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: July 26, 2016

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk, Senior Managers

SUBJECT: Intake Ontario 150: Community Celebration Program,
Community Capital Program, Partnership Program

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 July 1st the Province announced Ontario150 Community programs in the following areas:

- 1. Community Celebration Program (application deadline September 2)
- 2. Community Capital Program (application deadline September 14)
- 3. Partnership Program (application deadline September 30)

Celebration (Sept. 2)

This program encourages celebrations of 150th anniversaries of Ontario and Canada. Funding is available to encourage celebrations, commemorate success/highlighting talent, support equal opportunity, and empower people and communities. Diversity, accessibility and equality are key components of the program which may focus on indigenous people, youth, francophone, multicultural, older adults and seniors, persons with disabilities and LGBTQ communities.

Events could include a New Year's celebration kicking off 150, community museum facilities that encourage understanding of life in 1867, local food, public art, sporting events, outdoor learning and youth empowerment events.

Events must occur between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. The maximum level of funding for Minto is \$70,000 which may be up to 75% of eligible costs.

Capital (Sept. 14)

This grant program goes toward repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing infrastructure to better address the diverse needs of Ontario communities while fostering economic growth. The program is administered by the Trillium Foundation and must be finished by March 31, 2018. Project deadline is September 14, 2016.

Organizations with operating budgets over \$1 million may qualify for up to 50% funding. Projects must extend the life and maximize use of community facilities, increase access to facilities and programs, improve health and safety, accessibility and environmental standards, and increase capacity to support economic, physical and social well-being.

Eligible projects include repair, renovation or retrofitting of public meeting places and spaces, such as welcome centres, playgrounds, sport facilities, arts centres, theatres and museums, heritage sites, cenotaphs, elderly person and youth centres and libraries. Municipalities are encouraged to combine funding with other Federal Funds

Partnership (Sept. 20)

This grant program focuses entirely on engaging and empowering youth through cultural expression, diversity and inclusion, environmental stewardship, youth entrepreneurship, health living and civic engagement. Eligible projects may receive up to \$100,000 funding for up to 75% of total project cost.

COMMENTS:

It is recommended Council authorize applications in all three program areas to explore opportunities that:

1. Enhance existing programming with a view to celebrating the uniqueness of 150; or
2. Establish a sustainable legacy.

The Town might consider contract employment for one staff during 2017 to support these grant applications.

Celebration (Sept. 2)

The following is one program to enhance existing cultural and sport programming:

Event	Type	Target
a) Family New Year's Eve Celebration	New	Youth
b) Minto Farmer's Market	Enhanced	Local Food
c) Community Gardens Palmerston- Kitchen	New/Enhanced	Local Food
d) MintoFire Touch a Truck 5 th Anniversary	Enhanced	Youth
e) Canada Day 150 Fireworks	Enhanced	Youth to Seniors
f) Concert in the Park Sizzling, Sundays at Six	Enhanced	Youth to Seniors
g) Palmerston Party in the Park	Enhanced	Youth to Seniors
h) Harriston Diggin' It Street Festival	Enhanced	Youth to Seniors
i) Clifford Homecoming	Enhanced	Celebration
j) Culture Days	Enhanced	Celebration
k) Norgan Theatre Film Fest (top 5 Cdn Films)	Enhanced	Multi-cultural

Prior to the September 2 deadline staff will develop a program with community partners to augment and support a comprehensive Ontario 150 celebration program involving many of the initiatives outlined above. The Minto Arts Council, Farmer's Markets, Minto Fire, Crossroads Life Church, Palmerston Lion's, Palmerston Imperials Fastball, Clifford Homecoming, Norgan Board and the Cultural Roundtable are some of the partner organizations that would benefit from this funding.

Capital (Sept. 14)

This grant applies to multicultural centres, playgrounds, sport facilities, cenotaphs, elderly centres and other types of public meeting places and spaces. Projects up to \$500,000 can

be submitted, but the Town has strategically selected projects in a lower range to increase chances of approval. With 444 municipalities in Ontario vying for \$25 million in funding projects needed less than \$60,000 funding are more likely to be considered.

One of the challenges for this type of program is the Town has renovated many of its smaller facilities on its own or through partnerships with other organizations. The Norgan Theatre and the Town Office could both benefit from accessibility improvements within a budget of less than \$100,000.

For the Canada 150 intake two an application was submitted for the Harriston Pool and Trailer Park repair and upgrade. A decision is pending on that grant request. Ontario 150 is not as broad as the federal Canada 150 program.

The following is a list of some potential projects:

Project	Grant Amount
1. Harriston Arena Accessibility (activated doors, ramp, landscape, lobby)	\$50,000
2. Palmerston Rail Bridge Lighting (decorative lighting options being considered)	\$72,500
3. Town Office Accessibility (replace ramp, landscape, lobby)	\$50,000
4. Clifford Arena Accessibility (activated doors, ramp, landscape, lobby)	\$50,000
5. Palmerston Railway Museum (activated doors, washroom)	\$20,000



Partnership (Sept. 20)

The Town has been pursuing a Youth Council through Recreation Services and Business and Economic Development, and the Local Youth Resiliency worker. The partnership funding may be helpful in pulling these groups together into a sustainable program. It is proposed staff work with community groups to bring forward a cohesive grant application for partnership funding to establish the Minto Youth Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Project finding in Celebration (50%) Capital (50%) and Partnership (75%) varies depending on the program. The projects put forward in the Capital stream should be smaller in scope because they must be finished before March 31, 2018 and the \$25 million funding for the entire project will likely result in many smaller awards.

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>
Total	\$4,990,000

In addition to these projects the Canada 150 and Connecting Link Intake two are potential program funding requirements. 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 and Senior Manager's report dated July 26, 2016 regarding Intake Ontario 150: Community Celebration Program, Community Capital Program, Partnership 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

Gordon Duff Treasurer

Brian Hansen Public Works Director

Matt Lubbers Recreation Services

Al Carr Facilities

Terry Kuipers Chief Building Official

Belinda Wick Graham Business & Economic Mgr.

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