



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Chief Administrative Officer

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Margaret Misek-Evans, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date to Council:** January 12, 2021

**Report Number:** CAO-2021-02

**Subject:** Mayor's Taskforce on 100th Anniversary of Town and Fire Service

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report CAO-2021-02, Mayor's Taskforce on 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Town and Fire Service, **be received;**

**And that** Administration **be authorized** to proceed with striking the Mayor's Task Force, generally composed of members set out in Report CAO-2021-02, to plan a celebration event for the Spring of 2022;

**And further that** Administration **be authorized** to pursue community sponsors and apply for available senior government funding opportunities to assist with offsetting the costs of the event;

**And furthermore that** Administration **report back** to Council to seek approval of the final event plan prior to implementation.

### Background

In 2021, the Town of Tecumseh, as it was originally constituted, will mark its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While it was a smaller entity for many decades, it grew in size with the most notable change happening 20 years ago with the amalgamation of Tecumseh, Sandwich South and St. Clair Beach.

The area that became the Town of Tecumseh was originally named Ryegate and postal records indicate this name was held from 1870 to 1876. It was part of the Township of

Sandwich East. The name 'Tecumseh' is found in many church and rail records dating back to this time. In 1876 the post office was moved to the north-east corner of Tecumseh and Lesperance Roads with the postal station renamed Tecumseh. It was opposite, on the diagonal, to St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, which was established in 1859 and regarded as the cornerstone of the community.

By 1920 the population in Tecumseh had increased to 978 residents and a group of locals, unsatisfied with the services provided by the Township of Sandwich East, petitioned to the Ontario legislature to separate. Tecumseh was incorporated as the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh in 1921 with Royal Assent given on April 8, 1921. The first meeting of Town Council was held May 17, 1921 and the first municipal election was held in 1922.

Police and Fire Services were established in 1921 as well, with Mr. Jerry Desjardins appointed as the first Police Chief in 1921 and then appointed also as Fire Chief in 1922, a position he would hold until 1951. The original Fire Service was volunteer, consisting of six volunteer fire fighters. Records show that in 1926, the Town paid each volunteer \$20 per year plus \$3 for each fire attended. The first fire truck was purchased in 1922, with a second purchased in 1941 for \$4,000. The Tecumseh Fire Service operated independently until 1999 when it was amalgamated with the Sandwich South Fire Service.

The last anniversary celebrated by the Town was in the summer of 1971 when the Town's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held. Residents from Tecumseh, Michigan came to join the festivities as well.

## Comments

It is difficult to imagine holding a celebration at a time when we are embroiled in the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and almost all activities are curtailed. However, with the planned roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, it is hopeful that we will be in a position to host a celebration of this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Spring of 2022. Planning for such an event is in itself a hopeful exercise and gives the community something to look forward to, beyond the current, arduous situation.

In these initial stages of event planning, Administration seeks Council's direction to proceed, as well as members' feedback on preliminary ideas for an event and striking a task force.

The timing of a celebration day with events is proposed to be in Spring of 2022, as we move into a post-pandemic period when in-person events are considered to be safe once again. Preliminary thoughts on potential events for the day of celebration include:

- Open house for the newly renovated Town Hall, with official ribbon-cutting and public tours;
- Outdoor Town equipment display, staffed to provide information on use (may include emergency services partners, OPP and W-E EMS)
- Open houses for both Fire Stations, with staffed outdoor equipment display and public tours;

- A walking/driving tour of the Town that can be downloaded from the website illustrating and providing commentary of the historical areas of Town;
- Coordination of events with community historical organizations;
- Outdoor barbeque in conjunction with community sponsors, including short program with dignitaries (could be held in two locations at different times of day);
- Fireworks to end the evening, in conjunction with community sponsors.

Monitoring of the pandemic, associated restrictions and public health guidance will remain at the forefront of planning activities.

To assist with planning the celebration day, the Mayor has requested that a Mayor's Task Force be formed. The recommended Task Force configuration is as follows:

- Council representative, Councillor Rico Toniai
- CAO Marg Misek-Evans
- Fire Chief Wade Bondy
- Lesley Reeves, Manager of Strategic Initiatives
- Representatives of community historical organizations.

Should Council give favourable consideration to this Task Force configuration, correspondence from Mayor McNamara inviting participation from community organizations will be prepared.

Other Town staff may be called upon to assist with event planning, as needed, and the Senior Management Team will be consulted regularly for their input and logistical assistance.

## **Consultations**

Fire & Emergency Services  
Financial Services

## **Financial Implications**

There is no specific budget allocation for this event as of yet. Once the Task Force is established and ideas regarding the nature of the celebration are more clearly formed, a budget will be developed. Cost-saving measures will be incorporated into the event budget, including use of Town staff, facilities and equipment, volunteer assistance through community groups and simple meal choices, such as barbequed hamburgers and sausage. Efforts will be made to procure local products where possible.

As indicated in the list above and with Council's consent and assistance, we will also invite community sponsors to assist with putting on the outdoor barbeque and fireworks, should

these activities be confirmed as part of the event. Businesses and service clubs may be approached for donations and in-kind contributions to assist with such activities.

With Council's authorization, Administration will also research and apply for any available funding opportunities from the provincial and/or federal governments to assist with event costs.

Prior to commencing with final event activities and plans, a forthcoming report will provide the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force, together with a budget indicating projected costs and sources of funds.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐ Social Media ☐ News Release ☐ Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed by:

Wade Bondy  
Director Fire Services & Fire Chief, C.E.M.C.

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm  
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
None	