



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Anthony, Director Community & Recreation Services

Date to Council: April 26, 2022

Report Number: CRS-2022-07

Subject: Optimist Club's Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks 2022

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the Town of Tecumseh **pay** the cost for enhanced OPP service during the 43rd annual Victoria Day Fireworks event to be held on May 21 or 22, 2022, estimated to be in the order of \$1,500.00 and

And that this cost **be funded from** the Police Contracts budget.

Background

This year marks the 43rd annual Victoria Day Fireworks event hosted by the Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach (Optimist Club). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021. This event is free to the community and generates little to no revenue for the Optimist Club. Historically, in an effort to help minimize costs to host this community event, the Town has assisted the Optimist Club by waiving user fees.

During and immediately following the 2019 event, there were issues associated with aggressive behaviour, with some people experiencing physical assault as well as bullying and abusive language. Attendance by youth, without their parents, was common at the event. Post event media coverage and community member conversations with the OPP further highlighted public safety concerns around the event.

Following the 2019 event, the Optimist Club met with Town Administration and the Tecumseh OPP to discuss ways to improve the event's overall safety and security. Because of these discussions, the Optimist Club plans to coordinate additional volunteers from the Tecumseh Community Policing Committee and Crime Stoppers to assist with supervision at the event.

Additionally, the Optimist Club in partnership with the Tecumseh Community Policing Committee coordinated a public information session - a 'Community Conversation' - on March 4, 2020, with the goal to discuss ways for the community to establish expectations at community events such as this.

Comments

The annual Victoria Day Fireworks event is scheduled on Saturday, May 21, 2022 with a rain date scheduled for Sunday, May 22, 2022.

The Optimist Club has been meeting with Administration and the Tecumseh OPP to review the plans for the 2022 event. The Optimist Club is preparing a Safety Plan that includes identified safety / security zones that will be monitored by event volunteers wearing safety vests to clearly identify them to the event attendees. Event volunteers will be equipped with radios to allow them to communicate with the lead event organizers as well as with onsite Tecumseh OPP officers. The Tecumseh OPP will be stationed throughout the area to monitor key areas that have experienced problems or issues in previous years. The Optimist Club in consultation with the Tecumseh OPP plans to increase its marketing campaign to encourage families to attend the event together.

Administration has confirmed that the proposed Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks display event is in accordance with the Outdoor Special Events Policy #85.

The Optimist Club will once again engage the services of K & H Distributing (K & H). In accordance with By-law Number 2013-50, a by-law to regulate the sale and use of fireworks, K & H will be required to submit a letter to the Fire Department confirming the fireworks display along with applicable insurance documentation. Any persons involved in the transportation and/or discharge of the display's materials must be licensed by the Explosive Division, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, and all regulations set out by the agency must be strictly adhered to.

Tecumseh Fire and Emergency Services will attend at the event as part of its Public Education campaign.

Consultations

Community Safety
Financial Services

Tecumseh OPP
Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach

Financial Implications

Traditionally, to assist the Optimist Club with the annual fireworks event, Council has waived the user fees associated with the community centre, park rental, and fireworks permit.

The fees associated with the enhanced / additional OPP paid duty officers estimated at \$1,500.00 is recommended to be covered by the Town. It is intended that the source of funds will be from the Town's Police Contracts budget, which has contingency for such events.

Tecumseh Fire and Emergency Services plan to attend the event as part of its Public Education campaign and as such, no additional costs will be incurred.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" 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 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:

Brett Palmer
Senior Manager Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

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

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None