



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Corporate Services & Clerk

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Christina Hebert, Manager Committee & Community Services

Date to Council: September 11, 2018

Report Number: CS-2018-34

Subject: 2018 – 2019 Snow and Leaf Angels Program

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the Snow & Leaf Angels Program (Program) **continue** for the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter season;

And that Administration work with area service groups, schools, volunteer organizations and the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to recruit volunteers (Snow & Leaf Angels);

And further that Volunteer incentives **be funded** from Administration (the expense of promotional items);

And furthermore that a notice for the Program **be posted** on the Town's website, Tecumseh App and Social Media pages [Facebook and Twitter], advertised in the local media and displayed on the Town's LED signs.

Background

In accordance with the Town's By-law No. 2003-100 (Snow Removal By-law), property owners or occupants of the Town of Tecumseh (Town) are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property throughout certain areas of the Town. Residential (single and multiple family buildings) occupants or owners are required to do so within twelve (12) hours of snowfall, while occupants or owners of commercial property must do so within four (4) hours following the snow fall or formation of ice upon the said sidewalks during daylight hours; or four (4) hours following sunrise in the case of snow falling or ice forming overnight.

The Town has approximately 90 km of pathways and sidewalks, 35 km of which are cleared by the Public Works & Environmental Services Department, with some assistance by the Parks & Recreation Department. Snow and ice removal for the remaining 55 km of sidewalk space is therefore the responsibility of the abutting property owners or occupants, as set out in the Snow Removal By-law.

Snow on sidewalks is a potential hazard to those with limited mobility. It also makes it difficult, if not impossible, for those delivering services to the community to do their job, such as people who deliver mail, read water/gas meters, provide delivery services, EMS, OPP and Fire. Some residents, such as seniors and persons with disabilities, may find it difficult or be unable to clear their sidewalks of snow and ice.

Endeavouring to provide innovative ways to offer assistance to seniors and persons who may have a physical disability, and to ensure a safer and more accessible community environment, a pilot *Snow Angels Volunteer Snow Removal Program* was recommended to Council at the Regular Meeting of Council on November 25, 2014.

The 2014-2015 Program was implemented to offer assistance to senior residents and persons with physical disabilities in clearing the snow from the municipal sidewalk fronting their residence, and thus minimizing the likelihood of fining them for failure to comply with the Snow Removal By-law.

During the 2015-2016 season, the Program was expanded to include “Leaf Angels”. The goal of adding Leaf Angels was to assist Town residents who are 65 or older or who have a physical disability with the removal of leaves from the municipal sidewalk fronting their residence.

Since inception in 2014, the Program has continued to expand in the number of residents desirous of the service and volunteers wanting to give back to the community. The increased use of social media and the assistance of local volunteer organizations, service groups, the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) and YAC has aided in increased awareness of the Program.

A summary of the Program growth is depicted below:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Residents	6	5	15	17
Volunteers	1	5	8	8
Total	7	10	23	25

Over the years, the Program has been very well received by those who participated and the 2018-2019 Program is anticipated to once again be successful.

Comments

As the primary purpose of the Program is to aid residents in being compliant with the Snow Removal By-law, it is recommended that the Town continue the Program for the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter season.

By continuing with the Program, the Town will be offering an invaluable service to eligible members of the community and demonstrate initiative on the part of the Town to keep its highways (including sidewalks) in a good state of repair.

This year's Program will run from October 31, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Snow & Leaf Angel volunteers are responsible for:

- Obtaining a Police Clearance, including a search of the Vulnerable Sector;
- Raking and clearing leaves from the municipal sidewalk in front of the designated residence(s) they are assigned;
- Removing and clearing snow/ice from the municipal sidewalk in front of the designated residence(s) they are assigned;
- Providing their own equipment (e.g. rake, snow shovel, snow blower); and
- Arriving to clear snow/ice within twelve (12) hours after snowfall.

For the 2016-2017 season, the Town received a generous donation of twelve (12) snow shovels from Tecumseh Home Hardware for the volunteers' use. Approximately seven (7) of the snow shovels were utilized by volunteers during the past two (2) seasons and the remaining five (5) snow shovels will be offered to the 2018-2019 volunteers.

In keeping with previous years' requirements, both volunteers and residents will be required to complete an application for the 2018-2019 Program. Residents looking for assistance will be required to provide proof of meeting eligibility requirements (i.e. 65 years of age or older, or being a person with a disability). Anyone sixteen (16) years of age or older may volunteer, and any volunteers under the age of 16 will require parental consent.

Volunteers will be asked for preferred areas to service and if they are interested in being a Snow Angel, Leaf Angel or both.

To recruit volunteers and create Program awareness, a News Release will be issued and a notice for the Program will be posted on the Town's website, Tecumseh App and Social Media pages [Facebook and Twitter], advertised in the local media and displayed on the Town's LED signs. Administration will also use Local Government Week, October 14-20, 2018, as a channel for promoting student volunteer opportunities with the Town, such as the Program. Similar advertisements will be used to advertise how to apply for assistance.

Administration will continue to work with local volunteer organizations, service groups, and the YAC and SAC to seek their assistance in championing the Program and help encourage participation amongst the community.

Incentives for volunteers, such as Town toques, public skating passes and letters of appreciation from Town Council are being proposed to help with recruitment.

The Snow & Leaf Angels will also be recognized for their contributions to the community at the annual Volunteer Recognition event to be held during National Volunteer week in April 2019.

The recommendation to continue the Program for the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter season is to better ensure that Tecumseh residences are in compliance with the Snow Removal By-law and that we are making every effort to continue to ensure that Tecumseh is a safe and thriving community.

Consultations

Public Works & Environmental Services
Youth Advisory Committee
Senior Advisory Committee

Financial Implications

The cost of advertising and promoting the Program will be funded from the 2018 and 2019 Budgets.

Incentive costs for volunteers will be funded from the 2018 and 2019 Budgets for Promotional Items. No costs will be incurred for incentives such as public skating passes and letters of appreciation from Town Council.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2017-18 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 the Town of 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 the Town of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" 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:

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Manager Committee & Community Services

Reviewed by:

Laura Moy, Dipl. M.M., CMMIII HR Professional
Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Tony Haddad, MSA, CMO, CPFA
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None