



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Financial Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Tom Kitsos, Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

**Date to Council:** January 14, 2025

**Report Number:** FS-2025-02

**Subject:** Consideration for Financial Assistance for Local Historical Societies

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report FS-2025-02 entitled “Consideration for Financial Assistance for Local Historical Groups” **be received**,

**And that** direction **be given** during 2025 budget deliberations regarding any contribution and the timing thereof to the annual operating costs of the Tecumseh Historical Society and the Sandwich South & Area Historical Society.

### Background

At the Regular Council Meeting held on October 22, 2024, Deputy Mayor Bachetti filed a Notice of Motion requesting that consideration be given during the 2025 Budget process to provide annual financial support through the Town’s operating budget to the Tecumseh Historical Society and the Sandwich South and Area Historical Society.

Motion RCM-258/24:

**Whereas** in the past, the Town of Tecumseh supported various cultural and historical initiatives by allocating funding to the former Cultural & Arts and Heritage Committees (Committees);

**And whereas** the Town currently has two historical societies: Tecumseh Historical Society and the Sandwich South and Area Historical Society, which are groups that are dedicated to the preservation of the rich heritage of the community and are volunteer organizations that are funded through fundraising and private donations.

**Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved:**

**That** the Town consider allocating funding of \$5,000 to be divided amongst the Tecumseh Historical Society and the Sandwich South and Area Historical Society to assist with their operating costs;

**And that** this consideration to allocate funding to the Tecumseh Historical Society and the Sandwich South and Area Historical Society **be referred** to the 2025 budget deliberations.

## **Comments**

The Town currently collects monthly lease payments of \$150 plus HST from both the Tecumseh Historical Society and the Sandwich South and Area Historical Society. This monthly fee was established in 2016 for the Tecumseh Historical Society, after the Town assumed the utility bills for the building, and in 2019 for the Sandwich South and Area Historical Society. Annual lease payments amount to \$1,800 plus HST totalling \$2,034 for each organization.

The Tecumseh Historical Society (THS) operates out of the town-owned museum at 12350 Tecumseh Road East and occupies the full approximate 1,150 square feet of space.

The Sandwich South and Area Historical Society (SSAHS) operates out of the town-owned Fire Hall #2 at 5520 Walker Road and occupies approximately 900 square feet of space within the 4,000 square foot building (excluding truck bays).

For both leases, the Town pays all facility-related costs including hydro, gas, building maintenance and capital costs.

Average Annual Facility Operating Costs	12350 Tecumseh Rd E	5520 Walker Road (15%)
Hydro	\$1,900	\$1,300
Natural Gas	\$800	\$500
Building Maintenance	\$1,600	\$1,100
Total	\$4,300	\$2,900
Cost per square foot *	\$3.74	\$3.22
Lease rent per square foot	\$1.77	\$2.26
Current market lease rent per square foot		

\*Note: Additional in-kind costs are incurred by the Town, however not captured in the table above, such as winter maintenance, grounds maintenance, insurance and facility capital costs (roof repair, parking lots etc.).

The Town has an outdated agreement with the THS and an informal arrangement with the SSAHS, whereby the lease payments are made by annual permit issued through the Community & Recreation Services Department. The Legislative Services & Clerks Department's workplan includes a review of these agreements/arrangements with a view to updating them and reporting back to Council. It would be the recommendation of Administration to wait for this review to conclude prior to consideration of financial contributions to either Society.

Typically, the Town does not waive rental/lease fees for community groups seeking to use Town facilities nor has the Town provided allowances to community groups for their operating costs. Occasionally, the Town provides in-kind support for specific events, such as Corn Fest, which has been done to ensure a successful transition to the Optimist Club as the principal event organizer. There is no specific policy related to financial or in-kind support for community groups/events.

## Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer  
Legislative Services & Clerk

## Financial Implications

The 2025 Proposed Business Plan and Budget does not include an allocation for financial assistance to historical societies.

Should Council decide to include an allocation, that allocation will be an addition to the proposed budget.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	<a href="#">2023-2026 Strategic Priorities</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

## 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:

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	None