



**Meeting Date: February 2, 2022**

**Submitted by: Heather Kepran, Communications Specialist;  
Tiffany Farrell, Director of Corporate Services**

**Report No: CPS-05-2022**

**Subject: Council Grants and Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund Grants 2022**

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**Recommendation:**

THAT the request from the Ilderton Gardeners be approved in the amount of \$285 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Komoka Railway Museum be approved in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Optimist Club of Bryanston-Birr approved in the amount of \$1,500 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Optimist Club of Ilderton be approved in the amount of \$500 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Middlesex Centre Archives be approved in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Delaware Lioness be approved in the amount of \$1,750 in accordance with the Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund Policy;

AND FURTHER THAT that staff be directed to prepare correspondence and issue payment to the above noted organizations.

**Purpose:**

To make recommendation to Council regarding the requests for grants for financial assistance to groups within Middlesex Centre.

## **Background:**

The purpose of the Council Grants and Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund programs is to provide municipal funds or other forms of assistance, in limited amounts, to community groups and organizations that warrant municipal support. These program exists to recognize the value of these groups to the well-being and growth of the community and in helping the municipality to retain a strong community focus.

Applications are available online year round, and close on November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. After the budget is passed, a committee including the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Community Services and the Communications Specialist meets to discuss and evaluate the applications.

## **Analysis:**

### Council Grants Program

The Council Grants Program exists to recognize the value of the work of non-profit groups to the well-being and growth of the community, and in helping the municipality retain a strong community focus.

### Focus areas:

- Tourism/Economic Development
- Community
- The Arts
- Culture and Heritage
- Environmental Awareness & Sustainability
- Other

Under the program, a maximum of \$20,000 is included in the budget each year for this program. Grant are awarded to:

- A maximum of \$5,000 per organization has been established for financial contributions.
- A maximum of \$2,000 per organization has been established for in-kind services. In-kind support will be limited to the use of municipal property at reduced or no cost, municipal staff support and loan of municipal equipment.

### Key eligibility requirements include:

- The organization must have a clearly stated purpose and function that result in an improvement in community services within the Municipality of Middlesex Centre and the organization must be responsible for the planning and provision of these services.
- Organizations must be non-profit community groups and organizations and be based in or connected to the Municipality of Middlesex Centre.

- Programs/community events must be open to all residents of Middlesex Centre and must benefit Middlesex Centre residents.

#### *2022 Requests for Funding*

The Municipality received eight (8) applications totalling \$21,185\* for 2022. Six (6) of the applicants received funding in previous years. The summary of the application requests is presented in the table which follows.

Four organizations (including one of the above) received funds in 2020, but were unable to use them in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19. These organizations were granted the option to carry-over the funds to 2021 and are requesting to carry-them again into 2022.

- Del-Ko-Brydge Canada Day Community
- Optimist Club of Kilworth-Komoka
- Poplar Hill Picnic
- Tri-County Heritage Club

These four organizations are carrying forward a total of \$6,700 in funding. These organizations were not eligible to apply for additional grants in this funding round, however one organization did applied.

Also included in the Council Grants are \$150 for local high school scholarships and \$1,000 for the Ilderton Agricultural Society Grant, as part of their lease agreement.

All recipients of the council grants program are to submit a written report on how the money was spent and results of the event/project.

**\*A note on in-kind requests and contributions:** In-kind requests put forward as part of the grant application process, if approved, are handled a variety of ways, depending on the nature of the program.

1. Council Grants: In this case, the value of the in-kind is charged to the Council Grants program, and funds are transferred from the Council Grants program to the applicable municipal budget line.
2. Community Services Fee Waiver Program: In this case, the value of the in-kind is charged to the Community Services as part of their fee waiver program. The value of these waivers is not reflected in the Council Grants program allocations, but the details are noted below.
3. Agreement: In some cases, there is a formal agreement on the use of a facility or property. The value of these agreements is not reflected in the Council Grants program allocations, but the details are noted below.

Table: Council Grant Requests and Recommendations

| Organization                           | Project                   | Grant Request | Grant Recommendation | In-Kind Contributions | Comments   | Previous Grants                                      |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Ilderton Gardeners</b>              | Ilderton Garden Challenge | \$285         | \$285                |                       | <p>Funds will be used support the “Ilderton Garden Challenge” to educate and incentivize Ilderton homeowners to make positive horticultural choices in their yards.</p> <p>Ilderton Garden Challenge looks to advance the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge. The project promotes several best practices in backyard horticulture, one of them being planting for pollinators. The group has engaged other municipal partners, such as the Middlesex Centre Pollinator team, and will be leveraging their expertise through the project. Funding will be used to open a bank account and provide awards.</p> <p>Staff had concerns that the funds will be used to support work on private property, which is not an eligible use under the Council Grant program. However, funding is recommended owing to the significant the community-building and environmental benefits.</p> | New Applicant  |
| <b>Optimist Club of Ilderton</b>       | Canada Flags              | \$500         | \$500                |                       | <p>Funds will be used to replace flags that are along the main roads in Ilderton around Canada Day. This request is consistent with previous grants awarded.</p> <p>There are no staff concerns with this request.</p>   | 2021: \$600<br>2020: \$480<br>2019: \$480            |
| <b>Optimist Club of Bryanston-Birr</b> | Canada Day Celebration    | \$1,500       | \$1,500              |                       | <p>Funding will support with Canada Day Celebrations in the north-east portion of the municipality.</p> <p>This application is consistent with previous grants awarded.</p> <p>There are no staff concerns with this request.</p>  | 2021: carried-over<br>2020: \$1,500<br>2019: \$1,500 |

| Organization                           | Project                         | Grant Request | Grant Recommendation | In-Kind Contributions   | Comments   | Previous Grants                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Komoka Railway Museum</b>           | Site & Building Maintenance     | \$5,000       | \$5,000              | In-kind space offered through formal agreement between the Railway Museum and the Municipality.   | Funds will be used to improve decking and walkways around the Railway Museum building. New decking will meet accessibility standards. Funds for this project were also awarded in 2021, and some improvements were made, but more are required for this significant undertaking. There are no staff concerns with this request, however staff will direct the Museum to continue to work with Building Services to ensure that decking meets OBC and accessibility standards, and proper permits are sought. | 2021: \$5,000<br>2020: \$2,000<br>2019: \$2,000 |
| <b>Middlesex Centre Archives (MCA)</b> | Purchase of Specialized Scanner | \$5,200       | \$5,000              | The municipality is in a lease agreement with the Archives at a cost of \$0 for the rented space (495sq.ft.) at the Delaware Community Centre | Funding will support MCA in their purchase of large-scale, high-resolution scanner. The resulting scans will allow MCA to have better accessibility to images and to better promote local heritage through displays of historical images at community events, through social media, etc. The amount requested was to cover the entire scanner purchase, however the Council Grant policy has a limit of \$5,000 per year. There are no staff concerns with this request.                                     | 2021: \$5,000<br>2020: \$2,250<br>2019: \$1,500 |

| Organization   | Project                  | Grant Request | Grant Recommendation | In-Kind Contributions | Comments   | Previous Grants                                 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>London &amp; Middlesex Heritage Museum (Fanshawe Pioneer Village)</b> | Heritage Farming Program | \$2,500       | \$0                  |                       | <p>Funds will be used to support the Heritage Farm Program at Fanshawe Pioneer Village.</p> <p>The municipality has funded this program for a number of years as it shares the farming history of our area. Several historical objects and buildings from Middlesex Centre are housed on-site.</p> <p>However, this and past applications have failed to meet the intention of the Council Grants Program in that (1) the site is located outside of Middlesex Centre, and (2) funds are being used to cover day-to-day expenses under the program (both of which are ineligible).</p> <p>Staff noted to London &amp; Middlesex Heritage Museum (Fanshawe Pioneer Village) that their funding would be under review in their grant letter in 2020. With the financial implementation of COVID-19, funding was continued 2021.</p> <p>At this time staff are recommended discontinuing funding.</p> | 2021: \$2,500<br>2020: \$2,500<br>2019: \$5,000 |

| Organization                                     | Project                   | Grant Request                    | Grant Recommendation         | In-Kind Contributions | Comments   | Previous Grants                                      |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Upstream Synchronized Solutions for Youth</b> | Upstream 4Youth           | \$ 5,000                         | \$0                          |                       | <p>Funding is to support a new program, at the concept stage, to create an integrated suite of solutions to prevent problematic substance use and to promote positive mental health for youth.</p> <p>The funding request was to cover the cost of a rental space (both as a grant as an additional \$2,500 of in-kind contributions), which is an illegible expense under the Council Grants program.</p> <p>Staff do not recommend funding at this time. However, staff recognize that this program may align with current efforts towards the Ilderton Youth Centre, and as such are meeting with the organizers to discuss opportunities to work together.</p> | New Applicant  |
| <b>Poplar Hill Picnic</b>                        | Annual Poplar Hill Picnic | \$1,200 and carry-over from 2020 | \$0 plus continue carry-over |                       | Organizations carrying-forward funding were not eligible to apply for additional funding. While staff are confident the additional funds sought by the Picnic organizers would be put to good use, approving this application would seem unfair to those other organizations carrying forward funding who followed the direction and did not apply for additional funds.   | 2021: carried-over<br>2020: \$1,200<br>2019: \$1,200 |

## Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund

Each year, Middlesex Centre makes available up to 50% of the interest earned by the Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund in the previous year. This is approximately \$3,500 each year.

Individuals and community organizations can apply for funding for capital projects that meet certain eligibility requirements. Up to 50% of the cost of the capital project may be covered by the Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund, with the 50% balance contributed by the individual(s) or the community organization.

Expenditures from the fund may include, but not limited to:

- Capital projects to improve the general appearance of Delaware Village;
- Capital projects that improve access to Delaware community facilities and programs by children, seniors and people with disabilities;
- Capital projects that improve or add to the municipal infrastructure in Delaware Village.

### *2022 Requests for Funding*

One organization submitted a funding request during the application period.

*Table: Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund Requests and Recommendations*

| <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Project</b>                    | <b>Project Costs</b>  | <b>Funding Recommendation &amp; Comments</b>  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Delaware Lioness</b> | Christmas Lights / Flower Baskets | Total Cost: \$3,500<br>Funding Provided by Applicant: \$1,750<br>Funding Request: \$1,750 | Recommendation: \$1,750<br>Comments: The Delaware Lioness have received funds from the Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund for this project for several years. Staff have no concerns with the application or the project itself. |

## Financial Implications:

*Table: Financial Implications - Council Grants*

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Value</b> |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Council Grants Application Requests</b>                                     | \$21,185     |
| <b>Council Grants Recommended</b>  | \$12,285     |
| <b>Ilderton Agricultural Society Grant (yearly as part of lease agreement)</b> | \$1,000      |
| <b>Grants to high schools for graduating students</b>                          | \$150        |



| <b>Item</b>                     | <b>Value</b>    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Grants Recommended</b> | <b>\$12,185</b> |
| <b>Budget</b>                   | \$20,000        |
| <b>Remaining for 2022</b>       | \$7,815         |

*Table: Financial Implications – Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund*

| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Value</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund Application Requests  | \$1,750      |
| Delaware Hydro Reserve Fund Recommended (including in-kind where value was assigned under Council Grants Program) | \$1,750      |
| Available Funding in 2022   | \$3,818.07   |
| Remaining for 2022  | \$2,068.07   |

**Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with following strategic priority:

- Engaged Community

The grant programs support several objectives and initiatives under the strategic priority of Engaged Community, most notably:

- Objective 1.1 - Support community organizations and opportunities for volunteer involvement in the community
- Objective 1.3 - Celebrate our rural and agricultural heritage

**Attachments:**

None