



Meeting Date: May 1, 2024

Prepared By: Heather Kepran, Manager of Strategic Communications

Submitted by: Michael Di Lullo, CAO

Report No: CAO-15-2024

Subject: Ilderton Anniversary Celebrations, 2026

Recommendation:

THAT Report CAO-15-2024, re: Ilderton Anniversary Celebrations, 2026, be received;

AND THAT Council authorize staff to work with community groups to plan a celebratory event;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring a report back prior to the end of 2024 to provide an update on the planning and expectations for Middlesex Centre's involvement.

Purpose:

This report is to provide an initial update on the multiple anniversaries aligning for Ilderton in 2026, and to seek Council's support for the municipality to take an active role in planning for a community celebration.

Background:

Ilderton is celebrating a notably anniversary in 2026 – its sesquicentennial. In addition to the village turning 150, the Ilderton Agricultural Society will be celebrating its 175th year, and the Tri-County Heritage Club will be celebrating its 50th year, having been formed in 1976 to celebrate Ilderton's centennial.

The Ilderton Agricultural Society and the Tri-County Heritage Club are looking to arranging a standalone special event to mark these notable anniversaries and have approached the municipality to join in the planning. At this very early stage, the event date, type, budget and other details are still under discussion.

Analysis:

Special events of this nature are an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and our community. They add to the distinct sense of place of our settlement areas, in addition to offering tourism, cultural, recreational and educational benefits.

With the success of our 25th Anniversary Celebrations in 2023 and continued expansion of our recreational programming, the municipality is in a position to partner with the community groups mentioned above to host an event that marks this special year for Ilderton.

Financial Implications:

Costs associated with this event may include direct financial contributions and/or in-kind contributions for venue, promotion and associated staff time. An event plan and budget will be brought to council in a future update, and any direct financial contributions will be brought forward as part of the annual budget process. It is expected that the groups participating will seek grants and sponsorships to support the event.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community

and aligns with Objective 1.2 – Enhance the vitality of our villages and Objective 1.3 – Celebrate our rural and agricultural heritage.

Attachments:

N/A