



Meeting Date: August 6, 2025

Prepared By: Heather Kepran, Manager of Strategic Communications

Submitted by: Michael Di Lullo, Chief Administrative Officer

Report No: CAO-19-2025

Subject: Ilderton 150 Celebrations - Update

Recommendation:

THAT Report CAO-19-2025 re: Ilderton 150 Celebrations - Update be received for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the celebrations being planned for 2026 in recognition of Ilderton's 150th Anniversary.

Background:

Ilderton is celebrating a notable anniversary in 2026 – its sesquicentennial. In addition to the village turning 150, the Ilderton Agricultural Society will be celebrating its 175th anniversary, and the Tri-County Heritage Club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

As brought to council at the May 1, 2024, meeting (CAO-15-2024), these groups are arranging a standalone event to mark these anniversaries and have approached the municipality to join in the planning. Staff have been working with these groups to plan the celebratory event as directed by council.

Analysis:

The Ilderton Agricultural Society has stepped up as the host organization, and is taking the lead in the planning, with the Tri-County Heritage Club and the Municipality of Middlesex Centre also involved. The Ilderton 150 Committee is co-chaired by Kristen Sybers, Ilderton Agricultural Society board member, and also Middlesex Centre's Building Services Administrative Assistant. Councillor Coles is working with the committee as well. Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services, and Heather Kepran, Manager of Strategic Communications are serving as liaisons between the municipality and the committee.

Planning for the celebration is now underway, with a multi-day event set for the weekend of July 10 to 12, 2026, at the Ilderton Fairgrounds and the Community Centre. The event will encompass the Tri-County Heritage and Antique Show, Truck and Tractor Pull, with additional activities for all ages. Preliminary activities planned include a movie night, concert, youth activity area and heritage displays, along with the traditional tractor pulls and displays of the Heritage and Antique Show.

The Ilderton 150 Committee is currently reaching out to local service clubs to gauge their support for participating in the event and/or serving as potential sponsors. The committee is also seeking grant funding from outside agencies.

Financial Implications:

Staff have already committed in-kind support for the event with respect to the use of the Ilderton Community Centre for the weekend. Further, staff have recommended to the committee that they bring forward a request for event sponsorship from the municipality through the upcoming budget process. Given the scale and significance of the event, it is expected that the sponsorship request would be more than the limits set through the Council Grant Policy.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community

and aligns with Objective 1.1 – Support community organizations and opportunities for volunteer involvement in the community, Objective 1.2 – Enhance the vitality of our villages, and Objective 1.3 – Celebrate our rural and agricultural heritage.

Attachments:

None.