



REPORT

REPORT TO: Chair and Members of the Community Affairs Committee

REPORT FROM: Jennifer Spence, Sustainability Outreach Officer

DATE: June 1, 2015

REPORT NO.: PDS-2015-0047

RE: 2015 Community Sustainability Investment Fund:
Recommended Funding Applications
File No.: D27-IN

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PDS-2015-0047, dated June 1, 2015 regarding requests for funding from the Community Sustainability Investment Fund, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee authorize funding the applications submitted to the Community Investment Fund, as recommended by the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee, and subject to the applicants providing any additional information that may be required.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to obtain the Community Affairs Committee's approval to provide funds to the organizations that have applied to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund, as per the recommendations of the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee. This is the second year for the Fund.

Updated via Report PDS-2014-0051, the purpose of the Community Sustainability Investment Fund is to enable local community groups and organizations to take on local community-based actions that directly contribute to the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy. The Fund provides seed-funding. It is designed to help applicants leverage funding from other sources, and to establish partnerships between the Town and the community. The Fund supports the Town's Strategic Plan which has identified sustainability as one of Council's priorities.

COMMENTS:

Up to a maximum of \$2,000 per project, per applicant, per intake period may be funded. In total, a maximum of \$10,000 may be funded per intake period. In 2014, the full \$10,000 was not used as some of the applications were deferred. If possible, the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee would like to make the \$5040 unused from 2014 available in 2017 because of the 150th anniversary of Confederation and the potential to offer additional funding to eligible organizations.

In 2014, the Staff report on applications recommended for funding by the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee was submitted directly to Council. However, this report and subsequent reports regarding funding from the Sustainability Investment Fund will first be submitted to the Community Affairs Committee in order to provide an additional opportunity to consider the applications.

A total of fifteen complete applications were received before the 2015 submission deadline of April 30, 2015. Collectively, the applications recommended for funding should make a meaningful contribution to Halton Hills' cultural, economic, environmental and social well-being. They should raise quality of life.

This is the second year of the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. Table 1, below, compares the applications submitted in 2014 and 2015. There is a significant rise in the number of applications, the amount of funding requested and the combined project value. The combined total project value has more than quadrupled from 2014. This suggests that the community's awareness of the Fund continues to increase steadily.

Year (deadline April 30)	2014	2015
Number of applications	7	15
Total funding requested	\$11,060.00	\$25,500.62
Total funding distributed	\$4,060.00	\$10,000.00 (recommended)
Total combined project value	\$48,371.00	\$209,372.62

On May 27, 2015, a selection committee formed out of the larger Town Sustainability Implementation Committee reviewed all funding requests. Based on this review, the committee recommends that \$10,000 be distributed among the applications noted in Table 2.

Table 2: Recommended Funding - 2015		
Name of Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Inspire Halton	\$573.62	\$575.00
Protect our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.)	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00
Friends of the Old Seed House	\$927.00	\$1,000.00
Glen Williams Town Hall Inc.	\$2,000.00	\$1,125.00
Hillsview Active Living Centre	\$2,000.00	\$1,300.00
Community Support Network Halton Hills	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - Halton Hills	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Willow Park Ecology Centre	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

All grant recipients will be required to submit a one-page report on their project's results within 14 months of receiving funding. These reports will include information on the results achieved, how any profits were reinvested into Halton Hills to support the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy, level of community engagement, lessons learned, final budget, next steps and measures to ensure that the project will be sustained without additional Town assistance.

Appendix 1 to this report provides an overview of the funding applications, staff comments and the Sustainability Implementation Committee recommendations. Appendix 2 provides a highlight of the applications that are not recommended for funding by the Committee, at this time. Additional information on all of the applications is available from Town staff.

Town staff was available to discuss proposals before they were submitted to ensure that they were complete.

In addition to eligibility and ineligibility criteria, the Fund's evaluation criteria included consideration of whether a proposal:

- Directly supports the implementation of one or more goals of the Community Sustainability Strategy, and/or its pillars, vision(s) and focus areas.
- Has broad community benefits.
- Demonstrates collaboration and widespread community engagement.
- Promotes volunteerism, participation, leadership development, and maximizes community involvement, engagement and awareness.
- Offers a new service or complements an existing service, without duplication.

- Takes place within the Town of Halton Hills and benefits Halton Hills residents.
- The proposed initiative is realistic and likely to be implemented.
- Leverages other sources of funding, including matching funds and in-kind contributions.
- Promotes efficient/effective use of municipal resources.
- Facilitates self-sufficiency over the long-term.
- Demonstrates ability to achieve measurable and long-lasting results and report these to the Town.
- Is accessible, inclusive and diverse.
- Applicant's track record.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Sustainability is a key component of the Town's Strategic Plan and is one of Council's priorities. By supporting the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy, funding provided via the Community Sustainability Investment Fund will advance the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Fund relies on existing funding which has already been approved by Council.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

Upon authorization, Town staff will notify all applicants in writing with the outcome of the Community Affairs Committee's decision. Staff will also assist applicants with the processing of their requests.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. The Community Sustainability Investment Fund assists the community in leveraging funding to help implement our Community Sustainability Strategy. Ultimately, quality of life will be raised.

Do the report's recommendations advance the Strategy's Implementation? Yes

Which pillar(s) of sustainability does this report support?

Cultural Vibrancy
Economic Prosperity

Environmental Health
Social Well-being.

Overall, the alignment of this report with the Strategy is: Excellent.

CONSULTATION:

As part of the application process, Town staff was available to organizations interested in submitting applications to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund.

CONCLUSION:

The Town appreciates and recognizes the value and benefits of working in collaboration with community stakeholders to advance the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy, focusing on the raising quality of life for the residents in Halton Hills. The Town appreciates the quality and wide variety of projects submitted to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. The Community Sustainability Investment Fund is an investment to support the community's participation in shaping the future of Halton Hills.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Spence, B.A.
Sustainability Outreach Officer

Damian Szybalski, M.Sc.PI, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Sustainability

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Executive Director of Planning and
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David Smith
Chief Administrative Officer

Applications Recommended for Funding

Applicant 1	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Inspire Halton	\$573.62	\$2,120.62	\$575.00
<p>Summary: Inspire Halton was founded in 2012 and it is a non-profit organization with the goal of developing youth leadership. They host positive youth events in the community. In January 2015, Inspire Halton became a registered non-profit.</p> <p>Inspire Halton is seeking funding to create a video campaign that will feature individuals who are positive forces within Halton Hills despite their battle with a mental illness. These videos will be featured on social media and Inspire Halton's website to be shared with local schools and community groups. This campaign is the beginning of their Mental Health initiative and will allow them to gather data to recognize the impact of the videos. They anticipate hosting educational workshops on mental health illness to enhance partnerships within the community.</p> <p>Town Staff Comments: This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being</p> <p>TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends that the amount requested be rounded to \$575.</p>			

Applicant 2	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
P.O.W.E.R.	\$1,250	\$8,025	\$1,000
<p>Summary: Protect our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) is a non-profit organization formed in 1987 by citizens whose commitment is to preserve, protect, restore and improve the natural resources and the environment to enhance life in North Halton and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>P.O.W.E.R. is seeking funding to host environmental films in the winter/spring of 2016 to raise awareness and increase knowledge through eco-education, seek and engage youth to participate and contribute to the events, partner with local businesses to enhance the eco-film series.</p> <p>Town Staff Comments: The organization has a proven track record of holding a successful eco-film series during the past year. This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.</p> <p>TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends supporting 4 out of 5 performance rights at a cost of \$250 per film for a total of \$1,000.</p>			

Applicant 3	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Friends of the Old Seed House	\$927	\$3,100	\$1,000

Summary: The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden (FOSHG) is a registered charity founded in 2000. The purpose of this group of volunteers is to maintain the 1.8 acre public garden honouring the legacy of the Dominion Seed House in Georgetown. This organization is run by volunteers, receives community donations and works in partnership within the community.

FOSHG is seeking funds to purchase a new larger sign of the garden. The new sign would increase the visibility and awareness of the gardens and help the Town in reaching its goals of being socially equitable, culturally vibrant while retaining the local agricultural and small town feel.

Town Staff Comments: This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.

TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends the amount requested be rounded to \$1,000.

Applicant 4	Requested Amount	Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Hillsview Active Living Centre	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,300

Summary: The Hillsview Active Living Centre’s mission is to engage adults in outstanding experiences which enhance their quality of life. The purpose of the Centre is to encourage mental and physical wellness in older adults in the community and surrounding area by providing affordable programs and opportunities for enjoyment, education, and social interaction.

The funding request is to start up an inter-generation activity called Pickleball which connects learning, playing and socializing together at an affordable cost while improving quality of life. Pickleball will engage participants to get active through this year-round sport. This game is a racquet sport that combines the elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. It is easy to learn and play at any age. The vision is to create a league that rivals sports such as hockey and soccer in number of participants allowing all ages to play and socialize. This project is unique, because it is the only sport that can be played together across multiple generations; kids, adults and seniors can play in the same game and on the same court. This is a very social sport so playing doubles is encouraged.

Town Staff Comments: Confirmation has been received from Hillsview Active Living Centre staff that the materials purchased with the Fund will be owned and stored at the Centre. This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.

TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends funding \$1,300 providing that the equipment is owned by the Hillsview Active Living Centre and stored at that location.

Applicant 5	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Glen Williams Town Hall Inc.	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,125
<p>Summary: Glen Williams Town Hall (GWTH) was built in 1870 on donated land by Charles Williams. The building has housed numerous societies, churches, political meetings and acted as a polling station for elections. It is currently overseen by 10 trustees elected annually. The building is used throughout the year for many events. GWTH partners with other many other organizations in the community.</p> <p>GWTH is seeking funding to create a website called HaltonHillsHeroes.com. This website will honour local heroes who may be civilians, military veterans, firefighters, doctors, teachers, etc. that have done something exceptional. This website is unique and original to Halton Hills. People for years to come will visit this website to learn about local heroes. The website would continue to grow over time. For each hero, there would be a picture and a short story. The website could link to/from other relevant websites.</p> <p>Town Staff Comments: This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.</p> <p>TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends \$1,125 to be funded for this initiative.</p>			

Applicant 6	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Community Support Network Halton Hills	\$2,000	\$4,600	\$1,500
<p>Summary: This is a new non-profit network supporting social well-being in Halton Hills and furthering the goals of the Social Well-being pillar of the Community Sustainability Strategy.</p> <p>The CSNHH is seeking funding to develop a website and utilize the skills of a website developer. This new website would enhance service providers and their potential clients, community members and Task Force members and participants with a website connect groups or individuals through databases, share documents, reports and meeting minutes. This website will be an imperative link of the organization to the community.</p> <p>Town Staff Comments: This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.</p> <p>TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends \$1,500 be granted for this initiative.</p>			

Applicant 7	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Architectural Conservancy Ontario – Halton Hills	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,500
<p>Summary: Architectural Conservancy Ontario is an education and advocacy group that was founded by over 80 years ago. The AGO Provincial Office is located in the same building as The Ontario Heritage Trust. AGO works closely with the Ontario Government to develop policies, such as those contained in the Ontario Heritage Act, that give municipalities the tools needed to protect built and natural heritage. The AGO consists of members with interest in preserving heritage. Fifty years ago, the first AGO branch was founded. In January 2014, the Halton Hills Branch was approved by the Architectural Conservancy Ontario Provincial Council as their 25th branch.</p> <p>The ACO-HH is seeking funding to create the first book of a series entitled, "Heritage Treasures of Halton Hills". It will highlight 12 to 15 heritage structures with interesting histories. Partners in the project include Georgetown District High School students and the Esquesing Historical Society. A goal of this project is to educate residents of the history in our community.</p>			
<p>Town Staff Comments: This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.</p>			
<p>TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends \$1,500 be granted for this initiative.</p>			

Applicant 8	Requested Amount	Total Project Value	TSIC Recommendation
Willow Park Ecology Centre (WPEC)	\$2,000	\$9,200	\$2,000
<p>Summary: WPEC is a 5 acre nature preserve in Norval. This former trailer park is now a diverse eco-system that provides natural habitat and outdoor education opportunities. It includes a wetland pond, a rehabilitated shoreline, trails, an Ojibwa healing garden, and a snake hibernaculum, as well as vegetated areas planted to attract specific wildlife. WPEC is a not-for-profit corporation. Annually, there are about 3,000 participants in community and stewardship events, 500-1000 in education and summer programs, and about 30,000 visitors. WPEC has almost 40 community partners.</p> <p>WPEC is seeking funding to promote a newly revived event called Riverfest. It will focus will on ecology. This family event will build community collaboration with the hope of establishing a self-sustaining annual community-wide cultural asset.</p>			
<p>Town Staff Comments: This project supports the four pillars of the Community Sustainability Strategy: Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being.</p>			
<p>TSIC Recommendation: The Committee recommends \$2,000 be funded for this initiative.</p>			

**Highlight of applications that are not recommended for funding
by the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee**

Applicant	Project Proposal	Requested Funds
Canadian Mental Health Association (Halton Region)	To provide funding a pilot a project called Mood Walks in Halton Hills. This project focusses on people dealing with mental health issues by providing opportunities to participate in guided nature walks to boost mood and physical wellness.	\$2,000
Distress Centre (North Halton)	To provide funding for a computer and software at Distress Centre North Halton for online chat and texting. This communication tool would provide another way to communicate with people who seek the Distress Centre's service.	\$2,000
Georgetown Agricultural Society	To provide funding to purchase a portable shelter for the Georgetown Fall Fair to protect patrons of the weather and to be used for events and shows.	\$2,000
Georgetown Highland Games	To provide funding for a children's area, interactive activities, Canadian military display, shelter for dancers, music entertainment and new event signage.	\$2,000
Halton Environmental Network	To provide funding to support the organization and in return advertising opportunities in a region-wide environmental organization.	\$2,000
Light Up the Hills	To provide funding to develop a website.	\$2,000
Maple Avenue Baptist Church	To provide funding for the purchase of high-efficiency thermostats to reduce energy consumption, allowing potential savings to be reinvested into programs.	\$2,000