

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, January 21, 2011				Report Date	Wednesday, January 19, 2011			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Canada Day Celebration Report #21/01/11/1203									

Subject: A proposal for budgeting funds and granting approval for a Canada Day Celebration at Old Mackey Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council agrees to support this project and to commit to funding a portion of the costs of the event.

WHEREAS the Federal Government is providing funds through Heritage Canada under the Celebrate Canada program for Canada Day celebrations;

AND WHEREAS the municipality sponsored a similar event in 2009;

AND WHEREAS celebrating Canada Day would promote community and give something visible and tangible back to the ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS most costs could be recovered through the Celebrate Canada program and through donations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby agree to host a Canada Day Celebration and apply to the Celebrate Canada program to offset the costs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk, Melinda Reith, be delegated the authority to apply to the Department of Canadian Heritage for funding under the Celebrate Canada Program;

AND FURTHER THAT this item is added to municipal budget for 2011 to determine the extent of municipal contributions.

AND FURTHER THAT volunteers be authorized to organize this event on behalf of Council and according to the guidelines of Heritage Canada's funding program.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Funding is being provided once again by the Federal government for Celebrate Canada events. In 2009 the deadline for funding applications was late February or March and we were successful in receiving \$1000. In 2010 the deadline was moved up to mid February and the opportunity was missed.

This year, the deadline for applications was January 15. In the absence of a meeting, and after speaking with Reeve Stewart and Councillor Gibson to obtain some consent, I completed an application based on the 2009 event committing \$500 on behalf of the municipality.

I have spoken with a ratepayer who is interested in organizing the event in conjunction with other volunteers. Cathy Ball-Boudreau and Melanie Thiel have volunteered to coordinate. They were planning to approach Council and ask for permission and funding later in the year, I just happened to speak with Cathy on another matter prior to the application deadline and she brought it up. I have explained to Cathy that by applying for funding, we have to follow Heritage Canada's rules and guidelines. They are aware of my application.

The municipality has not sponsored many events in recent history aside from providing venues free of charge to other groups. A municipally sponsored event might be well received by the ratepayers and seen as something tangible that they are being provided. (It might also be seen as a waste of ratepayer's money.) Therefore it is important to plan a celebration that is simple, relatively inexpensive and straightforward. It would also be important (and is a requirement) to advertise the funding provided by the program as well as donations received. The idea is to hold a Family centred event at Old Mackey Park.

As in 2009 the basis for the application is a simple including a BBQ with the municipality providing hotdogs/sausages and a beverage. (We could add a pot luck component to this.)

A local band would be hired to provide music and/or equipment to host an open mike stage. A horseshoe tournament (and/or other game/sport) could be arranged. As per Heritage Canada guidelines, we could have a flag raising ceremony – sing O Canada and hand out flags and pins (which we have remaining from 2009).

The program funding will cover entertainment flags, supplies, decorations, and Canada Day cake. Other food products would need to be donated or paid for by the municipality.

Options/Considerations:

- ◆ To proceed with the application by committing up to \$500 for the event; or
- ◆ To withdraw the application.
- ◆ To formally approve Cathy and Melanie's offer to organize the event.
- ◆ Other thoughts/ideas to bring forward.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Would need to commit up to \$500 towards this project at budget time.

Policy Impact: None – as per By-law 2007-20 which grants approval to the Clerk and/or Reeve (depending on situation) to apply for grants (sign agreements) provided there is some precedent, when time is of the essence.

Others Consulted: Cathy Balla-Boudreau, Reeve Stewart, Councillor Gibson

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith