



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities
DATE: 17/07/2017
SUBJECT: Transfigured Town Event at Blyth Campground October 14 & 15, 2017
ATTACHMENTS: Transfigured Town Rental Permit

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby approve renting the Blyth Campground and the Blyth and District Community Centre to Transfigured Town for their event *The Festival of Wizardry* on October 14 and 15, 2017 under the terms and conditions laid out in the rental permit for the Blyth Campground and Blyth and District Community Centre;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron approves an exception to Section 19.1 of the Procedural By-Law to allow By-Law 68-2017 to be passed at the July 17, 2017 Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the June 5, 2017 North Huron Council Meeting, representatives from Transfigured Town Inc. attended the meeting as a delegation to share with Council their interest in renting the Blyth Campground and Blyth & District Community Centre for their Festival of Wizardry Event. The following motion was approved:

M267/17

MOVED BY: B. Knott

SECONDED BY: B. Vodden

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby support Transfigured Town Inc. in their request to host a Festival of Wizardry at the Blyth Campground;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to work with Transfigured Town Inc. on requirements and logistics of the event.

CARRIED

Staff have met several times with Transfigured Town Inc. to work through the details for renting the Blyth Campground and Blyth & District Community Centre for the Festival of Wizardry event, and have prepared the attached recommended rental permit with conditions of use for Council's consideration.

DISCUSSION

Transfigured Town Inc. originally planned to hold their event in the Town of Goderich. During that planning, they had an opportunity to visit the Blyth Campground with the intention to potentially use it for overflow parking and camping accommodations. After viewing the site and amenities, Transfigured Town Inc. pursued using this venue for their event. The Blyth Campground is a large event venue and is used for events like the Threshers Annual Reunion, Campvention, and the Barn Dance Jamboree. It allows for controlled access into the 45 acres site, and includes indoor facilities to support the event. 9000 tickets have been sold in advance, and no tickets are available at the door on the day of the event. Since their presentation to North Huron Council, staff have met weekly with Transfigured Town Inc., in order to prepare the rental permit and conditions of use for the *Festival of Wizardry* event.

The Permit

Staff have drafted a rental permit for Transfigured Town Inc. for the use of the Campground, sports fields, and Blyth and District Community Centre (entire site at 377 Gypsy Lane) for their event. Both Transfigured Town Inc. and the North Huron lawyer have reviewed the rental permit and are satisfied with the content and conditions of use outlined in the rental permit.

Included with the permit is "Schedule A" which outlines the required plans, deadlines for review and finalization for each condition of use with the Township. Staff have reviewed the initial plans and are satisfied that Transfigured Town Inc. have presented plans that include the requirements outlined in Schedule A: Waste, Sanitation, Traffic and Parking, Security and Access, Insurance, Payment, Fencing, Emergency Plan. There are several additional planning documents that are coming to staff by the end of the month. Each have been discussed in draft and staff are confident in the planning. Schedule A is part of the contract and must be followed and implemented by Transfigured Town Inc. as part of their event.

Ice

The event takes place October 14 and 15 when ice is already in at the Blyth and District Community Centre. Due to the scope and scale of the event, ice users will not have access to the Blyth and District Community Centre from Friday October 13 to Sunday October 15. Staff have arranged to start the ice usage in Blyth earlier this season. Normally ice is made available in Blyth starting on October 1, this year the recommendation is to start ice use on Saturday September 23, 2017 to accommodate this disruption to regular service to our ice users.

Ongoing Planning

Staff will continue to work with Transfigured Town Inc. to review plans, and ensure that the event is planned and executed as per the permit conditions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Township will be charging Transfigured Town Inc. \$10,000 plus HST for use of the site for their event. This cost recovers ice rental revenue lost over the weekend and staff coverage during site set up, take down and during the event. All expenses such as tents, waste bins, portable toilets, equipment, stage, sound system, golf cart rentals, temporary ice flooring, etc. will be paid for by Transfigured Town Inc. as part of their event expenses. The Township will be responsible for

cleaning and maintenance of the Blyth and District Community Centre and the washrooms in Shed 3, which is the typical arrangement during the Threshers Annual Reunion.

At the time of signing the permit, Transfigured Town Inc. is required to pay a \$5,000 non-refundable deposit (50% of their rental fee). The remainder of the fee (\$5,000) is due two weeks prior to the event. At time of signing, Transfigured Town Inc. will issue to the Township a \$5,000 damage deposit in addition to the rental fee. This deposit will be returned in full as long as all clean-up is completed on time, and the site is returned in the same condition as at the start of the event. These details are clearly outlined in the rental permit.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Transfigured Town Inc. provided Council with information on the positive economic impact of this event in the local Village of Blyth and for Huron County. The report estimates a potential of \$1.2M tourism spending in Huron County as a result of this event. Additionally, there are benefits for labour and material spending as part of the event. This information is available from that report, and this event has potential to become an annual event with positive impact to the local community and region.

North Huron Economic Development Officer Connie Goodall has met with the Blyth BIA about this event. If the event is confirmed by Council for the Blyth Campground, this local group of businesses are eager to meet with Transfigured Town Inc. to build relationships and potential business opportunities for Blyth.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This directly relates to the North Huron strategic plan goal: *Our community is attractive to new business and residents.*



Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities



Larry McGregor,
Interim CAO/Director of Public Works