



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: 22/05/2018
SUBJECT: Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story Memorandum of Understanding
ATTACHMENTS: Draft Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accept the May 22, 2018 report of the Director of Recreation and Facilities regarding the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story Memorandum of Understanding for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves an exception to Section 19.1 of the Procedural By-Law to allow the Reeve and Clerk sign By-law No 54-2018 to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding at the May 22, 2018 Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Alice Munro Festival was an initiative started by the Wingham Horticultural Society, and has significant ties to the Township of North Huron. It was established as a local event, but has grown in scope to include all of Huron County, and now operates under its own committee, separate from the Wingham Horticultural Society. The Alice Munro Festival Committee has operated as a Committee of Council in North Huron, however this is no longer applicable because the event has grown to include the entire County and surrounding areas. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for the relationship between the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story Committee and the Township of North Huron.

DISCUSSION

The Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story Committee has been operating as a North Huron Committee of Council. Committees of Council are subject to specific criteria that need to be met and they are required to follow the Township of North Huron Committee Appointment Policy. Staff met with Rick Sickinger, Cultural Development Officer for the County of Huron, to discuss the framework for the committee and the festival. Rick has been deeply involved in the Festival Committee. As the Festival has grown in scope and size, and expands to other Huron County Communities, it is no longer appropriate for the group to operate solely under North Huron Council, or to fall under the Township of North Huron insurance. For example the 2018 Festival is enjoying the Saturday activities in Bayfield, and the Sunday activities are hosted in Wingham. The Festival and Alice Munro have strong ties to the Town of Wingham, and it is strategically and culturally significant that some of the event is always hosted in Wingham. It is also an opportunity to expand the festival to other communities.

To that end, staff and Rick Sickinger (representing the Festival Committee), have suggested that a new Memorandum of Understanding be prepared to capture the essence of the relationship between the Festival and the Township, and also permit a framework by which the Festival can expand into other areas and have the necessary insurance required.

The Draft Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story Memorandum of Understanding is attached to this report. It is recommended that even though the committee is no longer a Committee of Council, that a North Huron Councillor be appointed to the Committee to ensure North Huron 's interests are preserved in the future delivery of this event, and to provide the ongoing connection to North Huron Council and the community.

The event will no longer be covered by the Township of North Huron insurance, and instead will operate under the Huron County liability insurance policy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Within the agreement, there is a provision for North Huron Council to consider a financial contribution to the Festival on an annual basis as part of their budget process.

In kind support from North Huron, for the Festival, includes space for the committee to meet to prepare for the event, and use of the Wingham Theatre for one day during the event

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The Festival in 2018 is scheduled for June 2-3. Staff are requesting that this agreement be approved under exception to Section 19.1 of the Procedural By-Law so that it can be adopted at the May 22, 2018 meeting.

There is a six month termination clause in the agreement.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Our residents are engaged and well informed.

Our community is attractive and welcoming to new businesses and residents.



Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and
Facilities



Dwayne Evans, CAO