TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

REPORT TO: Reeve Bailey and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Vicky Luttenberger, Director of Recreation and Community Services
DATE: 12/08/2019
SUBJECT: Disbursement of Funds from the Blyth Living Tree Fund
ATTACHMENTS: Minutes from the Blyth Living Tree Fund Committee dated...

RECOMMENDATION:
THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receives the minutes of the Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund Committee dated July 23, 2019 for information;

AND FURTHER, THAT Council authorizes staff to proceed with the purchase and installation of a radius gate at the southeast corner of the Blyth arena floor and to disburse funds from the Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund for the associated expenses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund is managed by the Township of North Huron. It was created by the community for the betterment of the Blyth and District Community Centre. The fund is supported by monetary gifts made in memoriam by individuals who have lost a loved one and donations given by facility user groups.

Requests for funding are considered by a committee comprised of representatives from various local user groups. This group, the Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund Committee, meets on an annual basis to discuss and consider submitted requests. Recommendations relative to the disbursement of funds is contained within the Committee’s meeting minutes which are forwarded to Council for approval.

A meeting was recently held by the Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund Committee. A copy of the Committee’s meeting minutes are attached to this report for Council’s consideration.

DISCUSSION
In 2018, Hockey Canada mandated the use of half ice for lower level programs of minor hockey programs across Canada. The purpose of the program was to provide minor hockey associations with the ice needed to focus on skill development for younger players. To implement the program minor hockey organizations across the country were required to purchase half ice board systems to divide the ice surface into multiple sections so that multiple levels could be on the ice at the same time. This decision resulted in a lot of issues for minor hockey associations as there was no funding available to purchase the boards. Many minor hockey associations had to undertake unplanned fundraising and arena facilities did not have storage areas available for the boards. There were also logistical issues with the coordination of volunteers who were responsible for erecting and dismantling the board system.

In the spring of 2019, Blyth and District Minor Hockey Association contacted staff to discuss the logistical issues they encountered with moving the half ice board system on and off the ice during the previous season. Due to the lack of storage areas in the facility, the half ice board system was
stored in the southeast corner of the arena during the 2018/19 season. The volunteers involved in erecting and dismantling the system found this storage area to be difficult to access and moving the various components of the boards on/off the ice to be very cumbersome.

To address this issue, staff investigated the cost to have a radius gate panel installed at the southeast corner of the rink which would allow direct access from the ice surface to the storage area. The estimated cost to purchase and install the gate is $5932.50 including HST.

To assist with the cost, the Blyth/Brussels Minor Hockey Association applied for funding from the Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund. The Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund Committee met on July 23, 2019 to discuss the request. The request for funding was approved. The Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund has $6752.36 in the account. After the disbursement of funds for this project, the account balance would be $819.86.

Staff have been in contact with a contractor regarding the potential work to be completed. The contractor has confirmed that, if approved, a radius gate could be installed before the Thresher’s Event in September.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There will be no financial impact on the 2019 budget. Project costs are being disbursed from the Blyth Memorial Living Tree Fund.

**FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

None.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal #2: Our residents are engaged and well informed. Our community is healthy and safe.

Goal #3: Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Vicky Luttenberger, Director of Recreation & Community Services

Dwayne Evans, CAO