

*Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council*

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, November 13, 2015				Report Date	Wednesday, October 21, 2015			
Decision Required		Yes	x	No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction		Information Only		x	Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
<b>Clerk's - Report #13/11/15/801</b>									

**Subject:**

1. Time since the last meeting have largely been spent on the following:
  - a. Legislated IMS 200 (incident management system) in Horton Twp.
  - b. Canada Day 2016 grant application completed and submitted.
  - c. Completion of AMCTOs Executive Diploma in Municipal Management last two workshops; research paper is due in February – application has been submitted and approved. Topic is succession planning and the Ontario education system – why are youth not aware of municipal administration as a career choice?
  - d. Assist with Newsletter.
  
2. From a volunteer/participant perspective I assisted with the Senior/Intergenerational Christmas Cake Baking. It was a complete success. Participants enjoyed their time. Each took a portion home. Remainder was sold with all 25 pieces gone within a week with only word of mouth advertising. Since the original purchases were part of the grant – proceeds of over \$325 will be used for 2016.
  
3. Algonquin Land Claim meeting – Fact Sheet attached. The meeting was simply to discuss specific parcels and how they might be affected by future municipal planning – all have been previously identified and made public with neighbours contacted. With HCM's large quantity of Crown lands, most areas do not come near any private lands; most do not front on municipal roads or the provincial highway. Only one parcel has been identified as potentially "residential" lands here in Stonecliffe. One has been identified as commercial (again in Stonecliffe between Pichette and Grants Creek Bays) with the remaining being "community recreation" or "National Trail". Use will be mainly for hunting and fishing. It is estimated that the process and actual land transfer will not occur for many years – if all goes well likely 25-30 years from now.
  
4. IMS system is being rolled out across the province and country with a goal to increased interoperability and effectiveness across services and functions. Whether HCM decides to use this system or not does not really matter as OPP, MNR and paramedic services who respond here will. In order to efficiently understand and communicate with those organizations, we will need to have a basic understanding of the IMS system. It is anticipated that OFMEM's office will eventually make this mandatory across the province.

5. Staff and Council have been aggressively marketed concerned *The Manual for Elected Municipal Officials - Ontario*. This book was ordered months ago and a copy is available in the office for borrowing. If Council so chooses, we could order copies for all members. (We also have a small "library" of other such books to lend. Just ask.)
6. Council donation of \$100 to kids crafts and gifts for the CWL Community Christmas party.

Resolution

**WHEREAS** Council determined in 2013 that it would participate in the CWL Community Christmas party by not only donating the hall but by funding children's gifts and crafts;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to spend up to \$100 for this purpose as Council's contribution to the Community Christmas Pot Luck, which is open to everyone in the community.

7. Change Management training with Peter de Jager has been scheduled for Friday, November 27, 9:00 to 3:00 with a light lunch provided. I have sent an email invitation to county municipalities with limited response to date.
8. Jim and Diane Murphy have offered a number of Jim's photo's to decorate the office and hall. I gratefully accepted on Council's behalf.
9. As you know, we have been successful with the infrastructure component of the Canada 150 grant opportunity. There is now a new Canada 150 grant which we are eligible to apply for – eligible categories/objectives include:
  - Encourage participants to give back to Canada through gifts of time and energy, in ways that leave a legacy for the future;
  - Provide Canadians with opportunities to actively participate and/or celebrate together, promoting and building a deeper understanding of Canada, its people and what it means to be Canadian; and
  - Recognize and promote exceptional Canadian people, places, achievements and events that continue to shape our country."

Informal conversation around the Recreation Committee table has been about a "large" event for Canada Day 201 – homecoming, flotilla, fireworks, weekend long event... Unless Council sees another purpose, it was thought that this grant application might be used to fund a special event for 2017. It is recommended that a planning committee for 2017 be created in the near future so that if a larger than life event is possible; there will be time to bring details to Council and/or this funding opportunity.

Resolution

**WHEREAS** a funding opportunity for long term projects celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday is being offered through the Department of Canadian Heritage;

**AND WHEREAS** an event of some significance will require advance planning and extra funding;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to investigate the forming of a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee to work towards a significant celebration for Canada Day 2017;

**AND DOES FURTHER** authorize Melinda Reith, Clerk to apply for funding through the Canada 150 program to finance Canada Day 2017 programming and events.

10. Diane Murphy visited the office and queried about our request for materials to improve the appearance of the municipal office made earlier this year. We did not have materials donated in any quantity and Diane then suggested that we apply through the North Renfrew Rotary for funding through it's Community Service segment. We completed a brief request for funding in the amount of \$350 to build plant boxes for the entrances to the office, library and hall. We will not know if we have been successful until after the first week of December but we have received a promising response for a favourable decision at that time.

11. I have contacted the Renfrew County District Health Unit about a flu clinic. It has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 9, 2015 during the NRLTC seniors and paramedic visit.

12. The Municipal Tax Advisory Group will be heading the Power Dam lobby efforts on behalf of affected municipalities. The cost to HCM on a pro-rated basis has been confirmed at an upset limit of \$258. I have committed to this amount on Council's behalf. The anticipated work schedule is as follows.

### **Section 1: Background and Issues Overview**

- This component of the report shall provide a context for the discussion about how to best value power dams for assessment purposes, and associated tax treatment implications.
- A comprehensive overview of how these types of unique/special purpose properties have historically been treated should be included for general education purposes, including a discussion of changes that were made to both the *Assessment and Electricity Acts* as part of reforms that were made to Ontario's Fair Assessment System (1998 and beyond). (This exercise may require interviews to be conducted with those who have an in-depth historical knowledge of these issues.)
- The report should also address the recently proposed reduction in compensatory payments by the Province to municipalities of 25%.
- Quantification of the financial impacts on a sample of affected municipalities may be useful to demonstrate the scope and magnitude of this issue.
- Information about the activities of the Working Group organized by the Province to look at this issue should be included in the discussion.
- Time Estimate: 5 days research/analysis, 2 days writing

### **Section 2: Assessment and Taxation Options and Recommendations**

- This component of the report should review this assessment dilemma within the context of the three traditional approaches to value that are steeped in appraisal theory (sales, cost and income approaches to value) to determine which, if any,

of the three are well-suited to this property type and what method of approach might be relied upon to arrive at “current value assessment”.

- An inter-jurisdictional survey and literature review should be undertaken to determine if there is precedence elsewhere that might be relied upon to inform the debate.
- Analogies should be drawn to how other types of renewable energy installations are treated for assessment and tax purpose across Ontario (e.g. wind turbines, solar farms, etc....); these are generally assessed using a regulated approach that considers energy “out-put” as part of the valuation exercise.
- Time Estimate: 5 days research/analysis, 2 days writing

### **Section 3: Recommendations and Conclusions**

- The report’s findings and recommendations about future assessment/tax treatment should be summarized; quantification of fiscal impacts flowing from a set of suggested best practices should be included for the same sample of affected municipalities addressed in Section 1 analyses.
- Any next steps needed to further the dialogue and include affected stakeholders should be clearly outlined.
- Time Estimate: 2 days analysis, 2 days writing
- **Timeframe for Completion:**
- Detailed draft to be available for municipal circulation – November 2015
- Final Report – January 2016

13. The Seniors/Intergenerational program is having some success including a few people who do not normally attend municipal functions; which was our goal. A number of events have been held with a decent turn out with many more scheduled for the weeks ahead. Please spread the word and encourage people to come out and Thank You Crystal for your work.