

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 24, 2017				Report Date	Friday, March 10, 2017			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Municipal Alcohol Policy - Report #24/03/17/1201

Subject:

Concerns with current practise, Bring Your Own Wine Endorsement, security, OPP.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following resolution increasing steps taken to assist in protecting the municipality, council, staff and volunteers from liability.

WHEREAS recreation committee members, volunteer bartenders and staff recognize challenges with the current practises as it relates to liquor services and the culture surrounding licensed recreation events in Head, Clara & Maria;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Alcohol Policy has yet to be finalized, but steps need to be taken immediately to strengthen the municipality’s position as it relates to over service of alcohol as well as municipal, council, volunteer and staff liability prior to a serious incident occurring;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby adopt the following recommendations in the interim until a complete Municipal Alcohol Policy is finalized and adapted and authorizes staff to implement the following conditions immediately:

1. That it become regular practise that the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) be contacted and advised each time an event is held at the municipal recreation centre and/or under the municipal liquor license requesting presence at or during the event;
2. That staff and volunteers circulate outside during events notifying attendees that bringing their own alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated and in fact will be reported to the OPP;
3. That the “Bring Your Own Wine” endorsement be discontinued immediately for all events;
4. That volunteers will be encouraged to contact the OPP for assistance when attempting to cut off service from someone who has been over served or when someone insists on driving while obviously impaired;

5. That a form of increased security be implemented immediately by increasing the number of Smart Serve trained volunteers in attendance at each event lasting more than 4 hours or expecting attendance of over 75 people;

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

It has been noted over the past 12 months or so that the municipality is being exposed to increased liability due to over service of alcohol at our licensed events and/or people drinking and driving and/or bringing their own alcohol. Staff and volunteers are concerned with the potential for accidents, injury, law suits; and municipal, council, personal or staff liability.

The practises of people leaving the hall with alcohol, people bringing their own alcohol to ball games and drinking from their trunks/coolers, volunteers facing backlash when attempting to stop service of a patron, and drinking and driving have to be curtailed.

The last time volunteers and staff attempted to control the BYOW service, as the bottles were being picked up, people poured wine into any receptacle they could, including coffee cups, to ensure that the bottles weren't removed from the table with any wine remaining. Often, a few people drink the wine, with volunteers not being able to monitor consumption at all resulting in some people being significantly overserved. This practise needs to be discontinued and could easily be replaced by handing out tickets for service at the bar.

Often, with larger events, two people at the bar are not enough to oversee service throughout the building and/or outside.

At other times, it has been noted that our volunteers have attempted to cut off service to be told that the person/table had a designated driver (DD), then watch minutes later as the DD left, not to return.

During ball tournaments, people bring their own alcoholic beverages and drink from their trunks/coolers while on municipal property. Signage that has been posted has zero affect.

There is a fine line between having fun, allowing people to have fun and completely ignoring situations which are dangerous and may have significant negative consequences.

Volunteers are no longer comfortable taking on this increased risk. Staff are not comfortable with their names on the liquor license without further steps being taken to protect everyone concerned.

It is recommended that Council adopt the above requirements at a minimum for the interim until a proper policy can be brought forward for consideration and adoption.

The issue of security will come with a price tag if we cannot work out a solution where volunteers or the lessee provide their own. We will look into this further when the MAP is brought forward.

Could have significant financial implications. Creates new policy.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith, Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith