

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

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, February 19, 2016				Report Date	Friday, February 12, 2016			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Homecoming 2017- Report #19/02/16/1104

Subject:

Council support for Homecoming 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolution #1

WHEREAS Council has provided support for planning and submission of a funding request through the Canada 150 program for a Homecoming to celebrate Canada’s 150th;

AND WHEREAS Council deems it important to document Head, Clara & Maria’s contribution to Canada no matter how significant; to assist in hosting a historic event celebrating residents, past and present as worthy of being celebrated no matter their accomplishments, while focusing on documenting municipal history to provide a legacy for future generations;

AND WHEREAS eventually, a decision will be required to determine whether the project will continue at a certain level, be streamlined or be cancelled;

AND WHEREAS Council has reviewed a draft budget prepared for application to the Canada 150 program for 2017’s Homecoming;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to proceed with the project, having Mayor Gibson endorse a letter of support for application to the Canada 150 funding through Heritage Canada on Council’s behalf;

AND FURTHER THAT tentatively confirmed attendance of at least 150 people be obtained by April 2016 in order to proceed with the event;

THAT Council does hereby agree to underwrite the project in the amount of \$5,000 in order to proceed with planning, acknowledging that other sources of funding will be obtained and used to offset costs;

THAT staff and volunteers are encouraged to seek and obtain corporate sponsorship;

THAT the request for funding letter sent to ratepayers for 2016 and 2017 identify Homecoming as its purpose;

THAT should funding from Canada 150 not be forthcoming, project plans be streamlined to ensure reduced costs as per an amended budget and a cost/revenue neutral event.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council endorsement is required for the application.

A decision whether to proceed or not is required; this provides some parameters and allows for fewer events and cost recovery type events. Eg. Admissions, pay for service etc.

Letters attached for reference.

1. Letter to Heritage Canada – support for project.
2. Letter to Pikwakanagan – request for participation.
3. Letter to ratepayers – tax bill insert – request for donations.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Council commitment of \$5,000 to Homecoming for 2017.

Policy Impact:

As per policy.

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

1. Draft letter of support...

Heritage Canada...

The Council, residents and volunteers of the community of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria appreciates the funding opportunities for the celebration of Canada in this milestone year of 2017 provided by your Ministry.

Our Canada 150 project connects us with our past, Canada's past, by bringing generations of families from our community together to celebrate who we are and to document who we were. It celebrates our future by taking our youth from their electronics and immersing them in what life in rural Canada can be. It provides a legacy by recording our accomplishments for future study.

Our Homecoming will provide the opportunity for individuals to come together to share valuable historical documents, stories, perspectives. It will result in the documentation of who we are to be preserved for future generations.

We are not all “special”, “diverse”, or from a pre-determined designated group. We are all different; which is what makes us Canadian, whether we have contributed significantly to our Canada or whether we contribute as little as any child, student, mother, father, or worker can.

Our project will honour the exceptional achievements of some members of our extended community who have happened to have gone above and beyond and contributed to the greater good of our country but it will also celebrate the fact that we all have something to contribute, to be proud of no matter how seemingly insignificant. We are no better or worse than anyone else; the housewife, the logger, the farmer have just as important and significant a contribution as the astronaut or the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winners. We cannot all be great. We all deserve to be celebrated. We are rural Canada.

Our project will celebrate our communities’ history and will attempt to collect, record and archive pieces of individual family histories, to create a lasting legacy for our community. It will celebrate our Algonquin history, intertwined in many of these families. It will celebrate each of us.

Our project will build a legacy for tomorrow by celebrating our past and recording for future generations, the accomplishments of the many, not just the few.

The Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby officially provide support for this project being undertaken by staff and an extensive volunteer committee. We support the opportunity to celebrate our Canada in 2017 and authorize staff to utilize all public venues and grounds within the municipality for this extensive event.

Although this is a significant project for a municipality of our size, we are confident that we can make it a success with support from many sources including Canadian Heritage through the Canada 150 fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our application and the opportunity to share along with but separate from the many other communities which collectively make up Canada. Strong. Proud. Free.

2. Letter to Chief Whiteduck – Pikwakanagan

Dear Chief and Council

In 2015 you invited representatives of the local municipal councils to visit your community centre and offices. I was impressed with your organization, your professionalism and willingness to share who you are with your neighbours.

As you well know, 2017 marks the sesquicentennial of Canada. We are in the initial planning stages of a larger than usual event by hosting a Homecoming over three days during the Canada Day weekend. Many of our residents, past and present, have Algonquin lineage and we would welcome representation from your community to complement our celebrations.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the possibility of showcasing and sharing components of your traditional Algonquin culture and perhaps genealogical information in any way which you feel comfortable sharing with our event attendees.

We are uncertain if festivals outside of your community are something that members of your community regularly participate in; but if so, we would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you or someone who might be in a position to further planning. Further, and I apologize for the short notice, we would welcome participation at our 2016 Canada Day event as well; again in any manner with which you feel comfortable.

I am, or our Clerk, Melinda Reith is, available for further discussion at your convenience. She may be contacted at 613-586-2526 or hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com. My home phone is 613-586-2761.

3. Annual Request for Donations Letter

Thank you for your past support. Historically letters of request have prompted contributions to specific projects within our community. Our improved community centre and Old Mackey Park certainly speak to the benefits of those funds. Using reserves, and leveraging municipal funds, we were successful in 2015 in obtaining funding to improve all three municipal boat launches, ramps and grounds. Work is to begin April 1, 2016.

Over the past few years, Council has made many other decisions which have stretched fundraising, donation and grants to provide benefits which would not have been affordable otherwise. For 2016 and 2017 we are requesting donations to assist Head, Clara & Maria staff and volunteers to leverage grant funding available through the Canada 150 Program to plan and host a weekend long **Homecoming**, to occur during the Canada Day weekend in 2017, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday and who we are as Canadians.

Corporate and private donations will allow us to make this event bigger and better than we would be able to do otherwise. Perhaps you own a business, or have a family member who does, who might benefit from a tax deduction? Any donation over \$10 will trigger a tax receipt. If you wish to discuss this or other sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at the municipal office. Donations will be favourably accepted from individuals, families, in memoriam, from your group or organization and from businesses and corporations.

We realize that many requests are made of each of us every day and that there is only so much discretionary income to go around. Please consider our historic **Homecoming** event, and make plans to attend, as you make your donation and vacation decisions for 2016 and 2017.

For more information, please contact the municipal office or any of your Council members. Additional information is on our website. To make a donation, simply include a separate cheque with your tax payment.