

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, September 21, 2012				Report Date	Thursday, September-13-12			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Volunteer Appreciation Report - 21/09/12/1201									

Subject: Follow up to an idea presented by Reeve Stewart previously during a Q&A at a council meeting. Ideas for Council consideration to show appreciation to the residents who routinely give of themselves to make our community a better place.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider implementing some token expression of gratitude for those members of the community who take the time to participate regularly and routinely for the benefit of others.

WHEREAS community involvement is important to the continued viability of programs and events within our small community;

AND WHEREAS the same community members turn up to tirelessly volunteer when required;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby resolve to take steps to acknowledge and show appreciation for those individuals through a recognition program for 2012 with details to be implemented by staff;

AND FURTHER THAT this issue is added to the budget deliberations for 2013 to consider other options at that time.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This report recommends a number of ideas that may be implemented to show appreciation for volunteers within the community who regularly give of themselves to make our community a better place to live. This program would recognize those who regularly volunteer for the library board, Canada Day, May Madness and any other municipal function that you can think of.

It would likely involve upwards of 20 or more people.

When the Volunteer Fire department was in existence, annual compensation was given to these individuals at Christmas as a token of appreciation from Council. It is to be recognized that these individuals met regularly. They also got paid.

The ladies who routinely volunteer through the library board make a similar if somewhat smaller contribution. The same people show up to help with May Madness, Canada Day and any other council/library sponsored event. It is felt by staff that something should be done, but not anything that is cost prohibitive, will single anyone out or places unnecessary obligations on anyone.

Options/Considerations: There are many things that can be done to show appreciation for the people who routinely turn out to organize and run events within the communities which benefit many. The options could include a meal, tea, dessert party, dance etc. or something small such as

a small gift presented individually at Christmas time, a simple card of thanks, a “star” board displaying our volunteers within the Municipal Hall or office surrounding a large “THANK YOU”.

There is some thought that a “dinner” or large event is too involved and creates an obligation on the volunteers to attend when they are already overly extended. A small token given to everyone would likely be better appreciated – the individual would know that they are thought of but have no obligation and not be singled out; many do not like that.

Often the individuals who regularly volunteer are quite busy and find that fitting another event into their schedule is difficult.

Items for consideration:

1. Holiday dessert party.
2. LED flash light or some other useful token gift.
3. Some type of book.
4. List names of volunteers in the next newsletter and on the website. – ask Council, Library Board for a list of volunteer names for recognition.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Can be nil or considerable depending on the options chosen.

Policy Impact: Creates new policy.

Others Consulted: Various web sites.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith