

# **THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS**

## **STAFF REPORT**

**DATE:** December 6, 2022

**TO:** Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Jeanne Harfield, Clerk & Deputy CAO

**SUBJECT: Bicentennial Update**

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Committee of the Whole receive this report as information;  
AND THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to work on planning for the first regular Council meeting of 2023 to include a launch of the bicentennial year.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The municipality will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2023 and a number of proposed events and projects have been approved by Council. Staff have also been investigating potential grant opportunities to help enhance the bicentennial celebrations.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The following events and projects have been approved by Council.

1. Larger scale Canada Day Celebration
2. Appleton Old Fashioned Canada Day Picnic
3. Come Home to Pakenham Weekend
4. Farm Tours
5. Indigenous Artists Weekend (Mill of Kintail)
6. Indigenous Learning (Mississippi Mills Public Library)
7. The Workers: Walk the Walk re-enactment
8. Seven Gifts Installation
9. Commemorative Coin
10. Time Capsule
11. Historical Panels (plaques)
12. Blakeney Walking Tour
13. Nothing But Net art
14. Floral Clock
15. Flag poles
16. Beautification – flowers
17. Electronic Records Management and Digitization of Records

18. Support for Movies and Music in the Park
19. Naismith 3 on 3
20. Supporting existing events
21. Incentives for Indigenous artists

As the working groups begin to plan events there have been a few updates. One such update is that the proposed location for the floral clock is no longer supported by community volunteer members who proposed the idea of a floral clock to Council. Therefore, the floral clock project has been put on pause.

Staff have reached out to North Lanark Home Hospice (NLHH) to have a “bicentennial tree” that would be available to purchase directly through NLHH. The bicentennial tree will be available to order starting in December 2022 and pick up would be in spring 2023. The proposed tree is the Autumn Blaze Maple tree and will be approximately 175-200cm tall. The trees will cost \$76 per tree and there will be a limited number available. Municipal staff will work with NLHH to promote and market the selling of the bicentennial trees.

The Arts, Culture, Museum and Heritage working group proposed the idea of starting the 2023 Council meeting with a town crier. Brent McLaren is an experienced Town Crier who is originally from Almonte but currently lives in Perth. There is no appearance fee to have him come to our Council meeting, however the municipality may wish to consider covering his cost of gas. If approved by Council, staff will work with Mr. McLaren as he is unsure of his schedule in January. Other ideas to launch the Bicentennial in 2023 at the first meeting of Council include:

- Land Acknowledgement and Smudging Ceremony
- Town Crier
- Representation from all of the bicentennial working groups
- Toast to 2023 before Council with photos

Another initiative launched by staff includes the bicentennial photo contest. This contest calls upon individuals to submit photos with the winners receiving a grand prize of \$200 at the winner’s favourite Mississippi Mills business. In January the municipal office will display the top 20 photos. The public will then be given the opportunity to vote on their favourite photo.

As highlighted in previous reports, staff is working on grant applications. The following have been applied to:

- Celebrate Canada Grant – application deadline was November 24, 2022. Staff submitted an application to enhance existing Canada Day events including attracting larger musical acts.
- Legacy Grant – staff are working on the final components of this grant. The legacy grant provides 50% funding for permanent features that celebrate a municipal milestone. Staff is partnering with local organizations to complete the application and to have an element in each ward.

- Fed Dev Tourism Revitalization Grant – This grant was announced in early November with a deadline by November 28, 2022. The municipality can apply for up to \$500,000 with the intention that the events or projects be completed and paid for by March 31, 2023.

Staff will continue to monitor for potential grants as they are announced.

**OPTIONS:**

No options to consider as this is an information report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications with this report.

**SUMMARY:**

Staff have provided an update to the proposed bicentennial events and projects for 2023. Updates include a launch of the bicentennial at the first regular meeting of Council in 2023. This launch would include a land acknowledgement and smudging ceremony, town crier, and representatives from the bicentennial working groups with a toast before council and photos. Additional updates include: working with the North Lanark Home Hospice for the 2023 bicentennial tree and the bicentennial photo contest. Staff have also worked on submitting grant proposals to help enhance events and projects and help cover the cost of the bicentennial.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:

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Jeanne Harfield,  
Clerk & Deputy CAO

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Ken Kelly,  
CAO

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Bicentennial Proposals for 2023 report (September 6, 2022)