

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 15, 2020

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Tiffany MacLaren, Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator

SUBJECT: Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee of the Whole approve the committee terms of reference for the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Advisory Committee and Working Groups.

BACKGROUND:

Council has designated 2023 as the 200th Anniversary of Mississippi Mills. To mark this important milestone staff recommends a yearlong celebration with a variety of events and initiatives spread across the Municipality.

Mississippi Mills was formed as a result of the amalgamation of the Townships of Ramsay, The Town of Almonte, The Village of Pakenham and Pakenham Township. There have been many dates discussed however 1823 is the year that saw European settlers living in all wards of Mississippi Mills. Ramsay Township completed their surveying in 1821, Pakenham settlers started to move into the area in 1823 and Almonte was originally settled as Shipman Mills in 1823.

In addition, since Mississippi amalgamated in 1998, 2023 will mark the 25th Anniversary of our Municipality.

During this Bicentennial year (2023) it is also important we also honour our regions earliest settlers the first nations people. Efforts should be made to ensure the appropriate recognition is planned parallel to the 200th celebrations.

Council directed staff to bring back recommendations for Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Celebrations in the year 2023 including planning committee structure & next steps. In addition, staff to investigate funding opportunities and budgeting.

DISCUSSION:

Council has designated 2023 as the 200th Anniversary of Mississippi Mills. To mark this important milestone staff recommends a yearlong celebration with a variety of events

and initiatives spread across the Municipality.

A yearlong celebration will require advance planning and budgeting. It will be important that residents from all wards are included and that a variety of people contribute to the plans. For this reason, staff is recommending a working advisory committee made up of Council, staff and members of the public. This advisory committee would bring updates to Council on a regular basis, to report back to Mississippi Mills Municipal Committee of the Whole with updates on a regular basis: bimonthly for 2021, monthly for 2022 and more frequently closer to the events as required. There would also be 6 subcommittee working groups who would report up through the main committee.

The Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee is a working advisory committee of Council with the mandate to plan, organize and execute a municipal wide celebration to honour the founding of Mississippi Mills. Mississippi Mills is a diverse municipality with long history and strong agricultural and cultural roots; the committee will work to ensure celebration represents the community's diversity, is inclusive and accessible to all. Members of the **MMBPC** would each be expected to each act as chairperson for one of more working groups in relation to the Bicentennial celebrations. Each chairperson would then be required to report back to the **MMBPC** at each meeting on the progress of their working group.

The **Celebrating Agriculture Bicentennial Working Group** is a working subcommittee to the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee. Mississippi Mills has deep agricultural roots and a strong farming community to this day. Including and honouring our producers and products will be an important part of the Municipality's 200th celebrations.

The **Celebrating Arts and Culture Bicentennial Working Group (ACBWG)** is a working subcommittee of the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee. Mississippi Mills has deep cultural roots and a vibrant arts community. Bicentennial celebrations should honour, celebrate and promote Mississippi Mills artists through music, theater, and visual arts.

The Museums and Heritage Bicentennial Working Group (MHBWG) will ensure historic information is accurate and all milestones are celebrated appropriately. Mississippi Mills has four distinct Museums, located at three campuses. Each museum represents a facet of the Municipality's history and heritage and will be represented on this working group.

The Celebrating Almonte Bicentennial Working Group (CABWG) is a working subcommittee to the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee.

The CABWG will champion activities and initiatives during the Bicentennial year celebrating and taking place in the town of Almonte.

The Celebrating Pakenham Bicentennial Working Group (CPBWG) is a working subcommittee to the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee. The CPBWG will champion activities and initiatives during the Bicentennial year celebrating and taking place in Pakenham Village and the former Pakenham Township area.

The Celebrating Ramsay Bicentennial Working Group (CRBWG) is a working subcommittee to the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee. The CRBWG will champion activities and initiatives during the Bicentennial year celebrating both rural Ramsay and the settlement areas of Appleton, Blakeney and Clayton.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There would be no immediate financial implications to forming the committee. Committee and working groups would report up with budgets before making financial commitments. Funding for 2023 celebrations would be accounted for during 2022 and 2023 Budget planning.

Committee may want to consider hiring a dedicated staff for 18 months leading up to and including 2023. This position would be planned in the 2022 budget and could be covered by a grant.

Heritage Canada Funding has funding available for non-recurring events that mark the 100th anniversary or greater, in increments of 25 years (e.g., 125th, 150th); of a significant local historical event or personality.

Community Anniversaries – Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage

Funding includes capital projects up to a maximum amount of \$25,000 (such as community art projects, restoration of objects, community history books, statues, and murals). Successful projects may receive up to 100 per cent of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$200,000 for events that:

- present the work of local artists, artisans and heritage performers or specialists.
- actively involve members of the local community; and
- are intended for and accessible to the general public.

Application deadline

Deadline to apply is April 30 for events that will occur during the next calendar year. We would need to be ready to apply before April 30th 2022.

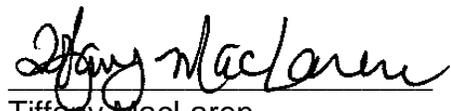
SUMMARY:

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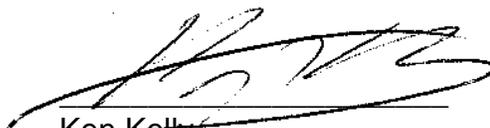
Staff recommends that Committee of the Whole approve the attached committee terms of reference for the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Advisory Committee and Working Groups.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:



Tiffany MacLaren,
Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator



Ken Kelly,
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee and Working Group Terms of Reference