

COMMUNICATION 137018

Received From: Jessica Hansen, Community Development Coordinator
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: March 10, 2026
Topic: Community Enrichment Grant Program, First Intake

SUMMARY

The Community Enrichment Grant program's first intake closed on February 28, 2026. The attached chart summarizes the first intake of applications and includes Staff's recommendations.

COMMENT

Each year, Council approves a budget to allocate funding to various community groups to assist them in their endeavours. Council approved a budget of \$47,000.00 for the 2026 Community Enrichment Program. This includes a total of \$12 000.00 for financial support, and \$35 000.00 for in-kind support.

This is a summary of the requests from the first intake of the Community Enrichment Program. The second intake of the program closes on August 28, 2026. If any funds remain after the second intake, individual applications are considered until the annual funds are utilized.

Staff reviewed the first intake applications against the program criteria. Attached is a chart summarizing applications received and Staff's recommendations in terms of funding allotments.

With respect to the Coldest Night of the Year application, staff are recommending the In-Kind support of the Canoe Club only. The financial support was requested to offset event expenses; however, the event has already passed.

With respect to the Mississippi Lakes Association, the request of \$1,000.00 was to match what the neighbouring municipalities would be providing to support their programming. Staff have spoken to Beckwith Township who confirmed a contribution of \$500.00, Drummond North Elmsley who confirmed a contribution of \$1,000.00, and Mississippi Mills who confirmed a contribution of \$750.00. Therefore, staff are suggesting the usual annual support provided to this Association of \$500.00.

With respect to the Mississippi Mudds' application, staff would like to note that the Mississippi Mudds have requested the \$1,500.00 of in-kind support to offset the rentals of the Town Hall Auditorium, as well as the subsidy option of the granting program. This will assist in reducing the hourly rental rates to supplement the increased rental fees of the Town Hall Auditorium. Although it is unconfirmed what the total of that subsidy amount will be until they have confirmed their complete schedule for 2026, staff suspect that it will be around \$5,700.00 and a request will be included in the 2nd Intake Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Below is a summary of Community Enrichment Grant Funding available:

2026 Budget	\$47,000.00
Intake 1 Staff Recommendation	<u>\$28,225.00</u>
Remaining Balance	\$18,775.00

The total funding available for 2026 is \$47,000.00. Staff is recommending that Council allocate \$28,225.00 for the first intake comprised of \$17,247.00 in-kind contributions and \$11,428.00 cash contributions leaving a balance of \$18,775.00 (\$17,753.00 in-kind and \$1,022.00 cash) to be allocated for the second intake which closes on August 28, 2026.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the allocation of Community Enrichment Grants to various organizations under Intake 1 in the amount of \$28,225.00.