



# The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

## Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: March 11, 2024

Subject: SRFIN.26.07 2024 Community Requests for Interest-Free Loans and Additional Grant Requests

Report from: David Munro, Interim Treasurer

Appendices: None.

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### **Recommendation**

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Direct staff to prepare a five-year (5) interest-free loan in accordance with Section 7 of the Grant and Donation Policy in the amount of \$15,000, payable by December 31, 2029, to the Tara Horticultural Society for the purpose of supporting the planting of 100 trees in Arran-Elderslie for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tara Horticultural Society;
2. Direct staff to prepare an interest-free loan in accordance with Section 6 of Grant and Donation Policy in the amount of \$5,000, payable by August 31, 2024, to the Paisley Community Enhancement Committee for the purpose of supporting the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Paisley Homecoming Event planned for July 12 – 14, 2024; and
3. Approves a grant in the amount of \$500 to the Arran-Tara Elementary School Climate Club for the purpose of purchasing trees from the Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority to support planting those trees in Arran-Elderslie for enhanced environmental stewardship.

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### **Report Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide a further update on the 2024 financial commitments as requested by community groups that came forward requesting support for community projects in the form of loans or grants during the budget process.

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## **Background**

During our annual request for submissions from individuals and community groups for grants and donations, we received a number of requests for grants, and these were reviewed and Council direction given on February 26, 2024 at the time of budget approval for a total amount of \$36,725.00.

In addition to the above grant requests, there were requests for consideration of interest free loans also applied for through our Grant and Donation Policy Program. Council received this information on January 29<sup>th</sup> and requested additional information and presentations from groups seeking loan requests. These presentations were made on February 12, 2024.

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## **Analysis**

Of those requests Council received the following:

### Tara Horticultural Society

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tara Horticultural Society (THS), they have identified an interest and desire to plant 100 mature trees in Arran-Elderslie. The THS have been working with a local arborist and municipal staff to review appropriate tree species and location of planting. They have also been working with a local nursery to secure the plant stock. They were seeking both a grant and loan from the municipality to provide them with the ability to order the plant stock through the Grant and Donation policy program. They were unsuccessful in obtaining the grant as part of the 2024 Budget process. They also were seeking a \$15,000 interest free loan. THS will be embarking on a fundraising campaign to ensure the funds are repayable by 2029, or sooner.

### Paisley Community Enhancement Committee

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation of Paisley, the Paisley Community Enhancement Committee (PCEC) have requested a \$10,000 grant and \$15,000 in temporary "seed" financing through the Grant and Donation policy program as part of the 2024 budget process. The funds would be used to support the homecoming weekend event planned for July 12 to July 14, 2024. The PCEC were successful in securing a \$2,000 grant in the 2024 Budget process and staff are recommending support for a \$5,000 temporary "seed" financing in an interest free loan to be paid by the end of August, 2024. PCEC intends for the interest free loan to be repaid through receipt of event revenue and ticket sales.

### Tara Curling Club

The Tara Curling Club (TCC) had requested either a grant or interest free loan in the amount of up to \$60,000 through the Grant and Donation policy program in the 2024 budget process for the complete replacement of the facilities refrigeration ice plant. The total cost of the ice plant replacement would be \$200 to \$250K.

The TCC would be seeking other governmental grants to support the difference in cost. At the presentation on February 12<sup>th</sup>, it was determined that TCC would continue to work with staff to seek alternative solutions and to report back to Council at a later date regarding this work required and the supportive funding request.

#### Additional Requests

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, Council received a late request and presentation from the Arran-Tara Elementary School's Climate Club seeking municipal support to provide a grant to enable the purchase of trees from the Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority. The trees would be planted in Arran-Elderslie to help climate change and protect natural habitats. The trees would be planted in May, 2024. The amount of funds being sought are \$1,500. Of the \$36,725 in total grants awarded there remains a small contingency fund of \$1,000 for requests that may miscellaneously come forward this year. Staff recommend that \$500 be directed to the Arran-Tara Elementary School's Climate Club for the purchase of trees from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to be planted in Arran-Elderslie this spring.

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#### **Link to Strategic/Master Plan**

#### 6.4 Leading Financial Management

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#### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy**

Funding for the grant of \$500 for the Arran-Tara Elementary School shall be removed from the Grant and Donation account 01-7410-4633.

Funding to support an interest-free loan shall be removed from our interest revenue account. The current interest accruing from our general bank account is 5.5%.

A six-month interest-free loan for "temporary seed financing" of \$5,000 identified for the Paisley Community Enhancement Committee will cost approximately \$138.00 due to the loss of interest revenue based on the March 1, 2024, rate of 5.5%.

A five-year interest-free loan of \$15,000 identified for the Tara Horticultural Society will cost approximately \$4,125.00 due to the loss of interest revenue based on the March 1, 2024 rate of 5.5%.

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Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer