

## Report to Committee of the Whole

**Date:** 4/13/2026  
**From:** Kirsten Rahm, Treasurer/Manager, Finance  
**Re:** 2026 Community Grants

### RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole give staff direction on the allocation of funds and In-Kind requests for the Community Grant Program;

AND FURTHER THAT the direction provided be brought forward to the April 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting for final approval.

### BACKGROUND

On April 23, 2019, Council passed By-law 23-2019, being a by-law to adopt a Community Grant Program Policy to set rules and eligibility requirements for applicants and to guide the decision-making process with respect to the allocation of the community grants each year. The Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Program provides *limited* financial support to community groups and organizations for projects or events that benefit and contribute toward the quality of life of residents. Community grants are *not* intended to provide ongoing funding to organizations. They are for one-time initiatives.

The 2026 Operating Budget allocates \$4000 for Community Grants.

### ANALYSIS

Staff received In-Kind requests for the following:

- Merrickville Lions Club Christmas Food Hampers – request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for Christmas Food Hamper program
- Merrickville Public School - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Christmas Luncheon
- Chamber of Commerce - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for the annual Snowflake Festival
- Seniors Exercise Group - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for weekly exercise classes
- Ecole Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Thanksgiving lunch
- Eco Champions - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Awards Ceremony

- Merrickville Scouts - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their weekly Scouts meetings
- Run Merrickville - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Fundraising Event and Race Day

As the above applications are not requesting a cash grant, and are yearly requests, staff advise that going forward, they do not need to be approved by Council. In order to secure their rental date, the organizations need to continue filling out a Rental Application and provide the Village with insurance.

Theatre Night in Merrickville submitted a request for an In-Kind waiver. Their agreement with the Village states that they will pay the Village 25% of their gross profits from their productions. Their request is to keep \$1500 of the revenue owed to the Village.

Staff received the following cash grant applications:

- Ontario SPCA – Neuter Scooter program - \$3000
- Beth Donovan Hospice – hospice care programs - \$4500
- Fibre by the Locks – requesting support for marketing, rental space and signage costs - \$2787.71
- Chamber of Commerce Streetscaping Working Group – funding to purchase 26 banners - \$2500
- Ecole Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys – funding to purchase 2 picnic tables for their schoolyard
- Amanda Casselden (re: dog park) – funding to assist with creating a safe and enclosed space for off leash dogs - \$1500

The detailed grant applications are included as an attachment.

In addition, the Merrickville Arts Guild (MAG) submitted a grant request for \$2000. They are now included in the operating budget with an allocation of \$500. The Merrickville Organization for Culture and the Arts (MOCA) also submitted a grant application for \$7000. This organization is also included in the operating budget with an allocation of \$5000.

The cash grant requests total \$14,787.71 (excluding MAG and MOCA), which far exceeds the approved budget of \$4000. Staff are looking for directions on how to allocate the \$4000.

#### BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2026 approved budget allocation for community grants is \$4,000.

#### CONCLUSION

Staff are asking Council to provide direction on the allocation of the 2026 community grant funding of \$4000.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Community Grant Applications

Submitted by:

Kirsten Rahm  
Manager of Finance/Treasurer

Approved by:

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Darlene Plumley, CAO