



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2023

Here are the highlights from the South Dundas Council meeting held March 13, 2023.

For more information, contact [Shawna O'Neill](#), **Communications Coordinator** at 613-543-2673 ext. 4768

Council approves Grants and Donations applications

Members of Council reviewed a number of Grants and Donations applications during the Regular Council Meeting on March 13. Council allocated \$107,500 to be used for these contributions in the 2023 Budget, which reflects an increase of \$36,500.

Council approved funding for 21 requests, supporting a range of local festivals and societies. Administration will contact the successful applicants soon. About \$10,000 remains in the Grants and Donations Budget for more projects this year.

Mayor Jason Broad said he is thrilled to see Council support a range of initiatives in the Township.

Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre said during the meeting that he would like to hear delegations from some of the benefitting groups and proposed that Council visit some of the organizations in-person, such as Beyond 21 and J.W. MacIntosh Community Support Services, to better understand the important work they offer to community members.

Council receives delegation from Community Food Share

Community Food Share Team Leader Jane Schoones spoke to Council about the continued support that the non-profit provides to many residents of Dundas and Stormont counties.

“Our mission is to help our neighbours have access to healthy food by promoting the benefits of nutrition, building community partnerships and supporting clients through a variety of life challenges. Our vision is that no person or family in our community goes hungry. Community Food Share has served Dundas and Stormont counties for over 30 years,” said Schoones.

Schoones emphasized how the efforts of volunteers are invaluable to the services offered through the non-profit. She said without donations and community contributions, the organization would not be able to reach the many clients it currently serves.

“Anyone in Dundas County facing food insecurity can call us; it’s as simple as that.”



Community Food Share operates from four locations across Dundas and Stormont counties with two in South Dundas at 28 Ottawa St. in Morrisburg and 4324 Villa Dr. in Williamsburg.

Residents looking to donate goods are asked to contact the specific location in their area as the needs each Food Bank can vary.

Council hears update from Dundas County Archives

Archivist with Dundas County Archives Susan Peters presented to Council, highlighting the importance of continuing to preserve our local history through the many efforts of the organization.

In speaking about the organization's mission statement, Peters said that Dundas County Archives collects various types of media from events, groups, and individuals in order to document the rich history of South and North Dundas.

Peters said that in addition to collecting primary sources of information, such as newspapers and event pamphlets, the organization also collects videos that document community events. She shared that a wide range of individuals utilize the information, such as graduate students and relatives of past residents.

The SD&G Online Archives project has digitized a number of editions of local newspapers, including publications based in South Dundas. Peters said the organization is still looking for funding to digitize 1,000 more pages.

"I know our shared Dundas archives is a very important piece of our history that we want to preserve, and we will continue to support," said Mayor Jason Broad during the meeting.

Council supports Ontario Artisan Wines request

Craig MacMillan, a member of the newly formed Ontario Artisan Wineries (OAW) Association, asked Council to support the elimination of the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee.

Council voted to support the request made by OAW. MacMillan shared that the Mark-up is impacting the sustainability of local artisan wineries and subsequently the development of rural local economies.

"I'm 100% behind anything that involves farming as well. A vineyard, especially the ones we have in Eastern Ontario, fall under the agri-tourism tourism category, and I am 100% behind anything in that category as well. You have my support," said Councillor Tom Smyth.

Mayor Jason Broad and Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre voiced how they had received MacMillan's presentation at the most recent SDG Counties meeting and were still in support of the ask. SDG Counties supported the request, in addition to SDSG MPP Nolan Quinn and other local lower-tier Municipalities.



2023 Budget Updates

Council officially passed its 2023 Budget with a 5.5% increase from 2022. The average ratepayer, with a residential property assessed at \$211,148, will see an increase of approximately \$61.80. The overall annual net tax levy for 2023 is \$8,192,728, which is a \$477,313 increase (6.19%) over that of 2022.

Council awarded the tender for the purchase of a 6x4 SBA Diesel Cab & Chassis with Pro-line 2 Box, Plow and Wing to Premier Truck Group in the amount of \$375,985.00 plus HST. The new plow is expected to arrive in January 2024, a timeline that Council was very happy with. The new plow will replace Unit #57 and South Dundas' oldest front line plow truck Unit #62 will now become a spare.

Council also approved a new rate fee schedule for all Parks, Recreation and Facilities. This includes updates to campground, marina, arena, halls and recreation programming. Marina and arena rentals have increased by approximately 20% and campgrounds by 5%. This change will help to transfer fees from the overall tax base to the direct user. For more information, contact the Parks, Recreation and Facilities department at 613-543-2673.

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South Dundas Council



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Upcoming Meetings

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm