

Local Government Week 2023

Essay Writing Contest

David Mayberry connected with Mayor Brian Petrie, who agreed to have the Town of Ingersoll partner with South-West Oxford for the Essay Writing Contest. Each municipality will have their own winners and prizes – the Township’s entries will be judged and awarded by the Engage and Inform Committee. The top three winners will be invited to a Council Meeting where they will be acknowledged and given prizes. Prize values will be \$100 for first place and \$50 for second and third places each. David donated \$100.00 towards the prize fund.

Next steps:

- Julie will contact Ingersoll’s Clerk, Danielle Richard, to confirm the contest details and share communication material
- Staff will order prizes and update the poster accordingly
- Julie will reach out to local schools to gauge interest
- Catherine will attend any classes interested in receiving a presentation
- The contest will be circulated via the newsletter, social media, website, etc.

Mock Council Meeting

David reached out to the principal of the Oxford Reformed Christian School, Mr. William VanBrugge, to inquire about the possibility of partnering to host a mock Council Meeting. He asked if Mary Ellen could reach out to Grade 9 Civics Teacher Sarah Kenter directly. Staff will reach out to determine next steps.

Local Government Week – Communication

Staff will share Local Government Week communication material provided by the ministry, and Township initiatives (contest poster, mock council meeting information, etc.).

Earth Day 2024 – Film Plastics

The Committee discussed the film plastic communication material put together by Oxford County and Township staff. David reminded the Committee that this is still a pilot program – we do not want to advertise our film plastic recycling to those living in other municipalities. For the 2024 Earth Day event, staff will order pollinator garden seeds (instead of trees) early next year.

The Committee discussed how we can communicate community responsibility, and also better advertise this event to residents. In terms of general messaging, Julie suggested that we have a display to offer visual alternatives for single use plastics (i.e., containers, cutlery, cups). The Committee discussed a targeted (specific postal codes) mailout of event flyers – RR1 and RR2 Mount Elgin N0J 1N0 and Brownsville N0L 1C0. At the next meeting the Committee will discuss the 2024 budget requirements (at least \$600 for seeds and advertising).

2024 Budget Survey - Results

Results will be presented from the next meeting.

2024 Winter Walk for Warmth

The Committee set the date for this event: February 24, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lawson Trail. They discussed communicating the event with Oxford County Trail Council and the Oxford County's Human Services Department to increase awareness. Staff will reach out to the Ingersoll District Nature Club to inquire if we can put up a poster at the trail a few weeks in advance of the event, and if they would be willing to share the event on their social media/website.

Discussion Items

Draft Agenda for Oxford MP Visit

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda and talking points for Oxford Member of Parliament, Arpan Khanna's visit in October. Catherine is waiting for his office to confirm the date (October 10, 12 or 13). The Community discussed the challenges of communication and different options we have: radio (HeartFM), school communications, mailings, flyers, family members/word of mouth. Where do you get your information, how does it impact you? David has an interview with HeartFM tomorrow, and he will ask them about communication strategies and if they have any insight how we engage our community. The Committee discussed the importance of advocacy, and how we should be engaging and informing all levels of government – not just residents.

Julie noted that there is an individual in Mount Elgin who expressed interested in opening a licensed child care/home day care. She directed them to contact Oxford Community Child Care (OCCC) for more information. The Committee is interested in learning about if that person is experiencing any hurdles or barriers during this process. Julie will reach out to OCCC to request more information. The Committee discussed offering subsidized community hall spaces, or other locations that would be open and available 5 days per week. David will inquire with Human Services regarding the operable number of children for a profitable/sustainable child care facility.

New Business

Foresters Financial Community Grant

Catherine presented an opportunity for grant funding provided by her life insurance policy corporation. The committee discussed the following options for grant application:

- Benches for Brownsville (for individuals walking in the area)
- Care packages for vulnerable groups (homeless)
- DASO care packages for residents specifically from South-West Oxford
- Mini food bank/cupboard/fridge in partnership with church/hall board/library?

