

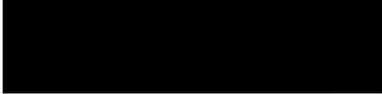


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**Item No.9.1.2**  
**Grants Committee**  
**August 9, 2021**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Grants Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**

 (Original Signed)

Denise Schofield, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation

 (Original Signed)

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** July 28, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Regional Special Events Community Celebrations Grant Report 2021/2022

**ORIGIN**

Applications received pursuant to *2014-021-GOV Administrative Order Number – Respecting Regional Special Events Grants*.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*  
Section 79A

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
  - (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;

*2014-021-GOV Administrative Order, Regional Events Grants*  
Respecting Regional Special Events Grants, approved by Halifax Regional Council on May 26, 2015.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the six (6) Event Grants summarized in Table 1 for a total of \$10,000 to be distributed to the applicants listed in Attachment 1 with funding provided from the approved 2021/2022 Operating Budget – C760 Community/Civic Events.

## **BACKGROUND**

This report outlines the recommended Regional Special Events Grant Awards for the 2021/2022 Community Celebrations and Significant Anniversaries funding intake. All Regional Special Events grant recommendations are governed by *2014-021-GOV Administrative Order, Respecting Regional Special Events Grants* (AO). There is one intake per year in which staff undertakes the grant application and evaluation process as outlined in the AO. In a typical year, the Community Celebrations funding program would be included with the Regional Special Events 2021/2022 grant report (approved by Regional Council on June 29, 2021); however, with ongoing COVID-19 restrictions not permitting in-person events, the intake for the Community Celebrations event grant program was delayed. These events are generally volunteer run and do not have the ability to host hybrid or virtual events. As public health restrictions were lifted to permit in-person events, the Community Celebrations and Significant Anniversaries intake opened for applications.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Regional Events AO**

*2014-021-GOV Administrative Order* establishes consistent and equitable funding for community and cultural events and includes four funding programs: Community Celebrations, Established Community Festivals, Significant Anniversaries and Cultural Events & Showcases. On June 29, 2021 Regional Council approved the Regional Special Events Grant Report 2021/2022 allocating funding in Established Community Festivals and Cultural Events & Showcases.

The Community Celebrations program provides support for small scale community events that are organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, coincide with a community gathering or civic holiday, and are free to the public to attend. The maximum grant award in this program is \$1,000.

The Significant Anniversaries program provides support for the community events organized around major quarterly significant anniversaries (25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, etc.) that celebrate Halifax Regional Municipality's heritage and community and have a minimum budget of \$7,500. The maximum grant award in this program is \$10,000.

The Community Celebrations, Established Community Festivals and Significant Anniversaries programs have a total budget of \$215,000 funded from the operating budget C760. On June 29, 2021 the Regional Special Events Grant Report 2021/2022 was approved by Regional Council allocating \$188,225 to the Established Community Festival program.

In 2020/2021 Council approved funding to 21 Community Celebrations through the regular program intake period. After Council approval, however, 17 of the 21 organizations cancelled their events due to COVID-19 impacts, citing concern for the safety of the public and event volunteers. In considering the 2021/2022 program, the opening of the 2021/2022 Community Celebrations and Significant Anniversaries program intake was delayed due to the public health restrictions on in-person gatherings and the administrative strain on volunteers and organizers given the challenges faced by not-for-profit organizations in planning events under evolving conditions. In July, the re-opening phases of Nova Scotia Public Health and Wellness permitted in-person events. At that time, staff communicated with previously funded 2020 and 2019 Community Celebrations recipients advising the intake was now open.

### **Evaluation**

As per the Regional Special Events AO, all applications are evaluated on:

- Community engagement;
- Community cultural development;
- Demonstrated financial need; and
- Demonstrated added value to the community.

Community engagement is evaluated based on volunteer involvement, diversity, accessibility, attendance, and programming. Community cultural development is based on the provision of arts and cultural programming and experiences. Demonstrated financial need is evaluated on access to potential sponsorship, as well as the ability to self-fund. Demonstrated added value to the community is evaluated on the impact of the experience that would have otherwise not been available to the community in which the event is held.

### **Summary of Recommended Funding**

The proposed Regional Special Events funding amounts for 2021/2022 Community Celebrations and Significant Anniversaries are summarized in Table 1, with details outlined in Attachment 1.

<b>Table 1: 2021/2022 Proposed Regional Events Funding</b>			
	<b># of Events</b>	<b>2021/2022 Requests</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposed Grant</b>
Community Celebrations	5	\$5,000	\$5,000
Significant Anniversaries	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total 2021/2022 Regional Events</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

All recommended applicants have been screened for debt to the Municipality and none have outstanding payments to HRM.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The grants in the amount of \$10,000 can be accommodated from the approved 2021/2022 operating budget for Community/Civic Events, account C760-6919.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report. The risks considered rate Low. To determine this, consideration was given to financial and reputational risk.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, and applicant timelines are posted on the HRM website. Communication was provided via email to 2020 and 2019 previously funded Community Celebrations event organizations advising 2021/2022 intake was open. Communication is ongoing with event clients on the status of events.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

### **ALTERNATIVE**

The Grants Committee could choose to recommend that Regional Council amend the recommended amount of any event grant in accordance with 2014-021-GOV Administrative Order within the budget capacity of C760.

**ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1: Summary of Funding Recommendations for 2021/2022 Community Celebrations and Significant Anniversaries

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Shari Dillman, Event Grant Coordinator, Culture & Events, 902.497.3729

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**Summary of Funding Recommendations for 2021 /2022 Community Celebrations  
and Significant Anniversaries**

<b>Community Celebrations 2021/2022</b>		
	<b>2021/2022 Request</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposed Grant</b>
Musquodoboit Harbour Pride Festival	\$1,000	\$1,000
PEHRA & Scouts Storage Unit Celebration	\$1,000	\$1,000
Porters Lake Business Association Block Party	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting	\$1,000	\$1,000
Upper Hammonds Plains Fun Day	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>Total Community Celebrations</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

<b>Significant Anniversaries 2021/2022</b>		
	<b>2021/2022 Request</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposed Grant</b>
50 Bits and Pieces: An MSVU Art Gallery Retrospective - Reunion	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total Significant Anniversaries</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>