



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board
Meeting Date: January 15, 2025
Report Number: TBMOPP.25.001
Title: Special Event Communications – Neighbouring Municipalities
Prepared by: Katie Love, Administrative Assistant Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board receive Staff Report TBMOPP.25.001, entitled “Special Event Communications – Neighbouring Municipalities”;

AND THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board recommends Council to direct Staff to proceed with a special event communication plan with neighbouring municipalities that will include connecting by end of February of every year and follow up throughout the year for events that cross Town of The Blue Mountains borders.

B. Overview

In 2023 and 2024, there have been cycling events from neighbouring municipalities that have crossed Town borders and utilize Town roads with no notification from the event organizer or the municipality. Procedurally, Town Staff communicate with neighbouring municipalities when a Special Event Permit Application has been received that indicates use of another municipality’s roads and cross into their jurisdiction. It has been noticed that this communication has not been reciprocated in the last couple years and improved communication is necessary.

C. Background

On July 17, 2024, at The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board meeting, there was discussion regarding cycling events on Town roads and neighbouring municipalities not reciprocating communication to Staff when an event crosses Town of The Blue Mountain boarders. CAO Everitt noted that The Town use to receive consultation for larger events that would impact the Town but were being organized in another municipality and perhaps correspondence from the Board to those partners would be an extra push to ensure consultation.

This staff report is provided to The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board in response to The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board direction of July 17, 2024 as provided below:

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board receive for information the Detachment Commander's Report, Quarter 2 2024;

AND THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board directs Town staff to bring a report no later than Quarter 4 2024 regarding recommendations around the need for improved communication with regional partners for inter-municipal recreational events, such as cycling events, CARRIED.

D. Analysis

Staff recognize with restrictions uplifted from COVID-19 and special events becoming popular again that a need for improved communication with neighbouring municipalities should be revisited.

Staff provide previous event organizers with a detailed email in January of every year to inform event organizers of the application process and any new information or new contacts for appropriate approvals and deadlines. Staff feel it would be appropriate to connect with regional partners and neighbouring municipalities by end of February to revisit a communication plan for specific events that cross municipal borders. Neighbouring municipalities include Municipality of Meaford, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Collingwood, and Township of Clearview. Staff will also connect with Simcoe County and Grey County to ensure all areas are included. This will enhance coordination between municipalities and regional partners, ensure consistent and timely information sharing and assist promoting public awareness and engagement when required. Staff recognize the possibility of a new event or a cycling event that may occur unauthorized. If this occurs, Staff will attempt to find out more information on the event and inform them of the process moving forward.

Staff will continue to communicate with The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment to provide details of neighbouring municipalities special events that cross the Town of The Blue Mountains borders and provide opportunity for feedback.

By prioritizing the communication between municipalities by end of February and creating a communication plan for follow up throughout the year, staff believe it will improve the collaboration between municipalities as well as providing information to OPP and the public to continue to create a safe community that allows for these types of events.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

None.

G. Financial Impacts

None.

H. In Consultation With

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Katie Love, Administrative Assistant, Community Services klove@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Love
Administrative Assistant, Community Services

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	TBMOPP.25.001 Special Event Communications - Neighbouring Municipalities.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 3, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Ryan Gibbons - Jan 3, 2025 - 1:27 PM

No Signature found

Katie Love - Jan 3, 2025 - 2:10 PM