

From: Palma Barbieri

Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 7:20 PM

Subject: TC Rotary & BVAA Winter Fest Date - Serious Concerns Given Deteriorating Covid Situation

To: TBM Council Members

Representatives of TC Rotary and BVAA met this past Friday for a planning meeting which turned to the current deteriorating Covid situation. We originally planned to assess the situation for a go/no go decision in the first week of January, however, in reviewing the current situation, we believe there is no benefit to waiting as we strongly feel it points to only one appropriate decision. Given the rapidly deteriorating trends over the past 2 weeks, we have decided to postpone the event and are considering May15-16 as the potential new date. Our decision to postpone was based on the following:

- The situation has deteriorated significantly, though not necessarily in TBM/Grey-Bruce. We feel that due to the proximity to Collingwood, we must also consider the situation in Simcoe-Muskoka which is now classified as a red area for Covid-19. Our view is that both areas must be no worse than an orange classification for our members and volunteers to feel it is safe for them and the community to gather in a manner that meets health protocols. Our aim was to provide activities for up to 50-80 people in each park every 90 minutes or so.
- Given the trend over the past few days and with the holidays that are now upon us, cases are likely to rise into January. With many school boards extending the holiday break to mid January and an indication that they may return to remote-only learning, it is very likely that TBM will see ski visitors from the surrounding red and locked-down zones well into January increasing the risk Covid-spread at our event and in our community.
- Given the rapidly deteriorating situation, many of our volunteers, particularly the numerous seniors who volunteer, are very concerned about being around others even when abiding by Covid health protocols and so will not be available which will put the operation of the events at risk.

And today (Sunday), the news indicates that a 28 day total lock-down across all of Southern Ontario will commence Christmas Eve which will hopefully be effective in getting better control of the Covid-19. Nonetheless, it would not be prudent for the safety of our community for us to be encouraging fairly large gatherings (even a socially distanced ones) only 3 weeks later.

We have considered alternate dates in the winter but feel that the March break timeframe will still be too risky. We are considering May 15-16 (weekend prior to the May long weekend) as a potential new date since it would be in between winter and summer sporting activities when the ground is dry and residents, youth in particular, will be looking for interesting and fun activities.

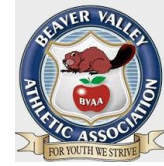
We look forward to your support for the postponed timing of this event (now it maybe more of a Spring Shindig?). We also would like to know who we should speak to in order to determine an appropriate new date for the event.

Thank you for your support and best wishes to all for peace and joy over the Holidays and in the new year.

on behalf of the TC Rotary-BVAA Winter Fest Committee

Palma Barbieri, CPA, CIA

Rotary Club of Thornbury-Clarksburg



P.O. Box 94, Clarksburg, Ontario, N0H 1J0

December 1, 2020

Town of the Blue Mountains
Grants and Donations Program
32 Mill Street
P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, On N0H 2P0

Re: Special request to Grants and Donation Program

Dear Members of the Grants and Donation Committee,

The TC Rotary and the BVAA are grateful for all the support we receive from the Town of the Blue Mountains. As you are aware, all non-profits have been struggling with fundraising and looking for new ways to do this under restrictive public health guidelines due to Covid-19. And the approaching winter combined with increasing Covid-19 spread is placing ever-mounting mental health stress on our community. We feel that a winter outdoor activities festival for the Saturday and Sunday, February 13-14 of the long weekend offered by the TC Rotary and the BVAA jointly would provide a fun and uplifting experience for our community while also raising some needed funds for our community initiatives. This initiative is only possible if we have TBM council support in the way of access to outdoor parks and amenities and we believe it is very much aligned with the Town's urgent focus on providing improved opportunities for our community residents and visitors to access local winter outdoor activities in 2021.

Our plan is to provide three or four themed outdoor activities in separate locations that are designed for household/social bubbles to enjoy an activity for 60 to 90 minutes while maintaining the required social distance from other bubbles. We will have an online event page that facilitates the advance sale of tickets for set timeslots at a reasonable price along with the ability to accept donations, and we will be seeking one or two major sponsors. Further, we would like to sell hot drinks such as hot apple cider, hot chocolate and coffee.

Our request is for the Town to offer the following support free of charge for this initiative:

- Access to the three or four largest park areas groomed or cleared as needed (such as Bayview and Cedar Grove Park areas, Moreau Park, Tomahawk Fields/Golfcourse area depending on input from the Town)
- Availability of usable washroom facilities in each area
- Availability of adequate cleared parking in each area
- Assistance in ensuring design of overall event is Covid-19 compliant and obtaining the required Public Health approvals
- Advertising of the even on Town media channels

The TC Rotary and BVAA will provide all other resources necessary for executing this initiative. Given the uncertainty surrounding how serious the Covid-19 situation will be in mid-February and what level of restrictions we will be under, we propose the following approach if our grant request is approved:

- Between now and early January – work with the Town and Grey Bruce Public Health to determine if we can viably design the activities for a Grey “Lockdown” scenario or at least for a Red “Control” scenario
- A Go/No go decision to be made by January 8, 2021 based on the Covid-19 situation at the time and on our design viability and expectations for mid-February.
- If the decision is “No go”, we will attempt to determine, with the Town, a future weekend on which it would be possible to hold the event.
- If decision is “Go”, detailed planning will proceed and ticket sales will commence on February 1st. Should it become necessary to cancel the event at the last minute due to an unexpected turn of events (e.g., Covid-19 or weather related), we will plan to honour tickets for a rescheduled future weekend as agreed with the Town.

Should the Committee or the Town feel that our request is not viable as presented and you have alternative suggestions that better meet the Town’s priorities and plans for the well-being of our community this winter, we are open to discussing this further with you.

In closing, we wish to thank the Committee and the Town on all the support you provide our organizations and our community.

Best regards,

Colin Clarke, President, TC Rotary

Email: [REDACTED]

Kelly Mackey, President, BVAA

Email: [REDACTED]