



# Staff Report

## Administration – Chief Administrative Officer

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**Report To:** COW-Finance, Admin, Fire, Legal, Community Services  
**Meeting Date:** August 14, 2023  
**Report Number:** FAF.23.130  
**Title:** Request from the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay for Partnership Funding  
**Prepared by:** Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.130, entitled “Request from the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay for Partnership Funding”;

AND THAT Council approve the 2023 Partnership funding for the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay at the

- a) Lead Partner Level at a cost of \$10,000.
- b) Supporting Partner Level at a cost of \$5,000.
- c) Community Partner Level at a cost of \$2,500.

### B. Overview

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This report is a follow up to a request for Partnership Funding made by the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay through their June 26, 2023 Deputation to Council.

### C. Background

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The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay presented a [deputation](#) to Council at the June 26, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

As result of this deputation, Council approved the following motion;

**Moved by: Councillor McKinlay**

**Seconded by: Councillor Hope**

**THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains received for information the deputation of Rosalyn Morrison, Board Chair, The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay regrading Program Partnership Opportunities.**

The July 10, 2023 Council motion was limited to Council receiving the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay deputation by Rosalyn Morrison for information purposes only and did not provide direction to staff regarding the request for the Town to consider Program Partnership Opportunities.

These Program Partnership Opportunities are laid out in the deputation and are as follows;

Partnership Level	Funding Requirement
Lead Partners	\$10,000
Supporting Partners	\$5,000
Community Partners	\$2,500

Town staff have confirmed that the intention of the request made through the deputation was for the Town of The Blue Mountains to consider funding at the level of a Lead Partner in the amount of \$10,000 and that the Town of The Blue Mountains would join the Town of Collingwood in becoming a 2023 Lead Collaborative Program Partner, and match the funds raised by the Institute for programming.

The Institute also identified that they are proud of their accomplishments to date as a volunteer-driven organization, contributing thousands of hours of volunteer time, and are very happy to see the progress taking place through their efforts to connect people, share knowledge, and nurture collaborative initiatives. The Institute creates and provides safe, neutral places for residents, businesses, governments, non-profits, and philanthropic leaders to come together to discuss some of our region's most pressing issues as well as exciting opportunities, such as how we might move forward, together as a region.

## **D. Analysis**

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The Lead Partner investment will enable the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay to continue their 2023 collaborative Community Planning Series "Creating a more resilient and sustainable future, today".

The contribution by the Town, as the Lead Partner, allows Program Partners to co-create more in-person events, as requested by the community.

The \$10,000 would enable the planning and implementation of the following:

- Sustainability and the Green Economy (TBD) in October, in-person in The Blue Mountains - the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan will help to inform this event
- Financing the Housing Affordability Gap (TBD) in November, in-person in Meaford - we need to understand the ecosystem required for building housing that can sustain our service sector economy, as well as the impact Social Finance tools could have on closing the affordability gap

- Research and reporting on new directions for business and economic development in the area of social entrepreneurship and social enterprise (with triple bottom lines)
- Launching an arts round-up newsletter series for the region, with a special feature around the collaborative Culture Days this fall

The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay has noted that the investment would enable them to bring people together from across the region in our local gathering places, hire local talent for event and communications support, report writing, and website and newsletter knowledge-sharing. The suggestion was also made that Town of The Blue Mountains Councillors and staff could potentially participate on the Institute's Design Teams.

The Institute looks forward to having all six (6) municipalities that would annually be Program Partners with the Institute, attend a collaborative Strategy Session and co-create the annual programming along with residents, businesses, non-profits, and philanthropists from across the region. The Institute is also looking forward to gathering as a group for a strategy session at the end of 2023 to co-create next year's programming. In this case, the 2024 investment requests would be made early in 2024.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **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**

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Much of the work and collaboration driven by the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay has a focus on the Pillars of Environmental Sustainability.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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The request carries a total financial impact of \$10,000 to be considered a “Lead Partner” with the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay.

Council carries an annual \$3,000 Grant budget line that Council could consider overspending on. Staff also recommend that Council consider providing direction to staff on whether to include annual funding within the 2024 proposed Operating Budget for this expense moving forward.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Rosalyn Morrison, Institute of Southern Georgian Bay Chair

Financial Services Staff

## **I. Public Engagement**

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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 Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer [cao@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:cao@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

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None.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt  
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:  
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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.23.130 Request from the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay for Partnership Funding.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 27, 2023

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

**Shawn Everitt - Jul 27, 2023 - 12:28 PM**