



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: COW_Finance_Admin_Fire_Community_Services
Meeting Date: November 18, 2024
Report Number: CSOPS.24.82
Title: Olde Fashioned Christmas Extended Road Closure Request
Prepared by: Katie Love, Administrative Assistant Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.24.082, entitled “Olde Fashioned Christmas Extended Road Closure Request”;

AND THAT Council approve the extended road closure request on Bruce St. North from HWY 26 to King St. W. for Olde Fashioned Christmas.

B. Overview

Olde Fashioned Christmas (OFC) is a community event that has taken place in downtown Thornbury for over 20 years. The Thornbury BIA is excited to throw another annual OFC event on Saturday, December 14, 2024. This favourite local event welcomes up to 500 attendees each year while embracing the spirit of the community through exciting activations including:

- Visit with Santa
- Tree lighting ceremony
- Horse-drawn sleigh rides
- Groove dance party with Tyler Boyle
- Collingwood Circus Company performances
- Live music and carollers

The event includes a road closure of Bruce Street South between Louisa Street West and HWY 26, and a requested additional extended road closure of Bruce Street North between HWY 26 and King Street West. The road closure is scheduled from approximately 3:00 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m.

C. Background

As stated in the Overview, Olde Fashioned Christmas has been an annual event in this community located in the downtown core in Thornbury for over 20 years. OFC will begin in the late afternoon with the road closure requested from approximately 3:00 p.m. with activities and attractions on Bruce Street until approximately 8:00 p.m. The Thornbury BIA invites businesses on Bruce Street to stay open late to welcome shoppers and visitors into their stores, galleries, cafes, and restaurants. Every year the request for a road closure from Bruce Street South between Louisa Street West and HWY 26 has been approved.

D. Analysis

This year the BIA has requested an extended road closure of Bruce Street North between HWY 26 and King Street West. The key reason for this request is to enhance business exposure and inclusivity of more businesses on the main street. Participating businesses on Bruce St N include Blue Gallery, Loved You Madly, Kelly Gale Creative, L.A. on the Bay, Beam Light Studio, Georgian Glow Aesthetics, and Pom Pom to name a few. This closure will benefit shop owners and attendees as it encourages exploration and engagement with a broader range of Thornbury's offerings. The road closure will allow for the flow of pedestrians to safely move from the tree lighting ceremony across the trestle bridge to Bruce St N without worrying about walking alongside traffic in the dark. The BIA will also be able to improve the event flow and atmosphere by spreading out the activities and potentially adding new activations for the community to enjoy, which creates a richer experience for attendees while supporting local businesses and performers. Location of the request is included in Attachment 1.

BIA has successfully submitted a Paid Duty Request Form to O.P.P. and this has been approved.

A notice will go out approximately two weeks in advance to Town departmental internal contacts as well as external contacts such as Barrie EMS Dispatch, Grey County Paramedics Services, London Office Paramedic Dispatch, OPP, Grey County Roads, Enbridge, Miller Waste Collection, First Student Bus, Municipal 511 regarding the upcoming closure. The communication department will put out a notice to the public with detailed information regarding the road closure a week prior to the event. BIA will also communicate with Bruce St. North and South residents of the event and road closure information.

Barricades will be located at the corner of Bruce Street South and Arthur Street West and Bruce Street South at Louisa Street as well as Bruce Street North at Arthur Street West and Bruce Street North at King Street West to facilitate the road closure.

Detour signs will be in place for all east and west bound traffic on King Street East and Arthur Street West, (Highway # 26) as well as Bruce Street at Alice Street and Bruce Street at Huron Street West to divert all traffic away from the main business core area to allow pedestrians to congregate for the event. Fully marked police vehicles will be utilized at each barricade to provide a further physical and visible deterrent and prevent any motorist from entering the Thornbury downtown core area.

Location of Off-Street Parking: Limited parking is available at the Hester St. Parkette. Parking is available at the Post office on the North side of Hwy 26, 15 Arthur Street West and Town Hall.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

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

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

No cost to the Town. All associated costs are being paid by the BIA budget.

H. In Consultation With

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads & Drainage

Niki Hilton, BIA General Manager

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

1. Location Map

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Love
Administrative Assistant Community Services

For more information, please contact:
Katie Love, Administrative Assistant Community Services
klove@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 254

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CSOPS.24.082 Olde Fashioned Christmas Extended Road Closure Request.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment-1-Location-Map.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 7, 2024

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

Ryan Gibbons - Nov 7, 2024 - 11:57 AM

No Signature found

Katie Love - Nov 7, 2024 - 1:34 PM

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

Ryan Gibbons - Nov 7, 2024 - 3:32 PM