



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: February 3, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.008
Title: Revised Volunteer Recognition Policy
Prepared by: Katie Love, Administrative Assistant Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.008, entitled “Revised Volunteer Recognition Policy”;
AND THAT Council approve the revised Volunteer Recognition Policy, POL.COR.25.XX with revisions proposed by the current term Volunteer Sub-Committee of Council.

B. Overview

The revised draft Volunteer Recognition Policy included in this report is a result of the Volunteer Sub-Committee collaborating and reviewing the current policy, [POL.COR.22.05](#) that was approved on February 14, 2022.

C. Background

Staff provided a report on [August 26, 2024](#) to request to appoint the current Sub-Committee for the remainder of the current Term of Council and to continually align with the Term of Council moving forward. Previously, the Sub-Committee was appointed every year at the beginning of the year. This only provided enough time for the committee to select the award recipients and provide any input for the ceremony, not allowing for opportunity to evaluate and improve the program.

B.9.4 Volunteer Recognition Awards Subcommittee Appointment for Term of Council, CSOPS.24.062

Moved by: Councillor Porter Seconded by: Councillor Hope

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.24.062, entitled “Volunteer Recognition Awards Subcommittee Appointment for Term of Council”;

AND THAT Council directs staff to appoint the current Volunteer Recognition Awards Subcommittee for the remainder of the current Term of Council;

AND THAT Council directs staff to appoint future Volunteer Recognition Awards Subcommittees to continually align with the Term of Council moving forward.

Yay (5): Deputy Mayor Bordignon, Councillor Ardiel, Councillor Hope, Councillor Maxwell, and Councillor Porter

Absent (2): Mayor Matrosovs, and Councillor McKinlay

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)

Our Volunteer Sub-Committee members (2024-2026) include:

- Tanya Mazza (Public Member)
- Patricia Wright (Public Member)
- Councillor Paula Hope
- Councillor June Porter
- Councillor Shawn McKinlay

D. Analysis

The Volunteer Sub-Committee had two scheduled meetings post 2024 Volunteer Recognition Event and Fair to debrief the event as well as look for improvements and efficiencies in the program and policy.

The following revisions of the policy below have been proposed:

- Under Definitions:
 - Sub-Committee: Update definition to reflect the Term to align with the Term of Council.
- Under Procedures:
 - Award Categories: Remove the Good Neighbour Award and blend this into the Blue Mountains Community Builder Awards.
 - The Sub-Committee felt that the Good Neighbour Award was very similar to the Blue Mountains Community Builder Award. By removing the Good Neighbour Award and include similar verbiage into the Blue Mountains Community Builder Award, this can condense the awards in hopes that more nominations are received with less award options.
 - **Good Neighbour Awards:** awarded to a Blue Mountains resident for their outstanding efforts and actions that have enhanced or improved our community.
 - **Blue Mountains Community Builder Awards (adult 26 and over, youth 25 and younger):** recognizes one individual in each age category who have made an outstanding voluntary contribution to the well-being of our community over a number of years. This award recognizes local champions who build communities and show us all what can be achieved with passion and determination.

- **New Revised Award wording:** recognizes one individual in each age category who, through their outstanding efforts and actions, have enhanced or improved our community. This award recognizes local champions of any age who demonstrate what can be achieved with passion and determination.
- Procedures:
 - 3. Include submitting nominations online.
 - 4. Update wording to provide flexibility with the nomination period to reflect the months of February and March and remove beginning January 1st and no later than the third Friday in February each year. The Sub-Committee felt January is too soon with families off for the holiday period and a busy time of year.

By approving this policy with the above amendments, the Sub-Committee can continue to improve this program to provide the community with a renowned event that is highly anticipated year after year to honor our volunteers who are bettering our Municipality.

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

Tanya Mazza, 2024-2026 Volunteer Sub-Committee of Council

Patricia Wright, 2024-2026 Volunteer Sub-Committee of Council

Councillor Paula Hope, 2024-2026 Volunteer Sub-Committee of Council

Councillor June Porter, 2024-2026 Volunteer Sub-Committee of Council

Councillor Shawn McKinlay, 2024-2026 Volunteer Sub-Committee of Council

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

1. Volunteer Recognition Policy, POL.COR.25.XX Draft

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Love
Administrative Assistant Community Services

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CS.25.008 Revised Volunteer Recognition Policy.docx
Attachments:	- Att-1-Volunteer-Recognition-Policy-Revised-Draft.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 24, 2025

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

Ryan Gibbons - Jan 24, 2025 - 4:26 PM