



Staff Report

Corporate & Financial Services

Report To: Grants and Donations Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Date: May 21, 2025
Report Number: CFS.25.028
Title: 2025 Grants and Donations Applications
Prepared by: Tracy Nowak, Administrative Assistant - Corporate & Financial Services

A. Recommendations

THAT the Grants and Donations Committee receive Staff Report CFS.25.028, entitled “2025 Grants and Donations Applications”;

AND THAT the Grants and Donations Committee make recommendations to Council to authorize the funding of these applications.

B. Overview

This report outlines the Grants and Donations Program and summarizes the Applicants for the Grants and Donations Committee consideration.

C. Background

The Town of The Blue Mountains administers a Grants and Donations Program for Community Groups and Organizations who make an application for financial or in-kind support for their operations, events, and activities.

This program aims at reducing duplications and streamlining the process for subsidies and donations given out by the Town. Subsidies include the use or request for Town facilities or services, examples include rental fees for Beaver Valley Community Centre, plowing and sanding/lawn maintenance, etc.

In 2019, Council authorized the development of a formal Committee of Council being the Grants and Donations Committee that includes members of Council and members of the public to have oversight for the fundraising and the disbursement of the grants and donations program. Council also authorized staff to remove the grants and donations from the Annual Budget and fundraising initiatives would be used to fund requests as determined by the Grants and Donations Committee.

Additional background information can be found in staff report [FAF.21.049](#).

In January 2021, the Grants and Donations Committee accepted grant applications for review and consideration. There was a total ask of \$144,260 in grants and subsidies as summarized in staff report [FAF.21.049](#). Due to limited fundraising as a result of COVID-19, the Grants and Donations Committee reviewed and made recommendations to Council and a total of \$33,290 cash and \$12,277 subsidies were granted.

During 2021, the Grants and Donations Committee held fundraising events that allowed for a second call out for applications, as summarized in staff report [FAF.21.173](#).

In 2022 and 2023, the Grants and Donations Committee held fundraising events and accepted grant applications as summarized in staff report [FAF.22.135](#) and [FAF.23.153](#).

Since 2023, the Grants and Donations Committee has not held any fundraising events. The Committee held a few meetings in 2024 and was awaiting a decision on the 2025 Budget before performing a call out for applications. At the March 10th, 2025, Council meeting, Council passed a motion to cancel the 2025 Budget Pitch Day, and as a result, staff were engaged to proceed with the following motion that was passed at the December 16th, 2024, Council meeting:

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Bordignon
Seconded by: Councillor McKinlay

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Grants and Donations Advisory Committee dated November 21, 2024:

THAT the Grants and Donations Committee requests Council to direct Staff to proceed to a call out for subsidy requests and funds based on the Grants and Donations reserves with a maximum of \$500 in funds, per application

AND THAT Council directs Staff to proceed to a call out for subsidy requests and funds based on the Grants and Donations reserves with a maximum of \$500 in funds, per application

The motion is Carried

D. Analysis

Grants and Donations Program

Written Requests

There are four organizations that have historically submitted a written request for the Grants and Donations Program, as opposed to a full Application; all four organizations submitted a request, two of the organizations submitted a full application as indicated on the chart below.

Of the four submissions, the requested amount totals \$15,010 which includes \$1,000 cash and \$14,010 subsidy requests (Attachment 1).

Applications

Twenty-seven applications were submitted for the Grants and Donations Program (Attachment 2).

These twenty-seven Applications total \$32,605 which includes \$10,000 cash and \$22,605 subsidy requests.

Guidelines and Criteria

Staff continually review the Guidelines and Criteria of the Grants and Donations Program to ensure the efficacy of the framework and to identify any potential improvements to the process. There were no revisions made to the Guidelines and Criteria for the 2025 call out which were reviewed and approved by the Committee in staff report [FAF.20.189](#).

Evaluation

Staff have reviewed all submissions and feel that the Applications meet the Guidelines and Criteria.

Staff have removed any attachments that may have been included with some Applications (i.e. pamphlets, etc) to ensure that the same information is being presented to Council with each Application. It is important that each application be evaluated on its own merit and dealt with in as equitable and objective manner as possible. Signatures and personal information, such as home phone numbers and addresses, have also been removed.

Applicants

The following chart summarizes all applicants to the Grants and Donations Program.

Written Requests

Group/Organization	Cash Request	Subsidy Request
Beaver Valley Outreach	\$0	\$11,635
Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation ¹	\$500	\$0
Music in the Park	\$0	\$2,375
My Friend's House ¹	\$500	\$0
Written Requests Total:	\$1,000	\$14,010

¹ Organization submitted a full application.

Applications

Group/Organization	Cash Request	Subsidy Request
Beaver Valley Agricultural Society	\$0	\$9,375
Blue Mountains Curling Centre	\$0	\$1,310
Breaking Down Barriers	\$500	\$0
Climate Action Now Network	\$500	\$0
Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Inc.	\$500	\$0
Elora Environment Centre (Tree Trust)	\$500	\$0
Escarpment Corridor Alliance	\$500	\$0
Events for Life Centre Inc.	\$500	\$0
Georgian Triangle Anglers Association	\$500	\$0
Grey Sauble CA/Beaver River Watershed Initiative	\$500	\$0
Hanley Institute	\$500	\$0
Home Horizon Georgian Triangle Residential Services	\$500	\$0
Hope Haven Therapeutic Riding Centre	\$500	\$0
Living Better with Parkinson's	\$0	\$500
Magic of Children in the Arts	\$500	\$0
Meaford Thornbury Special Olympics	\$0	\$6,400
Ontario Track 3 Adaptive Sports Association	\$500	\$0
Pollinate The Blue Mountains	\$500	\$0
Rotary Club of Thornbury Clarksburg	\$0	\$3,500
Royal Canadian Legion Br 281	\$500	\$0
Seniors Network – Blue Mountains	\$0	\$740
Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community	\$500	\$0
St. George's Cares Meal Program c/o St. George's Anglican Church	\$500	\$0
Theatre Collingwood Association Inc.	\$500	\$0
Thornbury / Beaver Valley Lions Club	\$500	\$0
Touch of Taryn Foundation	\$0	\$780
United Way Simcoe Muskoka	\$500	\$0
Applications Total:	\$10,000	\$22,605

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

N/A

G. Financial Impacts

The Grants and Donations Committee currently has \$11,247 available which will fund the cash requests for the Grants and Donations program, to a maximum of \$500 cash per applicant. The 2025 Approved Budget does not include any funding for cash requests or subsidies through the Grants and Donations Program.

H. In Consultation With

Monica Quinlan, Director of Corporate & Financial 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 Tracy Nowak, Administrative Assistant Corporate & Financial Services finance@thebluemountains.ca. Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Tracy Nowak, Administrative Assistant Corporate & Financial Services finance@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Written Request Submissions
2. Application Submissions

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Nowak,
Administrative Assistant Corporate & Financial Services

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CFS.25.028 2025 Grants and Donations Applications.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 Applications.pdf - Att 2 Full Applications.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 14, 2025

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

Monica Quinlan - May 14, 2025 - 10:37 AM