

March 15, 2019

Mayor Peabody and Council
Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott Street, P.O. Box 68
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

Dear Mayor Peabody,

On behalf of the partners who have been managing Bruce-Grey Sound & Lighting as a Committee of Council for the past eight years, we would like to thank Municipality of Brockton for all of their help and support.

Bruce-Grey Sound & Lighting was the brainchild of members of the Singer Christmas Tree to find ways to reduce costs for this local Christmas tradition so more of the funds raised could be donated to local arts initiatives. The members approached Dave Barrett at Saugeen Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and a vision developed to create an 'equipment library' that small community groups could use, when the cost to purchase or rent professional equipment was cost prohibitive.

Brockton Recreation was approached, as the original partnership prepared to apply to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and collaboratively reorganized the process to allow the 'equipment library' to reach the wider community. The Singer Tree was originally prepared to store the lighting and sound equipment at Knox church; however, as the opportunity grew Dan Wilken (Recreation Director at the time) offered room in a Brockton facility and the Singer Tree members, who were given the responsibility to find adequate storage space, agreed to this new location which served adequate at the time. The group originally explored using the old PUC Building; however, new tenants were found for the PUC building and Dan found room at the Greenock Shed.

A collaborative agreement was signed and with the approval of all involved; an application was submitted and approved through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The Saugeen Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) was the lead on the application and received the OTF funds. To save on the GST, ensure adequate insurance coverage and secure storage of the equipment, the Municipality of Brockton made the sound and lighting purchases and reimbursed by SEDC.

Over time, the value of the equipment has depreciated (see attached assessments) and the need for insurance coverage and storage at the Greenock Township Shed has greatly diminished. We have also been informed some of the equipment will be obsolete in the near future and some may be needing significant maintenance or upgrading.

It is for these reasons we recommend dissolving the Bruce-Grey Sound & Lighting Committee of Council and donating the equipment to the Knox Presbyterian Church – Singer Christmas Tree in Walkerton.

The Singer Tree will still offer the equipment for local use as an ‘equipment library’ with some cost recovery and will fundraise to maintain and upgrade the equipment, as needed. This will also free up the room the equipment is using at the Greenock Township Shed and remove the burden of insurance and ownership of the equipment from Brockton.

We have researched the implications of disposing of capital purchases made using OTF funding and from their definition – “Capital: A capital expenditure is an asset such as a building, machinery, equipment, etc., that has a useful life of more than one year and is subject to depreciation over its useful life.” – we feel the time is right to reorganize the Bruce-Grey Sound & Lighting Committee to meet the needs of the partners and the community.

Thank you for considering our recommendations and we look forward to working with the team at Brockton to successfully move this exciting project to the next stage.

Sincerely,

Kerry Withrow – Singer Tree Chair – 519-881-2998

and

Dave Barrett – 519-353-7128