

Report to Council

Report Title: Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Scholarship Fund

Prepared By: Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator

Department: Economic Development

Date: May 12, 2020

Report Number: ED2020-06 **File Number:** C11ED

Attachments: Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Scholarship Fund Agreement

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number ED2020-06 – Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Scholarship Fund, prepared by Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator and in doing so approves establishing a Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Scholarship Fund to create an annual bursary for students to pursue studies in clean water management or environmental protection, with an initial investment of \$2,500 that would be managed by Community Foundation Grey Bruce and include local representation on the granting committee; and

Further that a By-Law be brought forward to authorize signing and establishing the Education Fund Agreement with Community Foundation Grey Bruce as outlined.

Report:

Background:

May 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the e-coli water tragedy in Walkerton, which the community had planned to commemorate through a special event on May 9, 2020. An Ad Hoc Committee of Council was formed and one of its recommendations was to establish a legacy fund that would offer scholarships for students to pursue drinking water management at the Walkerton Clean Water Centre or a related field at a college or university.

Council endorsed the plan but wanted more information about the legacy fund, which is contained in this report.

The commemoration event has since been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is still an opportunity for Brockton to mark the occasion through this legacy fund, which will honour those who suffered during the water tragedy, while also demonstrating our resilience and hope in the future, though supporting youth that wish to devote their lives to improving the environment and ensuring clean water for all.

Since cancelling the commemoration event, there has been public interest in what other measures the Municipality might take to mark the anniversary. The legacy fund is something within our grasp that can materialize despite the pandemic.

Analysis:

The proposed Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Scholarship Fund would be initiated with a \$2,500 contribution from the Municipality of Brockton to Community Foundation Grey Bruce (CFGB), a charitable organization that administers grants and bursaries, investing the money into its broader investment pool. The Walkerton Clean Water Centre is very interested in partnering with the Municipality in this and supporting the initiative through funding of its own.

The CFGB would administer the fund and offer a charitable receipt for anyone who contributes to it in future years. Bursaries would be granted after the fund reaches \$7,500 and has been invested for a year. The bursary amount varies, but is usually 3-5% for educational funds, according to CFGB Director Stuart Reid. The agreement is attached.

The capital of the fund shall be held in perpetuity by the foundation.

The foundation would assist in administering the fund and publicizing it to educational institutions through its partnerships. It could also assist staff in drawing up criteria and awarding bursaries each year. Membership on the granting committee could include representation from Brockton Council and staff, and from the Walkerton Clean Water Centre, which is supportive of this venture.

“In principle we would be pleased to collaborate and from a base scholarship fund standpoint are checking with the Ministry to ensure we can legally do this,” said the CEO of the WCWC, Carl Kuhnke. “The concept of providing a bursary or scholarship to a post-secondary student in environmental sciences and/or water is a great one and we would like to be part of it.”

The centre has agreements with 15 post-secondary institutions and each year offers three-day programs at the Walkerton centre for students in environmental sciences. It’s affiliated with Georgian College, Durham College, Centennial, Humber and Mohawk and many others.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

There was \$5,000 allotted in the Economic Development Budget to be used towards the Commemorative Event and while we have recommended a reduction to the EDC budget the monies within the Special Projects line for Brockton/Walkerton Communications can support this fund as it also supports our communications plan.

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, cursive script.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paulette Peirol', in a cursive script.

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', in a cursive script.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer