



REPORT

Clerk's Department

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Josh Machesney, Deputy Clerk & Colleen Baskin, Communications Officer

DATE: July 11, 2022

REPORT: CL-19/22 **FILE NO.**

SUBJECT: Volunteer Recognition Project

BACKGROUND:

The Township of Uxbridge recognizes and celebrates the hundreds of volunteers within the municipality and acknowledges that without them, Uxbridge would not be the community it is today.

Particularly within the context of the significant events of the past few years (Covid-19, May 2022 Tornado), those who have volunteered their time within the community in some capacity, have demonstrated that this continued culture of volunteering is a key component of making the Township a vibrant and supportive place for all residents to live and work.

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to fostering and preserving the culture of volunteerism that exists within the Township. In accordance with the strategic direction set out by Council during this Term, Township staff have been investigating options to recognize existing volunteers, encourage new volunteers, and to bring to light the many important volunteer opportunities that exist within the Township.

DISCUSSION:

Within the Township of Uxbridge, there are dozens of organizations and hundreds of volunteers offering their time, energy and resources in various capacities, including local service clubs, food bank volunteers, coaches, board and committee members, and student and senior volunteers, to name a few.

The Township is committed to implementing a comprehensive volunteer recognition program that seeks to find creative and meaningful ways to recognize these volunteers, as well as encourage others to volunteer. This would include the development of a volunteer recognition policy that defines various broad and specific recognition categories and creates equitable and transparent processes for nomination, selection and recognition.

Staff are preparing recommendations and developing supporting policies and will present suggestions for a fully detailed volunteer recognition program and policy in November 2022 with the new Term of Council, for Council's consideration. It is intended that this program would be funded and implemented for 2023.

In the meantime, it was important for both Council and staff that steps be taken immediately to establish its first volunteer recognition award for the most distinguished of volunteers within the community. It is intended that this recognition be launched and the inaugural presentation bestowed in the fall of 2022.

This "Order of Uxbridge" award which is intended to be the highest municipally-bestowed honour available to residents and/or supporters of the Township of Uxbridge community. This honour would be awarded to an individual who has made long-term and outstanding contributions to the social, physical, cultural, mental and/or spiritual welfare of the Township, through demonstrable volunteerism, community building, philanthropy, community ambassadorship and leadership, or any combination of these areas of community contribution. Staff propose that this award be the Township's most distinguished honour, be awarded on a merited basis and be reserved for the most exceptional of contributions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report CL-19/22 of Josh Machesney, Deputy Clerk be received for information;

AND THAT Council establish an "Order of Uxbridge" award in accordance with the merit and criteria established in this Report;

AND THAT Council direct that the inaugural "Order of Uxbridge" be awarded in 2022;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back in November 2022 on the Volunteer Recognition Program and corresponding Policy for Council's consideration.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Josh Machesney, Deputy Clerk
Colleen Baskin, Communications Officer