

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES – PARKS, CEMETERIES AND HORTICULTURE

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Tom Beaton, D.H.T., CMMI
Manager, Parks, Cemeteries and Horticulture

DATE: March 18, 2008

SUBJECT: 2008 Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve - Greening Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The amount of \$123,200, requested by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority through the Special Benefit Levy, for the positions of Environmental & Forestry Partnership Coordinator and an Environmental Technical Assistant to be allocated from the Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve for 2008 be approved.

BACKGROUND

At the June 4, 2007 Council Meeting, the Chatham-Kent Greening Strategy was presented to Council. The Strategy recommended the positions of Environmental & Forestry Partnership Coordinator and Environmental Technical Assistant. Salaries for both positions fall within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTCVA) salary grid and were funded by a Special Benefit Levy from August 1 to December 31, 2007 through the Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve. Administration advised Council through that report, that the positions would also be required for 2008.

For 2008, administration requests that the two positions be funded through the Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve at a cost of \$123,200 for the full year. It was anticipated that these positions would be able to leverage \$100,000 back into the community for tree planting in 2008.

Many grant opportunities exist that complement the Chatham-Kent Greening Strategy. It is the responsibility of the Coordinator and the Assistant to research what grants are available to Chatham-Kent for green cover for both municipal and private property and to submit applications. Grants are either fully-funded or require leveraged dollars.

Administration advised Council that one-time funding up to \$80,000 from the Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve be used to leverage dollars from other funding sources. The amount of \$40,000 will be used in 2008, and a further \$40,000 in 2009.

At the end of 2008, the success of the program will be analyzed to determine the continued viability and leveraging opportunities utilized. A report on the results of the Greening Strategy will be brought back to Council.

COMMENTS

The two individuals hired have been working diligently towards the initiatives identified in the Chatham Kent Greening Strategy.

The Greening Strategy initiatives are as follows:

1. Creation of a Greening Partnership with various agencies
2. Work with groups on greening initiatives
3. Create a Trees for Tomorrow Program
4. Create a Tree Replacement Program for municipal property
5. Create a Woodlot Management Program for municipal woodlots
6. Create a Tree Inventory Program for municipal property
7. Pursue grant opportunities using leverage dollars
8. Pursue additional grants from the Federal Government
9. Report results of Greening Strategy to Council on an annual basis

Administration will report on the results of the Greening Strategy on an annual basis.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The recommendation in this report supports the following objectives and strategic directions:

C: Environment: We are a green community.

C1: Develop pride in the community for its environmental assets

C3: Promote protection and restoration of natural resources

Desired Outcomes/Proposed Activities

- Increase public participation in environmental groups, appreciation and educational activities and local causes
- Promote eco-tourism of our trails and natural resources through publications and signage
- Develop natural strategy for woodlands, grasslands and wetlands, including an emphasis on shoreline protection and potential incentives for landowners

- Build on incentives that help to protect and restore natural habitats

The recommendation will not adversely impact on the remainder of the Community Strategic Plan.

CONSULTATION

Financial Analyst, Financial Services has confirmed that the current balance in the Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve is \$209,063.

Supervisor, Horticulture, Community Services was consulted and supports the continuation of both positions in order to help achieve the initiatives contained in the Greening Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2008 Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve	
2007 Balance Forward	(\$209,063)
2008 Lifecycle Allotment (amount not yet approved)	(\$105,000)
Total Funding Available for 2008	(\$314,063)
2008 Leverage Dollars (approved RTC, June 4, 2007)	\$40,000
2008 Special Benefit Levy towards LTCVA Greening Strategy positions	\$123,200
Balance remaining in Lifecycle Reserve	(\$150,863)

Although the Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve was originally created for the purpose of tree planting, the Greening Strategy recommended utilizing the Reserve to fund two staff positions until 2009.

Prepared by:

Tom Beaton, D.H.T., CMMI
Manager,
Parks, Cemeteries and Horticulture

Reviewed by:

Reviewed by:

Evelyn Bish, B.A.
Acting General Manager,
Community and Development Services

Gerry Wolting, B. Math, C.A.
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

- c. Bill Pachkowski, Supervisor, Horticulture, Community Services
Yufang Du, Financial Analyst, Financial Services, Corporate Services

(R:\RTC\Community Services\2008\ParksCem&Hort\2008 Reforestation Lifecycle Reserve - Greening Strategy Mar08)