

## **Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**

### **Corporate Services**

### **Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Cathy J.E. Hoffman, MPA, CHRL, General Manager, Corporate Services  
Bob Crawford, Chief, Fire Paramedic Services

**Date:** April 29, 2018

**Subject:** 2018 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM)—Update #3: Status of Event

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This report is for the information of Council.

#### **Background**

On March 5, 2018 the second report to council with respect to the IPM 2018 was presented to Council. Included in that report was the authorizing of municipal costs and funding for same with respect to the Municipality's contribution to the September 2018 event.

In addition, Council directed administration to return with a report to council in May providing a status update on the progress of the municipal portion of the project.

#### **Comments**

The municipal portion of the IPM & Rural Expo 2018 event is progressing on schedule.

The Infrastructure and Engineering Services team have been focusing primarily on items such as water connections, completing the Faubert Drain temporary culvert, construction of the boardwalk for the Showcase Tent and coordinating boundaries for the beautification efforts for the municipal right-of-way. Areas of focus upcoming are the need for a traffic management plan, including emergency routes and a contingency plan to name a few.

The Public Health Unit has been communicating with IPM event organizers to ensure safe running of the event. Staff have met with the Ontario Plowmen's Association (OPA) and spoken at an IPM all-chairs meeting to discuss health requirements and offer assistance to ensure the requirements are met. A food vendor information package has been created and provided to event organizers.

Public Health Unit staff are also working to identify potential health hazards associated with large scale gatherings and ensuring they are prepared to address them.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) team has met with the local IPM committee responsible for the water service. They have reviewed the site layout and provided the PUC input on the water system. The PUC has provided a water service connection for the IPM site from the Municipal water system on Maple Line.

The PUC team have been in communication with the Ontario Emergency Response Team for water emergencies (OERT) who will be assisting the PUC in commissioning the IPM water system. OERT uses the IPM as a training exercise every year for their staff and Chatham-Kent PUC is ensuring the same support for this joint training exercise. OERT works for the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA). They are directed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to provide emergency response in Ontario to water emergencies.

The Customer Service and Finance teams have set-up event ticket sales service at municipal centres in Blenheim, Bothwell, Chatham, Dresden, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Tilbury, Wallaceburg and Wheatley.

The Showcase Tent team is in full planning mode as they firm up plans to profile the many unique opportunities of each community within Chatham-Kent. While the content is subject to change, much of the creative work and some of the implementation work has been completed. The internal layout of the tent will see four quadrants distinguishing the prevalent themes and attributes of Chatham-Kent's water, culture, outdoors and food offerings. Each quadrant will have a video screen bringing a virtual experience of the whole of Chatham-Kent attractions to the IPM visitor. The water quadrant will include an indoor beach installation with videos of local beaches and angling experiences. The culture quadrant will boast an art installation that IPM visitors can interact with and be a part of a creation. In addition, local musical talent, cultural dances, dramatic readings and videos from our local theatres will create the sensation of experiencing the arts in various Chatham-Kent venues. The outdoor quadrant will take the IPM visitor on a virtual tour of local trails, golf adventures and the viewing of rare southern birds that do not travel farther north. The food quadrant will feature an abundant sampling of local delectable products prepared by Chatham-Kent chefs. Experiencing the Showcase Tent through this virtual imagery journey will be as close to touring our whole rural and urban community next thing to being there.

Finally, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, administration will be hosting a modest "100 Days until the 2018 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo" rally to foster ongoing collaboration of the various internal staff teams working on the community event.

### **Consultation**

Various members of the Executive Management Team.

The Showcase Tent Team.

**Financial Implications**

No financial implications.

Prepared by:

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Cathy J.E. Hoffman, MPA, CHRL  
General Manager, Corporate Services  
2018 IPM Co-Chair

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Bob Crawford  
Chief, Fire Paramedic Services  
2018 IPM Co-Chair