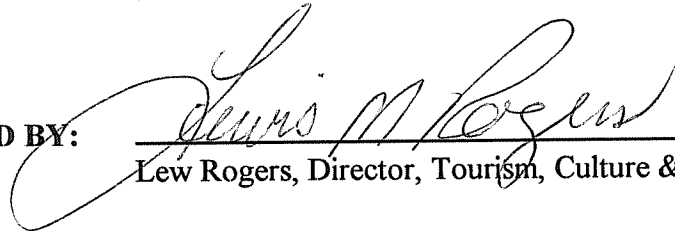


Halifax Regional Council  
July 16, 2002

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**



Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture & Heritage

**DATE:** July 8 , 2002

**SUBJECT:** "Night of Excellence" Special Event

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

Halifax Regional Council meeting of January 29, 2002, Item 11.3.2 (ii)

### **BACKGROUND**

At the January meeting it was moved "by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Special Events/Tourism staff be requested to provide a report regarding the feasibility of honouring HRM based athletes on a yearly basis for their athletic endeavours on the provincial, national and international level. The event should be open to the general public. Motion put and passed unanimously."

### **DISCUSSION**

This municipal awards concept required research which was recently completed. The findings of our research suggests that the night should have a broader mandate to recognize special achievements in a number of categories, including sports. Research indicates that HRM is the only major city in Canada not to have some sort of municipally organized awards function. Most Canadian municipalities host an awards function that recognizes achievement and excellence in a variety of community sectors (see Appendix A).

The municipality currently supports three awards: HRM Volunteer Recognition, the Dartmouth Book Awards and the Mayor’s Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature. This is an opportunity for HRM to recognize excellence in a number of areas, such as:

- Citizen of the Year,
- Exceptional Volunteers,
- Community Leaders,
- Arts and Culture Performers,
- Business Leaders,

together with:

- Sports Champions,
- Heritage

A final determination of categories will be brought forward in a report in September with recommendations for consideration for the upcoming fiscal year. The reason that staff are suggesting a “Night of Excellence” rather than a sports night is that currently Sport Nova Scotia, a non-profit provincial organization, sponsors an annual Sports Awards night. Approximately 40% to 50% of the recipients are residents of HRM. Further, a sports only award night would not recognize many other sectors of the community.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of implementing an awards night is estimated to be \$50,000. These funds would be incremental to the present HRM operating budget. This would form part of the discussion during the 2003/04 budget and business planning review by Council.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipalities Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Determined upon Council direction.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Examples of Municipal Awards Programs

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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**APPENDIX A: Examples of Municipal Awards Programs**

- 1) **Ottawa:** The Civic Appreciation Awards night is an annual event which celebrates volunteer achievement in the following categories:
  - Citizen of the Year
    - Youth
    - Adult
    - Senior
  - Distinguished Civic Awards
    - Arts & Culture
    - Athletics, Sports and Recreation
    - Education
    - Environment
    - Health
    - Heritage & Preservation
    - Humanitarianism
    - Rural/Agriculture
    - Community Activism
- 2) **Calgary:** The Calgary Awards annually recognize the achievement of individuals, corporations, community groups, schools and organizations. Categories include:
  - Community Achievement Awards
    - Lifetime
    - Arts
    - Commerce
    - Youth
    - Education
  - Environmental
    - Individual
    - Corporate
    - Not For Profit
    - Award for International Acclaim
  - Accessibility
  - Book Prize
- 3) **Fredericton:** The Unsung Hero Awards is an annual event sponsored by municipalities across New Brunswick on New Brunswick Day. Categories include:
  - Arts
  - Environment
  - Public Service
  - Community Leadership
  - Voluntarism
  - Business