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Halifax Regional Council
October 5, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: S. Dale MacLennan
S. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services

DATE: September 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Financial Services has committed to provide this report on an annual basis, in conjunction with the Miscellaneous Trust Funds Financial Statements.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Accounting and Reporting Manual requires municipalities “to recognize and use Trust Funds in the case of transactions which arise from a formal or informal trust agreement pursuant to which a municipality is accountable to third parties for the use and disposition of trust assets and for the funds derived from those trust activities.”

HRM has a number of formal trust agreements and these trust funds are reported separately in the Miscellaneous Trust Funds Financial Statements. From time to time, HRM receives donations, where there is no formal trust agreement in place. These donations are accounted for as separate liability accounts on the Operating Fund Balance Sheet.

DISCUSSION

The following eight donation accounts are currently maintained on the HRM Operating Fund Balance Sheet:

(1) Parks Civic Support-General

This program, which is a carry forward from the former City of Halifax, provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to commemorate a person, place, or event, while at the same time improving the community's livability. Donations help fund projects such as new park benches, creative play structures, or preservation of existing natural features.

(2) Halifax Public Gardens Donate A Tree and Adopt A Tree

These programs, also brought forward from the former City of Halifax, were developed to encourage the continued tradition of citizen support and help maintain, identify and regenerate the fine display of trees in the Public Gardens. Donations for Donate a Tree include the cost of the tree, its planting and a plate listing the species and donor's special commemoration. The Adopt a Tree program helps offset the maintenance costs of the Garden's tree collection.

(3) City Hall Clock Project

(4) Chebucto Landing Clock Project

The two accounts named above were set up in 1998 and 1999 respectively, and result from a number of donations made by the Halifax Foundation. These funds are to be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the two clocks as well as the Memorial bells.

(5) DeWolf Bedford Contribution

This account, created in fiscal 2001, results from a \$100,000 personal donation from Harry DeWolf towards the provision of a facility that is open to the public, located in and primarily for the benefit of the community of Bedford. To date, Council has approved two withdrawals from this fund, \$10,000 for the Bedford Youth Development Association and \$2,000 for the Bedford Legion Branch #95. On September 24, 2002 Council approved a \$50,000 loan from this account to the Rocky Lake Development Association. The terms of the repayment are 6% interest over a one-year period, with the provision that the repayment of interest can be forgiven by the DeWolf Family at a later time. Terms for extending the period of the loan are being reviewed.

(6) Theodore Tugboat

This account was established as a result of a May 21, 2002 Council motion that HRM investigate the possibilities of keeping Theodore Tug Boat in Halifax Harbour and that, through the Mayor's office, a "Save Theodore Tugboat" Fund be established. Amounts received for this fund totalled \$5,986. In June 2003, \$4,397 was paid to Recontre Marine Enterprises for an estimate to refit of the tugboat. Staff is preparing a separate report to Council for the final distribution of these funds.

(7) Drake Athletic Field

The account created in November 2002 is the result of a donation from Loblaw Properties Limited (Atlantic Superstore). The intention of the fund is specifically for the development of this park site in Sheldrake Heights, which has been tentatively called the Drake Athletic Field.

(8) HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund

On October 21, 2003 HRM Council approved the creation of the HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund in response to generous offers of financial donations from the public in response to the damage caused to HRM parks and trees by Hurricane Juan on September 28th. There were no expenditures during fiscal 2003/04, however, significant work has been carried out since March 31, 2004 primarily in the Public Gardens and these costs will be recovered from this fund. The costs and recoveries will be reported as part of the regular quarterly reports to Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's 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.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund - Balances as at March 2004 and March 2003.

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.
Report Prepared by: Pam Caswill, CA, Manager of Accounting 490-6324

ATTACHMENT A

Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund

Fund	March 31, 2004	March 31, 2003
Parks Civic Support - General	\$ 17,096	\$ 16,644
Halifax Public Gardens - Donate a Tree and Adopt a Tree	\$ 11,577	\$ 11,689
City Hall Clock Project	\$ 29,624	\$ 19,624
Chebucto Landing Clock Project	\$ 550	\$ 5,318
DeWolf Bedford Contribution	\$ 46,955	\$ 45,570
Theodore Tugboat	\$ 1,590	\$ 5,986
Drake Athletic Field	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund	\$ 681,602	-