

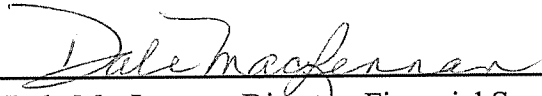


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Halifax Regional Council
January 27, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


S. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services

DATE: January 21, 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 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.

(6) Theodore Tugboat

In June 2002 Council approved the creation of a Theodore Tugboat Account to isolate donations from the public to save Theodore Tugboat. In May 2003, Council approved the funds currently in the account be transferred to the Halifax Tugboat Society and that they consider all fundraising possibilities in order to reach the goal of funding a business plan for options around Theodore Tugboat staying in Halifax Harbour. Further, that signing authority for disbursements be granted to Mr. Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Heritage and Culture. In June 2003, \$4,397 was paid to Recontre Marine Enterprises for a refit of the tugboat.

(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.

As of December 31, there have been no expenditures from the HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund.

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 December 2003, March 2003 and March 2002.

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: Hugh Avery, CA, Team Leader of Financial Reporting 490-4767

ATTACHMENT A

Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund

Fund	Dec 31, 2003	Mar 31, 2003	Mar 31, 2002
* Parks Civic Support - General	\$17,775	\$16,644	\$16,283
* Halifax Public Gardens - Donate a Tree and Adopt a Tree	\$11,577	\$11,689	\$11,689
City Hall Clock Project	\$29,624	\$19,624	\$19,624
Chebucto Landing Clock Project	\$5,318	\$5,318	\$10,059
DeWolf Bedford Contribution	\$46,520	\$45,570	\$93,450
Theodore Tugboat	\$1,590	\$5,986	-
Drake Athletic Field	\$5,000	\$5,000	-
* HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund	\$522,655	-	-

* During the remainder of the 2003/04 fiscal year it is anticipated there will be a significant level of activity in this fund, due to an out-pouring of public interest and support following Hurricane Juan.