

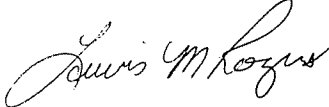


P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

2.

Halifax Regional Council
April 13, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 

Lewis Rogers; Director; Recreation, Tourism, & Culture

DATE: April 8, 2004

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 above 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

After examining the prospect of establishing an event to recognize athletic achievement in HRM, it is assumed that any recognition event sponsored by the municipality should have a broad mandate to recognize special achievements in a number of categories, including sports. It is important to include all sectors of the municipality in such an event as a sports-only award night may be perceived as overlooking many other contributors to the community (i.e. exceptional volunteers, community leaders, arts and culture, heritage, business leaders, etc.).

A substantial number of groups within the Halifax Regional Municipality are participating in competitions or recognition programs each year. Most groups have their own award processes which offer the opportunity to recognize excellence in a specific area. For example, Sport Nova Scotia, a non-profit provincial organization, currently sponsors an annual provincial Sports Awards night at a direct cost of \$35,000. Approximately 40 to 50 percent of the recipients of these awards are residents of HRM.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The cost of implementing an HRM Awards program that would be inclusive of all sectors of the municipality is estimated to be approximately \$50,000. These funds are not included in the proposed 2004/05 budget, however if Council so wishes, this could be discussed during the 2004/05 budget and business planning review by Council.

In addition to the direct budget impact, there would be an additional administrative burden on existing staff and therefore additional cost to research potential recipients, prioritize award winners, and organize/deliver the event. The specific magnitude of the staffing impact would be dependant on the approach chosen and the size of the actual event.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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: Michael Gillett, Civic Events & Festivals Co-ordinator, 490-4740
Paul Johnston, Business Services Coordinator, 490-5623