

10.3.2

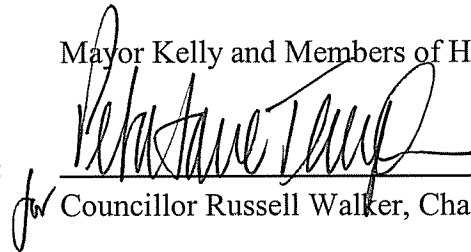


PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 2nd, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Councillor Russell Walker, Chair, HRM Grants Committee

**DATE:** July 12, 2005

**SUBJECT:** HRM Community Grants Program 2005-06 - Appeals

---

### **SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

This report originates with staff of HRM Financial Services. The *HRM Community Grants Program* makes provision for appeals on the basis of the following criteria: (a) new information, (b) an error in fact or procedure, or (c) upon appeal by an elected official. Appeals must be made, in writing, within 14 days of notification. The deadline for appeals was June 29<sup>th</sup>. This report was approved by the HRM Grants Committee July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that :

1. Approve the *Community Grants Program* awards as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report, for a total of 7 awards with a combined value of \$50,000 for 2005-06.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005, meeting of Regional Council the recommendation of the HRM Grants Committee were approved with two appeals (Moose River Museum and the Halifax Stroke Club). Applicants declined funding were notified in writing June 15<sup>th</sup> with two weeks to appeal the decision (June 29<sup>th</sup> deadline).

## **DISCUSSION**

All applicants declined funding can request feedback on their submission. This year's program received 123 eligible applications, of which 32 were declined funding (26%). Of those declined funding, seven (7) made a formal appeal by the deadline, four (4) applicants appealed the value of their award, and one (1) the terms and conditions of funding for a total of 12 appeals (9% of all applications).

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended awards conform to the approved budget for 2005-06. The *Community Grants Program* is now closed for 2005-06. If approved by Regional Council, the \$50,000 in recommended grants brings the combined total of awards to \$526,328.

## **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.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

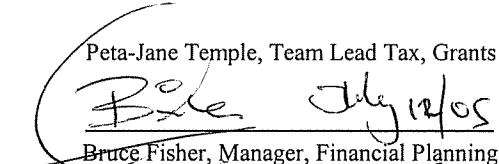
Regional Council could overturn a recommendation, reduce the value of an award, or refer a specific case back to the Grants Committee for further review. This action is not recommended: each appeal has been reviewed on the basis of information provided in the application, individual merit, and relative to the program's funding criteria and budget.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Recommendations: 2005-06 *Community Grants Program* - Appeals

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Tax, Grants & Special Projects 490-5469

Financial Review:  Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Planning

Report Approved by:  Dale MacLennan, Director, HRM Financial Services

**Attachment 1.**

**A. Appeal: Value of Grant Awarded**

**1. Shakespeare By the Sea - Halifax - Arts/Theatre**

Shakespeare by the Sea were awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 towards promotion for the 2005-06 season. The company appealed the value of the amount; they had requested \$10,000 towards three summer productions to be staged in Point Pleasant Park. Representatives from the group presented to the HRM Grants Committee of June 13, 2005. Further correspondence was received June 13, 2005, to address the issues raised by the committee. Specifically, the use of local students/actors, reporting for in-kind donations, and marketing costs.

**Grants Committee recommend no change in the value of award. Refer to HRM Cultural Officer for assistance. Grants Program staff to provide additional written feedback to the applicant.**

**2. Avalon Sexual Assault Centre - Halifax - Emergency Assistance**

The Avalon Sexual Assault Centre was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,500 towards the purchase of a digital telephone system (estimated to cost \$5,664). The present telephone system is obsolete and does not include voice mail for confidential messages or remote access. The total grant requested was \$10,364 and included information cards, phone line, and an After Hours Answering Service. The review concluded that a telephone system and telephone line constitutes a recurring, core operating expense for an organization that provides direct client counselling and on-call emergency response.

**Grants Committee recommend no increase in the value of award.**

**3. Halifax Stroke Club - Halifax - Recreation/Disabled**

The Halifax Stroke Club applied for a grant in the amount of \$1,000 and was recommended for an award of \$250. The basis of appeal is the limited financial capacity of the club to purchase equipment for weekly exercise classes. The club hires a physiotherapist to conduct sessions but need audio equipment, games, and exercise equipment. The review concluded that the group has demonstrated a commitment, despite very modest revenues, to the exercise program through paying for the services of a specialist (a certified physiotherapist) and the purchase of equipment is presently beyond their means.

**Grants Committee recommend an additional one-time grant of \$500 for the purchase of a CD player, exercise mats, fitness and games equipment.**

**4. Lake District Recreation Association - Sackville - Recreation/Capital Grant**

The Lake District Recreation Association own and operate the Sackville Arena and made application for a one-time capital grant of \$100,000. The group was awarded a capital grant in the amount of \$25,000 for structural reinforcement of the arena roof. The total estimated cost of the project is \$680,000. An appeal has been made on their behalf for an increase in the value of this one-time grant in 2005-06 given (a) HRM's contribution as a % of the total value of the project, (b) a \$300,000 grant confirmed from the

Province of Nova Scotia, (c) \$100,000 confirmed from the federal government, and (d) the need to complete work prior to the winter season. Sackville Arena is one of the few community-owned and operated arenas remaining in the region and have not previously requested any direct financial assistance.

During the appeal presentation new information was provided that places HRM's commitment within a broader context. Namely, that since its inception in the early 1970's the Lake District Recreation Association has donated approximately \$1,500,000 to public recreation amenities within the Sackville area such as community playgrounds and the Metro sports field, as well as modest bursaries for high school students pursuing studies in recreation. An additional \$25,000 was requested to (a) help advance the completion of the capital work in this fiscal year and avoid arena closures due to snow accumulation on the roof, (b) encourage community self-reliance, and (c) to bring HRM's share of the project to 7% which compares favourably to the provincial, federal, and association contributions. The society takes pride in the facility and their ability to operate the arena independently but are seeking HRM's support for this specific, comparatively large-scale endeavour.

**Grants Committee recommend an additional one-time capital grant of \$25,000 towards the Sackville Arena capital project. The aim of HRM's contribution is to demonstrate support for community-based self-reliance and to acknowledge the Lake District Recreation Association's exceptional success in leveraging financial support from varied sources.**

### **B. Appeal: Decline of Award**

#### **5. Moose River Museum- Middle Musquodoboit - Heritage/Capital Grant**

The property owned and operated by the Moose River Gold Mines Museum Society is not a registered heritage property but the former one-room school house serves as a seasonal location for a collection of artifacts relating to the local area and its historical connection with the mining industry. A grant in the amount of \$5,000 was declined pending final reporting for a 2004-05 award for the construction of an information kiosk in the nearby provincial park. The project was a collaborative effort with the Department of Natural Resources, HRM, and a mining company. Consequently, the final reporting took longer than usual. Final invoices have now been received and the project is complete. This year's request of \$5,000 is for electrical upgrades to building code and roof maintenance to comply with insurance requirements. Quotes supplied.

**Grants Committee recommend a one-time capital grant in the amount of \$3,000 for electrical upgrades and roof maintenance as per quotes supplied.**

#### **6. Pier 21 Society - Halifax - Ethnocultural**

The Pier 21 Society is a federally registered charity. The Pier 21 Interpretation Centre and Museum opened in 1999 with capital funding provided by all three levels of government (the municipality contributed a capital grant of \$500,000). In 2002, a strategic plan for Pier 21's financial sustainability recommendations (a) the establishment of an endowment fund to subsidize operations and (b) re-positioning the centre as a national Museum of Immigration. To date, the Pier 21 Foundation has raised \$3,300,000 towards its \$7,000,000 goal for the endowment and the Province of Nova Scotia has committed \$1,500,000 to the capital campaign.

In 2004-05, the society's request for a grant of \$500,000 was declined by the HRM Grants Committee. Members of the committee expressed support for the concept of a Museum of Immigration but felt that a contribution of \$500,000 (5% of projected total) exceeds the program's capacity and should be addressed through the municipal business planning and budget process. A budget increase of \$50,000 was requested by Financial Services (Grants Program) for the 2005-06 fiscal year but was not approved. During the 2005-06 *HRM Community Grants Program* review the committee determined that this type of request would be better served through a contributions program. Such a program does not exist at this time and would require the approval of Regional Council. Also, the findings of the HRM Cultural Plan and HRM Immigration Strategy have yet to be debated and prioritized.

**Grants Committee believes the Pier 21 project merits HRM's support and direct staff to advance the request to the HRM Program & Service Review Committee and the 2006-07 budget process to be evaluated within the context of HRM's Cultural Plan, Immigration Strategy, and review of community cultural facilities.**

#### **7. Walter Callow Wheelchair Buses - Halifax - Social Supports/Disabled**

The Callow Veteran's and Invalids Welfare League is a federally registered charity. Operations are subsidized by Camp Hill Hospital and donations. The group provides transportation for disabled persons, primarily from institutions such as Camp Hill Hospital, the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, and nursing homes in the Halifax area. A grant of \$5,000 was requested for core operating expenses (insurance, gasoline, auditor, office expenses, vehicle repairs). The basis of the group's written appeal was funding (1952 to 1996) from the former City of Halifax and increased operating expenses.

**Grants Committee recommend decline. Prior funding from the former City of Halifax was provided when municipalities had responsibility for social services. The *HRM Community Grants Program* does not provide core operating funding. HRM provides transportation assistance for disabled persons via Metro Transit Access-A-Bus.**

#### **8. Sackville Photography Club - Sackville - Arts/Photography**

The Sackville Photography Club is a registered non-profit organizations whose membership is drawn from the Sackville area, Bedford, Dartmouth and Halifax. The club applied for a grant in the amount of \$5,060 to purchase laptop computer, software, and digital projector for use in photography workshops and public displays. Their written appeal provides details of the type and scope of community-based event or non-profit group assisted by the club; for example, local heritage groups, trails, service clubs, events, and community newspapers. The club charges only for materials and processing; labour is provided free by members.

**Grants Committee recommend a one-time project grant of \$2,500 towards the purchase of a digital projector as per quote supplied.**

**9. Ward 5 Neighbourhood Centre - Halifax - Social Supports/Capital Grant**

The Ward 5 Neighbourhood Centre is a registered non-profit organization that operates out of St. Mark's Community Centre, Halifax. The centre runs a food bank, social programs for seniors, and recreation programs for children and youth. Upon appeal, their request in the amount of \$10,000 for a youth program was withdrawn and replaced with a request for the purchase of a commercial grade stove and ventilation system. Given the urgency of the request, the Grants Committee agreed to accept the appeal.

The centre's kitchen appliances are 29 years old (purchased in 1977) and replacement parts are either unavailable or from scrap. Several feeding programs depend upon consistency in service provision that cannot be met with any assurance using unreliable and out-dated equipment. The food programs include a daily Seniors Lunch Program, Meals-on-Wheels (90-120 meals to 3 seniors public housing facilities), a Children's Breakfast Program (serving low income families), and community meals (Christmas, Thanksgiving etc). The centre has requested a one-time capital grant of \$10,000 towards the replacement of the kitchen appliances. Quotes supplied.

**Grants Committee recommend a one-time capital grant of \$7,000 towards the purchase of commercial grade appliances for community feeding programs. Refer to HRM staff for assistance with future grant submissions.**

**10. Eastern Shore Palliative Care Association - Sheet Harbour - Recreation/Capital Grant**

The Eastern Shore Palliative Care Association, a federally registered charity, was formed in 1992 and is entirely volunteer. The group serves the geographic area from Ecum Secum to East Ship Harbour and provides support to the terminally ill and their caregivers. A grant of \$16,000 was requested towards enhancements to the "*Life Reflection Garden*" located in close proximity to the Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital. The total estimated cost of the project is \$16,000 and includes a brick pathway for walkers and wheelchairs, and a gazebo. The application was declined on the understanding that the property was part of the hospital grounds and as such a provincial asset. Upon appeal the group has demonstrated that the property is owned by Duncan McMillan Nursing Home Society, a non-profit group that pays property taxes.

**Grants Committee recommend a one-time capital grant of \$5,000 towards the construction of a pathway to provide access for persons with limited mobility.**

**11. Ketch Harbour Residents Association - Ketch Harbour - Recreation/Capital Grant**

The Ketch Harbour Residents Association is non-profit organization that undertakes projects to enhance the quality of life for local citizens: for example, community signage, parks (First Pond), environmental protection (the Barrens), wharf access, social events, and a community newspaper. The Association has formed a sub-committee to establish a dorey rowing club. Dorey racing has a traditional association with the local fishing industry. In 2004, Ketch Harbour hosted the *St. Paul's Annual Dorey Races* that drew 55 participants from Barrington Passage, Clarke's Harbour, Cape Sable, Lockport, and Lunenburg and local participants from Sambro, Ketch Harbour, and Herring Cove.

The association applied for a grant in the amount of \$40,322 for the establishment of a dorey rowing club (equipment, docks, trailer, signage, insurance and legal fees). The application was declined funding due to a lack of established membership base and financial status. Staff are, however, very supportive of the concept of such a club and the potential for the development of a unique dorey racing event in this small community. The association appealed the decision and requested a contribution of \$7,000 to purchase two doreys and oars so that they can recruit interested youth and adults. The club has demonstrated interest from local business and HRM's contribution could leverage further support. The group has contacted HRM Community Development staff for assistance with fundraising.

**Grants Committee recommend a one-time capital grant of \$7,000 towards the purchase of two doreys. Conditional - future consideration shall be conditional upon a progress report, matching funds raised by club members, and should the club cease to exist the equipment purchased with public funding shall be donated to HRM to assign to another community program.**

### **C. Appeal: Terms and Conditions**

#### **12. Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society - Cole Harbour - Heritage/Capital Grant**

The Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society is a federally registered charity. The group applied for a one-time capital grant in the amount of \$7,127 towards the restoration of the east wall of the "Harris House", a registered heritage building located on the site. Staff recommended a building conservation report be completed on the entire structure prior to any immediate or future capital funding. An award of \$5,000 was approved for a building condition and conservation report. The group made a written appeal that was thorough and well reasoned; such that staff recommend the terms and conditions of the grant be changed. The group was able to demonstrate access to and use of technical expertise and historical reference material and, while in agreement with the practice of building conservation reports, asked for HRM's consideration of the immediacy of their need in preventing further structural deterioration.

**Grants Committee recommend approval of the expenditure of HRM's grant for exterior wall repairs.**