

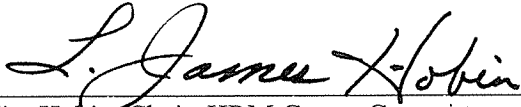
9.2.1



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
June 24th, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Jim Hobin, Chair, HRM Grants Committee

DATE: June 16, 2003

SUBJECT: **HRM Community Grants Program 2003-2004: Appeals**

ORIGIN

At the June 18, 2003 meeting of Regional Council the list of recommended grants for *Community Grants Program* 2003-04 awards was approved. Subsequent to the Grants Committee report, the HRM Grants Program has received five (5) appeals. On June 16th, 2003, the HRM Grants Committee meeting reviewed staff recommendations and have recommended support to two (2) applicants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Regional Council approve:

1. A one-time capital grant in the amount of \$15,000 to Eastern Shore Search & Rescue towards the purchase of a property;
2. A one-time grant in the amount of \$5,000 to Scotia Festival of Music towards the annual music event hosted in Halifax, 2003.

BACKGROUND

Of the five (5) appeals received, one (1) withdrew, two (2) were approved for funding, and two declined. Letters notifying the applicants have been sent by Grants Program staff. Referrals have been made as applicable.

DISCUSSION**1. Eastern Shore Search & Rescue**

In January, 2003 the Eastern Shore Search & Rescue organization approached HRM Real Property & Asset Management seeking to acquire an HRM-owned property for use in vehicle and equipment storage. Staff identified two lots located in Porter's Lake but a subsequent community meeting indicated resistance from local residents in a residential development with covenants protecting development. During the meeting alternate locations were considered and a private property located on Highway #7 was selected as an ideal structure. The closing date for sale is June, 2003.

At the Regional Council meeting of June 10th, 2003 staff were asked to assist the Eastern Shore Search & Rescue organization secure a property. Subsequent to the request, a recommendation was made to the HRM Grants Committee in support of a grant towards the purchase of the property in the amount of \$15,000. The services provided through the volunteers of this group supplement and complement HRM's role in Fire & Emergency Response (missing persons), Police (ground searches for evidence), and Emergency Measures (evacuations). The group also provides instructional workshops in firearm safety, and outdoor safety to children and adults.

If approved by Regional Council, the \$15,000 grant brings the group's total cash investment to almost 50% of the sale price (\$89,000) and increases the potential for a mortgage from a commercial financial institution. The group would own and operate the facility independent of HRM.

2. Scotia Festival of Music

Scotia Festival of Music has received grant support from HRM towards the annual Festival of Music, a high profile event which features local, national and international chamber music artists. Last year the organization received a one-time capital grant towards the construction of the 'Music Room' facility, Halifax, and this year were awarded a grant towards subsidizing access to the facility and recording equipment for local school children, university students, amateur performers and non-profit groups. However, eligibility for the HRM Community Grants Program restricts eligibility to one project grant per year and staff neglected to re-direct the Festival of Music to the Festivals & Events Division, Recreation, Culture & Heritage for consideration in the 2003-04 "Attractions and Events" grants program (April 1, 2003 deadline).

The HRM Grants Committee recommend a one-time grant in the amount of \$5,000. Grants Program staff are to direct the festival to alternate funding sources for future consideration.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Long-term viability for a local volunteer group and protection for the investment of public monies in equipment.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Staff have confirmed there are sufficient funds remaining in the *Community Grants Program* budget 2003-04

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 other relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

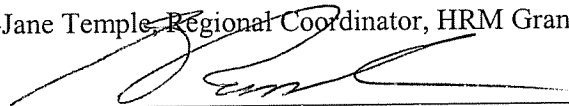
Regional Council could decline or revise the awards, and/or amount of an award.

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: Peta-Jane Temple, Regional Coordinator, HRM Grants Program 490-5469;

Report Approved By: 
Gordon Roussel, Acting Manager, HRM Financial Services