

STAFF REPORT: Recreation



REPORT TO: INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: August 11, 2009

REPORT NO.: DOR 09 040

SUBJECT: Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program

PREPARED BY: Joanna Garland, Youth Advisor

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 09 040 "Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program" for information purposes.

B. Background

Play Works is a group of organizations that encourage partnership for active youth. They have developed a Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program where communities throughout Ontario can apply to receive bronze, silver or platinum recognition for engaging their youth (ages 13-19) through sport, recreation, drama, dance, music, the arts, volunteerism, leadership and civic engagement.

There are 16 criteria. If all 16 are met the community will be recognized as a Platinum Youth Friendly Community Builder. If 14 or 15 are met they will be recognized as a Gold Youth Friendly Community Builder and if 12 or 13 are met they will be recognized as a Bronze Youth Friendly Community Builder.

In 2008, the tiered recognition was not in place. Rather, it was necessary to meet 10 out of the 16 criteria. When we applied last year, 8 of the 12 criteria that we worked on were met. Unfortunately we did not receive the recognition. The review team were very encouraging, appreciative and acknowledge the effort and time it took to fill out the application. They encouraged us to apply this year with confidence that we will be recognized, should we work on the suggestions and feedback from the review team.

After 9 months of hard work towards the Youth Initiative, staff has built relationships and partnership within our community and with our local Youth. We have had successful events and programs, developed an active Youth Council as well as a Youth Friendly Business Recognition Program. Within these initiatives, there is a chance for leadership, volunteerism and advocacy for our local youth. Outside of what the Town is accomplishing, there are many active service clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals who offer opportunities and/or work with youth in our community. For this year's application it is important to hear from these groups and ensure that they are represented in the process.

The 2009 application is Due December 1st. Reaching for the Platinum Youth Friendly Community Builder Recognition is our goal for this year however, if we receive bronze or silver it will still be a great accomplishment. Each year we learn more and strengthen the initiative.

Staff is seeking letters, brochures, minutes, pictures, videos, newspaper clippings, flyers etc. from community partners and Youth champions to contribute to this application.

The application is a timely process and requires staff to begin as soon as possible. We have partnered with the Library in that, 2 summer students will take on 1-2 of the criteria each.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

- Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community.
- Managing growth to ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of the community.

D. Environmental Impacts

Continually promoting and nurturing a relationship with our local environment/community.

E. Budget Impact

Staff time- This is a very detailed and lengthy application.
Play Works suggests beginning the process 6 months ahead of the deadline

F. Attached

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

For more information, please contact:

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