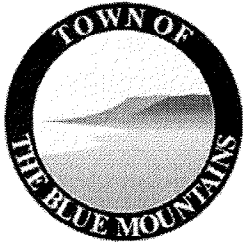


**STAFF REPORT: Recreation Department**



**REPORT TO: Council**  
**MEETING DATE: March 26, 2008**  
**REPORT NO.: DOR.08.12**  
**SUBJECT: Community Youth Initiative**  
**PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt**  
**Director of Recreation**

**A. Recommendation**

That the Council receives Report DOR.08.12 Community Youth Initiative and approves staff to proceed with further developing the Community Youth Initiative by;

- a) Hire a Contract Youth Advisor for 30 weeks who would assist in the development of the Community Youth initiative and that the positions primary mandate is to engage youth in local government.
- b) Recruit a Co-op Student through Georgian Bay Secondary School to work with the Contract Youth Advisor to develop an Action Plan

**B. Background**

The approved 2008 budget contains \$25,000.00 for Community Youth Initiative funding. The use of this funding required further information from Staff outlining the details of future Community Youth Initiatives.

Over the Past two months, staff has met with individuals from the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit and the Community for Youth Coalition to discuss the most appropriate and effective ways to establish a sustainable youth initiative program. As a result of these discussion it was determined that to develop a successful youth initiative program it really must be driven by the Youth. A good deal of work has been done through the Community for Youth Coalition however a large percentage of its membership consists of adults. Nonetheless their work would become a strong base of information for a sustainable Youth Initiative.

A key component of this Initiative will be to ensure that The Town of The Blue Mountains promotes a youth friendly atmosphere, and that our youth have the opportunity to become Community leaders, and have a strong sense of Community. Youth must feel valued. This will help create an social/cultural environment which encourages Youth to stay in the community or return to the community following post secondary education. Youth will be encouraged to

gain a better understanding of Local Governance and decision making processes. The initiative also aims to increase participation of Youth in local, Provincial, and Federal Election thereby maintaining a strong, well managed municipal government.

It is proposed that a Youth Advisory Position be established within the Recreation Department reporting to the Director of Recreation and would advise and provide guidance on the Community Youth Initiative. Staff has developed a draft description of Youth Advisor responsibilities. It is recommended that this positions primary mandate is to develop a sustainable youth engagement plan that provides direction to successfully connect with the group in innovative ways.

The summary of duties also includes;

- To be a leader in developing a strong sense of community for youth and to develop ongoing meaningful dialogue with youth to determine needs and creation of a vision for a youth friendly environment.
- To develop partnerships and foster positive links with key community partners and youth champions, as well as participate as an active member of the local Community for Youth Coalition and help facilitate community events.
- To be an advocate to sustainability and environmental action.
- To demonstrate to youth that Local Government is a viable career path, as well as generating interest in decision making processes.
- To provide direction to all staff in the interest of youth, ensuring appropriate programs, processes and effective communication are in place.

Preliminary discussions with the Blue Water District Board of Education have taken place regarding potential Student Co-op Placement to take an active role with the Community Youth Initiative. This would provide a unique learning opportunity for a local student from Georgian Bay Secondary School to assist in the development of a strong sustainable initiative.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

Managing growth to ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of the community

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community

Providing a strong, well managed municipal government



## PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM

Department: Recreation  
Proposal: **Community Youth Initiative**  
Year of Initiation: 2008  
Year of Completion: 2010  
Submission Date: January 2008  
Submitted by: Lisa Kidd

### **A Description**

The Town of the Blue Mountains will provide support for a Community Youth Initiative. Details of the Initiative are to be determined.

### **B Purpose**

The Community Youth Initiative will serve the following purposes:

- To encourage Youth to become directly involved in local government.
- To strengthen Youth involvement and leadership in the community.
- To make Town of The Blue Mountains a better place for Youth.
- To encourage Youth to vote in future elections.

### **C Expected Staff Resources/Key Personnel**

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation  
Paul Graham, Chief Administrative Officer  
Lisa Kidd, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator

### **D Expected Capital Resource Requirements**

None

### **E Estimated Project Costing Economic Driver**

10 a

None at this time

**F Expected Project Timeline**

2008	Details to be determined
2009	Details to be determined
2010	Details to be determined

**G Expected Operational Resource Requirements**

Details to be determined

**H Proposed Source of Financing & Funding, (in conjunction with Treasury)**

YEAR	Grants, Donations, Developer Cont.	Taxation	User Fees	Municipal Act, 326/391	Capital Reserves (specify below)	Development Charges	Debt	Other (specify below)
2008		25,000						
2009		25,000						
2010		25,000						
2011								
2012								

Notes to Table:

**I Anticipated Cost Savings or Additional Revenues**

Details to be determined

**J Location Map, as applicable**

Not applicable

**K Attachments, as applicable**

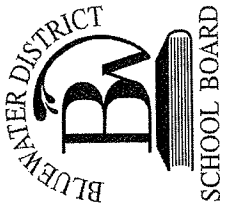
Not applicable

Respectfully submitted by,

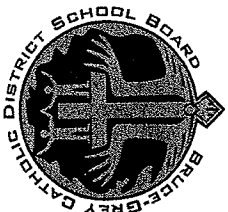
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head Signature

Approved for Submission to Council or Committee by,

106



# COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ATTITUDE COMMITTEE



Thank you for your interest in the Cooperative Education Program. Your generosity in providing students with practical on-the-job experiences will last them a lifetime and better prepare them for the world of work.

Employers are welcome to participate in Career Days, Career Fairs, Career Talks, Job Shadowing, Mentoring, Project Based Learning, School-to-Work Transition Programs, Specialist High Skills Majors and Workplace Tours.

For further information, please contact the Cooperative Education Department at the secondary school nearest you.

Brochure sponsored by the following two programs:



Funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

## What is Cooperative Education?

Co-op is an opportunity to earn high school credits and gain valuable work experience at the same time. The program offers students a planned learning experience in a variety of community work placements.

## Why Do Employers Get Involved?

- encourage students to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes required for employment
- recruit and train potential employees
- provide students with career specific skills from experts in the field
- contribute to the local community and future workforce

## Employer Responsibilities

- provide a safe working environment
- designate one employee to supervise student
- provide varied and new learning experiences for the student
- provide progress feedback to the student and co-op teacher
- review and sign student log sheets
- contact co-op teacher if there are any concerns relating to attendance, behaviour, etc.

## How Does Co-op Work?

Employers agree to provide a co-op placement for a suitable student. Cooperative Education combines a work placement component with a classroom component.

## Process

A scheduled interview determines the student's acceptance in the workplace. A combination of work and classroom hours is required for earning co-op credits.

### Daily work schedules may vary

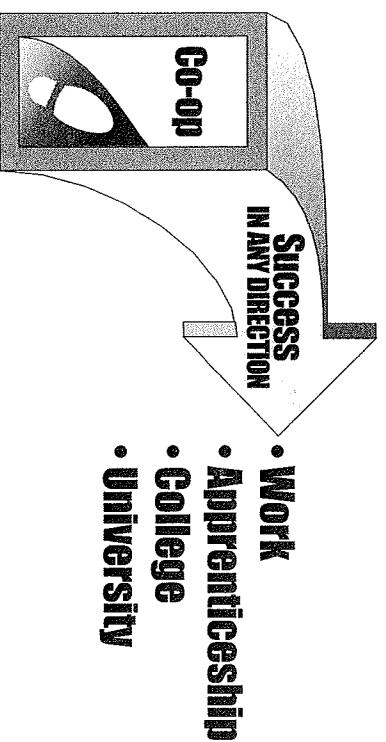
Half day 2.5 to 3 hours = 2 credits

Full day 5 to 6 hours = 4 credits

Students attend classes that emphasize the importance of school and workplace expectations prior to and during the work term (a schedule will be provided by the school).

Students meet with the employer to have standard co-op forms signed prior to the start date of the placement.

Co-op teachers will observe and consult with supervisors and students at the workplace.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Safety

- safety instruction is the joint responsibility of the school and employer
- health and safety instruction as part of the pre-placement orientation activities is provided by the school

- employers must provide specific job related orientation and workplace health and safety training

### Insurance

The Ministry of Education covers the WSIB premiums for co-op students and the employer covers the premiums for any paid employment.

### Remuneration

Students are earning secondary school credits for work experience. It is not expected that they receive payment for the assigned placement time. Students in specialized programs such as the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) may receive a wage during their placement.

### Confidentiality

The school provides instruction on the importance of confidentiality in the workplace and students must sign an Oath of Confidentiality.

### Transportation

Transportation to and from the placement is the responsibility of the student. Students are not allowed to use their personal vehicles to conduct business for the Co-op employer. If driving a company vehicle is a component of the learning experience, the employer's insurance must cover the student.