



October 2015

NEWS

Welcome to our first newsletter. We want to thank you for joining us on our website. Our newsletter is one way to keep you up to date on our research and our results, as well as breaking new discoveries concerning waste with Town Council and staff management. We will use tools, such as the *Freedom of Information Act* to compel the municipality of Cobourg to open up their information to the public.

The CTA had a very successful media launch September 15 at the Lions/Lioness Pavilion. The launch was well attended by the local radio stations, the press, new supporters and television networks.

Following the Press Conference Mayor Brocanier indicated his willingness to work with the CTA. We are hopeful the Mayor will increase transparency with the citizens on the issues we are researching, for you, the taxpayer. In addition to the media we were welcomed by our neighbours in Port Hope, and Hamilton County. Support is broad reaching from other Ontario-based community organizations such as York Region. Port Hope was extremely successful in achieving their goals. We can do the same if we show our concerns.



CTA President Lydia Smith speaks to media and supporters at the launch surrounded by the advisory committee and guests.

Some of the issues we are currently researching:

- Holdco
- Difficulties in communication with Council for our letters to be read
- Cobourg Community Centre spending, waste, and growing staff levels.
- Recording of votes at our Council meetings
- Marina expenditures and management of finances
- Large increases in staff levels and hiring of new directors when our town population has not increased
- Live streaming and recording of Council Meetings of the Whole
- Future developments and plans for Trailer Park on the Waterfront

Please help us grow by referring friends and family to our website to join our growing list of supporters. Our contact list is completely confidential and we must abide by the standards laid out for Canadian corporations.

You can also send us input on matters pertaining to waste and extravagance in our Town. Send your friends to: www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca. We need your support to help us achieve our goals that will keep taxes in check. If you and I don't react, you know this tax growth will continue unimpeded. Thanks again for your readership and support. **Donations welcome.**

Contact us at: info@cobourgtaxpayers.ca

MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY

Remarks By Dennis Nabieszko
To Town of Cobourg Committee of the Whole
September 28, 2015



The Cobourg Taxpayers Association believes that Community Grants serve a vital function to help fund various projects that make Cobourg a better place to live.

To put things in context, in the proposed 2015 Budget, the Town of Cobourg was asked to provide just over a quarter of a million dollars in sponsorships, organizational grants and separate budget allocations for the Arts Gallery of Northumberland and the Concert Band.

As a starting point, the Cobourg Taxpayers Association carried out an analysis of other municipalities in order to gauge best practices. We reviewed Community Grant policies in a randomly selected sample of ten municipalities nationally. Emphasis was placed on Ontario municipalities.

In our written brief you will find a detailed summary that lays out:

- The types of grants they use.
- Eligibility criteria; namely, who they consider to be ineligible recipients and what they consider to be ineligible purposes.
- Grant application requirements and the criteria they use.

The CTA supports the Town's initiative in revising its Municipal Community Grants Policy. In the interests of ensuring consistency, accountability, fairness and due diligence when awarding grants, it offers the following observations:

- Eligible and ineligible organizations are not defined.
- Ineligible purposes are not defined.
- There is neither an overall Community Grant limit, nor a maximum limit per applicant or grant category.
- There is no requirement to provide performance measures or to report on how they were achieved.
- There is no requirement to provide a report along with receipts, where applicable, in support of how the funds were used.
- There is no requirement for the applicant to return unused funds to the Town.

PLEASE DONATE TO THE CTA

The CTA is completely volunteer run with no paid staff, no funding from government or special interests. Donations will be used to pay for Freedom of Information requests, our website and other expenses to help everyone enjoy our Feel Good Town with less government waste and lower taxes. Cheques are also welcomed and can be sent to:

Cobourg Taxpayers Association
24 Pebble Beach Dr.
Cobourg ON K9A 2C5



The CTA has the following recommendations:

- Community Grants should be categorized and clearly identified in all budget documents as:

Operational Funding Grants

These would provide monetary assistance to eligible organizations with general operating expenses.

Capital Funding Grants

Would provide monetary support to eligible organizations with a one-time capital or equipment purchase. This is the grant category that would apply to the Northumberland Hills Hospital for the purchase of medical equipment. In addition it would include minor renovation costs, sporting equipment, and other infrastructure costs for other applicants. The purchase of a property or land, the construction of a new building or major renovations would not qualify.

Special Events/Projects Grants

Monetary support would be provided to eligible organizations hosting a special event or who wish to introduce or enhance a program opportunity within the Town of Cobourg.

Facility Rental/Fee Reduction Grants

Would be used to provide eligible organizations with offsetting grants for the rental of Town of Cobourg facilities or a reduction in fees for specific Town services.

- *Eligible organizations should be defined as:*

"A not-for-profit organization that has been in operation for at least one year, and has a volunteer Board of Directors."

- A recommended list of ineligible organizations to be included in the policy, as identified in our written brief.

- *Ineligible purposes should be defined as:*

- Fund-raising.
- To cover deficits or reduce debt.
- Programs that other levels of government have legislated responsibility for funding.
- Retroactive payments.
- Purchase of a building or land, construction of a new building or major renovation.
- Personal gain by a member of the governing body.

Please visit our website for a complete copy of the presentation made to Cobourg Town Council.

<http://www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca>

Contact us at: info@cobourgtaxpayers.ca