

Report

Date November 7, 2023
Subject 2024 Grant-in-Aid

File:

PURPOSE

To review the 2024 Grant-in-Aid applications and recommend which grants should be approved and the amount to be approved.

BACKGROUND

Council's Grant-in-Aid Policy (Attachment 1) invites applications from non-profit societies operating within the Municipality under the categories of tourism, economic development, social/environmental services, sports groups and arts and culture. The grants can be used for capital, operating or one-off special event purposes.

Applications are received in October for review by the Committee of the Whole during budget deliberations.

DISCUSSION

The preliminary 2024 budget includes \$226,246 for Grant-in-Aid. The eligible requests for funding total \$306,220. Should the Committee of the Whole recommend fully funding all grant applications, a \$79,974 or 0.22% increase in taxation would be required.

The details of grant amounts requested for 2024 and those provided in previous years, are included in Attachment 2.

Annual Grant Contributions - \$198,000 requested

There are eight annual funding contributions provided through the annual Grant-in-Aid category. The Committee of the Whole typically approves these without requiring the organization to submit an annual application unless additional funding is requested.

Two requests for additional funding have been received:

1. The Chemainus & District Chamber of Commerce has requested an increase of \$7,500 for a total of \$35,000 for 2024. The increase will be used to cover the increased operation costs due to the anticipated guest visitor numbers. According to the society, they saw a 40% increase in visitors in 2023 compared to 2022.
2. The Cowichan Historical Society has requested an increase of \$4,500 for a total of \$10,000 for 2024. The increase will be used to cover operating costs, ongoing maintenance, and increased security for the museum.

Grants in Lieu of Taxes and Fees - \$1,000

The Municipality covers the water and garbage fees for St. Michael's and All Angels Church Cemetery each year. Should Council continue to approve this, the organization will be advised that the Municipality will cover these fees for 2024.

Economic Development/Tourism - \$19,300 requested

In addition to the regular flower basket contribution (\$24,000), the Chemainus Business Improvement Association (BIA) has requested two additional grants:

1. Beautification: repurposing fall baskets – the BIA requests \$4,800 to replace plantings in the hanging baskets and tie ribbons in First Nations colors to enhance the look and feel throughout the winter. Council denied the request of \$3,500 in 2023.
2. Flags/Banners: the BIA is requesting \$7,500 to replace the current flags/banners and holders, working with schools, artists and others to include a more artistic reflection that is exciting to tourism. The request has increased from 2023 due to the number of banners and rising costs. Council denied the request of \$3,500 in 2023.

Additionally, the Chemainus Communities in Bloom is requesting \$7,000 for planting, maintenance, and revitalization of all planted areas and adopt-a-beds and new planting projects. This organization receives a regular grant for beautification in Chemainus and received \$7,600 in 2023.

Social/Environmental Services - \$44,050 requested

Twelve requests have been received in this category:

1. Chemainus Residents Association is requesting \$2,000 for rental space and materials for workshops on building infill/small-scale projects that align with North Cowichan's Official Community Plan.
2. Clements Centre for Families is requesting \$7,500 to renovate two bathrooms to make them accessible to all individuals. No grant was applied for in 2023; however, a \$5,000 grant was given by Council in 2022.
3. Cowichan Agricultural Society and Farmer's Institute requests \$5,000 for a part-time agricultural coordinator.
4. Cowichan – Bring Back the Bluebirds requests \$2,000 for support, volunteer coordination, and costs associated with caring for western bluebirds. Council has provided funding for this for many years.
5. Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society is requesting \$4,500 to assist with maintaining their frontline services (emotional support, support groups, navigation of healthcare and community resources). No applications for a grant-in-aid from this society have been received in the past.
6. Fosterkitters Feral Cat Rescue Society is requesting \$2,500 for operating and paying bills associated with the assistance of feral cats. No applications for a grant-in-aid from this society have been received in the past.
7. House of Grace Pregnancy Centre is requesting \$3,500 to assist with establishing a Support after Abortion/Pregnancy Related Grief Support group. Council denied the request of \$3,600 in 2023.

8. NEED2 Suicide Prevention, Education and Support requests \$2,500 to expand programming within School District 79 and associated travel costs as the organization is based out of Victoria. No applications for a grant-in-aid from this organization have been received in the past.
9. Salish Sea Stones is requesting \$6,600 to assist with the start-up, operational and maintenance costs to expand the program. Council provided a grant of \$1,500 in 2023.
10. Somenos Marsh Society requests \$950 for a graphic designer to create a new S'amunu Conservation Area Trail guide. No grant was applied for in 2022 or 2023; however, \$2,000 was provided in 2021.
11. Take a Hike Foundation is requesting \$3,000 in support of their work to support vulnerable youth across the region in providing early intervention and prevention mental health support in partnership with public school districts in B.C.. A \$1,500 grant was provided in 2023.
12. WildsafeBC is requesting \$4,000 to assist with the delivery of the WildsafeBC Program, which educates residents and visitors about wildlife safety. Council has provided funding for this for many years.

Arts and Culture - \$7,770 requested

Three requests have been received in this category:

1. Chemainus Rotary Club requests \$1,200 to assist with their community Summer Fest event (parade/car show, food and entertainment). Council has provided funding for this for many years.
2. Crofton Art Group requests \$2,000 to replace their banners for their 70th anniversary. Council provided \$1,300 in 2019.
3. Maple Bay Community Association is requesting \$4,570 towards their Canada Day celebration. Council provided \$3,500 in 2023.

Municipally Owned Community Halls - \$31,000 requested

Three requests have been received in this category:

1. Somenos Community Association is requesting \$7,000 to replace gutters and upgrade the washroom. Council has provided this amount for many years.
2. Vimy Community Club is requesting \$3,000 for operational costs for the hall. Council has provided this amount for many years.
3. Westholme School Society is requesting \$21,000, an increase of \$16,000 from 2023 to install a new water filtration system Council has provided \$5,000 for many years.

Sports Groups - \$8,000 requested

The Cowichan Rugby Club has requested a \$3,000 increase from 2023 for \$8,000 to cover their water bills and insurance costs. Council has provided funding for many years.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve grant-in-aid amounts for 2024 as follows:
 - (1) BC Forest Discovery Centre – BC Forest Museum \$25,000

- (2) Chemainus & District Chamber of Commerce \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (3) Chemainus Valley Historical Society \$8,500
- (4) Cowichan Historical Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (5) Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce \$34,000
- (6) Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association \$38,600
- (7) Chemainus BIA. - Flower Baskets \$24,000
- (8) Chemainus Theatre Festival Society \$20,000
- (9) Chemainus Cemetery (St. Michael's and All Angels Church)\$1,000 to offset water and garbage fees
- (10) Chemainus BIA - Beautification: Repurpose fall baskets \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (11) Chemainus BIA - Flags/Banners \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (12) Chemainus Communities in Bloom \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (13) Chemainus Residents Association - Community Development \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (14) Clements Centre for Families \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (15) Cowichan Agricultural Society and Farmers' Institute \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (16) Cowichan - Bring Back Bluebirds (BCCF) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (17) Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (18) Fosterkitters Feral Cat Rescue Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (19) House of Grace Pregnancy Centre \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (20) NEED2 - Suicide prevention, education & support \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (21) Salish Sea Stones \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (22) Somenos Marsh Society\$[_____ insert amount here]
- (23) Take a Hike Foundation \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (24) WildsafeBC (BCCF) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (25) Chemainus Rotary Club (Summerfest Parade and Festivities) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (26) Crofton Art Group \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (27) Maple Bay Community Assoc. - Canada Day \$[insert amount here]
- (28) Somenos Community Association \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (29) Vimy Community Club (Hall) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (30) Westholme School Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (31) Cowichan Rugby Club \$[_____ insert amount here]

IMPLICATIONS

The 2024 preliminary budget includes \$226,246 for grants-in-aid. The eligible requests for funding total \$306,220. Should the Committee of the Whole recommend fully funding all grant applications, a \$79,974 or 0.22% increase in taxation would be required.

Council has also granted BC Forest Museum, Chemainus Rotary Club, Chemainus Valley Historical Society, Clement Centre Society, Cowichan Neighborhood House, Cowichan Rugby Club, Duncan Chamber of Commerce, Somenos Community Association, Vimy Community Club and Westholme School Society Permissive Tax Exemptions in 2024 that total approximately \$58,000 of foregone revenue (based on 2023 assessment and tax rates).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve grant-in-aid amounts for 2024 as follows:

- (1) BC Forest Discovery Centre – BC Forest Museum \$25,000
- (2) Chemainus & District Chamber of Commerce \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (3) Chemainus Valley Historical Society \$8,500
- (4) Cowichan Historical Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (5) Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce \$34,000
- (6) Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association \$38,600
- (7) Chemainus BIA - Flower Baskets \$24,000
- (8) Chemainus Theatre Festival Society \$20,000
- (9) Chemainus Cemetery (St. Michael's and All Angels Church)\$1,000 to offset water and garbage fees
- (10) Chemainus BIA - Beautification: Repurpose fall baskets \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (11) Chemainus BIA - Flags/Banners \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (12) Chemainus Communities in Bloom \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (13) Chemainus Residents Association - Community Development \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (14) Clements Centre for Families \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (15) Cowichan Agricultural Society and Farmers' Institute \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (16) Cowichan - Bring Back Bluebirds (BCCF) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (17) Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
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- (19) House of Grace Pregnancy Centre \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (20) NEED2 - Suicide prevention, education & support \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (21) Salish Sea Stones \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (22) Somenos Marsh Society\$[_____ insert amount here]
- (23) Take a Hike Foundation \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (24) WildsafeBC (BCCF) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (25) Chemainus Rotary Club (Summerfest Parade and Festivities) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (26) Crofton Art Group \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (27) Maple Bay Community Assoc. - Canada Day \$[insert amount here]
- (28) Somenos Community Association \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (29) Vimy Community Club (Hall) \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (30) Westholme School Society \$[_____ insert amount here]
- (31) Cowichan Rugby Club \$[_____ insert amount here]

Report prepared by:



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Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
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Attachments:

- (1) Attachment 1 - Grant-In-Aid Policy
- (2) Attachment 2 - 2024 Grant-in-aid Applications Summary
- (3) Attachment 3 - Chemainus District Chamber of Commerce
- (4) Attachment 4 - Cowichan Historical Society
- (5) Attachment 5 - Chemainus Business Improvement Association
- (6) Attachment 6 - Chemainus Communities in Bloom
- (7) Attachment 7 - Chemainus Residents Association
- (8) Attachment 8 - Clements Centre for Families
- (9) Attachment 9 - Cowichan Agricultural Society and Famers Institute
- (10) Attachment 10 - Cowichan Bring Back Black Birds project
- (11) Attachment 11 - Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society
- (12) Attachment 12 - Fosterkitters Feral Cat Rescue Society
- (13) Attachment 13 - House of Grace Pregnancy Centre
- (14) Attachment 14 - NEED2 Suicide Prevention
- (15) Attachment 15 - Salish Sea Stones
- (16) Attachment 16 - Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
- (17) Attachment 17 - Take A Hike Yourth Mental Health Foundation
- (18) Attachment 18 - WildsafeBC Cow Valley
- (19) Attachment 19 - Rotary Club of Chemainus
- (20) Attachment 20 - Crofton Art Group
- (21) Attachment 21 - Maple Bay Community Association
- (22) Attachment 22 - Somenos Community Association
- (23) Attachment 23 - Vimy Community Club
- (24) Attachment 24 - Westholme School Society
- (25) Attachment 25 - Cowichan Rugby Football Club