



Report to: General Committee

Report Date: June 21, 2007

SUBJECT: Volunteer Recognition
PREPARED BY: Fred Rich, Business Analyst

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report dated June 21, 2007 entitled “Volunteer Requisition” be received;

And that staff develop a recognition award for a “Unsung Volunteer of the Year”, as detailed in the report.

And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

No financial cost to the Town, financing provided by award sponsor.

PURPOSE:

To develop an award that recognizes, encourages and supports the efforts of volunteers in the Markham area on an annual basis. Each year the achievements of one volunteer will be awarded the “Behind the Scenes Volunteer of the Year” for their involvement in community events in the Markham area.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Markham relies on the tremendous efforts of community volunteers throughout the Town. Volunteers can be part of formal groups like the Rotary Club or Boys and Girls Scouts. They may also be part of Town organized groups like Information Markham, Cultural event groups or any other special events. Each of these established groups currently have some form of volunteer recognition, formal award dinners, thank you picnics and/or informal recognition functions.

However, many volunteers are not involved in formal committees and may not take a prominent role in community events. These individuals quietly volunteer their time and expertise at many events throughout the year without formal recognition of their involvement. The time and effort of this type of volunteer may not be as easily recognized over those with a more publicized or formal type of involvement, yet their contributions should be acknowledged.

It is for this reason Town Staff have been approached by a Markham resident to create this annual award to recognize the “Unsung Volunteer of the Year”, that will pay tribute to an individual that demonstrates these qualities. This resident has expressed in interest in funding / sponsoring the award, which may include a plaque and a small honourarium for the recipient. The Town would provide the forum in which the volunteer would be recognized, possibly the Town’s annual volunteer picnic, as well as the administrative support for the award. In return the Town would be recognized as the co-sponsor of this annual award.

Staff recommend pursuing the development of an "Unsung Volunteer of the Year" award for presentation at the 2008 volunteer picnic.

RECOMMENDED

BY:



Andy Taylor
Commissioner of Corporate Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None