



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of General Committee

**From:** John Kennedy, City Clerk

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2021

**Subject:** Report CLSCLK21-015  
2019 and 2020 Civic Awards

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend alternative plans for the both the 2019 and 2020 Civic Awards.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CLSCLK21-015 dated June 14, 2021, of the City Clerk, as follows:

- a) That Council award the 2019 Civic Awards via a prerecorded electronic format in 2021; and,
- b) That the traditional 2020 Civic Awards format be amended to focus instead on the people and organizations who work to keep us safe and provided the necessary services we need during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and,
- c) That staff be directed to follow-up with the County of Peterborough on a joint County-City series of recognitions to acknowledge the contributions of individuals and groups during the COVID-19 pandemic, to effect recommendation b).

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

Funds in the 2021 budget for the annual Civic Awards ceremony would be used toward the two virtual award events.

## Background

### 2019 Civic Awards

As Council is aware, applications for the 2019 Civic Awards were distributed at the beginning of 2020 and a number of nominations were received. The pandemic was declared in March, just as the deadline for applications had ended. The annual Civic Awards event is usually held in June at Fleming College and this event was cancelled in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Staff were unsure if it would be possible to proceed at some point in 2020 with the Civic Awards, so the 2019 Civic Awards were postponed.

At present, it would appear for the foreseeable future that the ability for people to gather will be limited, especially in larger numbers. As a result, staff is recommending that a presentation/video be produced which would involve members of Council announcing the winners in a pre-recorded format. While award winners would not be present, the process would enable people to be safely recognized and their certificate of recognition would be mailed to them. The presentation would be posted to the City website and on the City's YouTube channel so that it would be available for anyone to view. It would be promoted through social media, the City's indoor digital sign network in City facilities, and local media.

The Civic Awards selection process was amended by Council at its meeting of January 27, 2020, as a result of the adoption of Report CLSCLK20-001 as follows:

**“That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CLSCLK20-001, dated January 20, 2020, of the City Clerk as follows:**

- a) That the Holnbeck Award and the Mayor's Youth Awards be presented as part of the annual Civic Awards evening; and,**
- b) That the Citizen Appointment Selection Committee select the winners of the Civic Awards.”**

If Council is supportive of recommendation a) on page one of this report, staff will proceed to prepare the materials so that Council may meet in a closed session meeting to review and select the winners of the 2019 Civic Awards. Once the winners have been selected staff would make preparations to complete the virtual awards ceremony. The date of the posting of electronic ceremony would be provided to members of Council and the public in advance of its release.

### Special 2020 Recognition

Due to the pandemic, 2020 was a very unusual year with limited sporting activities, traditional volunteering opportunities or cultural events taking place. Staff are recommending that the 2020 Civic Awards format be amended to focus instead on the

people and organizations who worked to keep us safe and provided the necessary services we need during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

The work done by frontline workers, first responders and service providers in our community in 2020 and 2021 are greatly appreciated by our residents. These individuals and groups are servicing a community that extends beyond the boundaries of the City, and staff recommend that City Council consider working in conjunction with the Council of the County of Peterborough to develop a series of recognitions. County Council has requested that their staff work on a similar plan and passed a motion in this regard in February (#60-2021), "... and further, That the Awards and Bursaries Committee meet to develop a plan which recognizes First Responders, essential workers, and County of Peterborough residents for the year 2021". Working with the County, the special 2020 recognitions would be coordinated using various communication channels and promotional opportunities to share the appreciation of Councils on behalf of the communities. The effort would replace the traditional in-person formal ceremony due to the limitations on in-person gatherings. A cooperative effort, if there is support from both Councils, would enable the pooling of resources, would avoid duplicate efforts and would create a more encompassing acknowledgement and appreciation of the people and organizations who worked to keep us safe and provided the necessary services we need during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

If Council is supportive of a joint effort to recognize and thank frontline workers, first responders and service providers, staff will proceed to contact the County to learn if there is similar interest by their Council. If it is determined they wish to participate staff from the County and City will begin to work on this project.

## Summary

The 2019 Civic Awards have not yet been presented and it is recommended that a prerecorded video be developed to recognize the winners that Council selects for the various awards. Given the continuing pandemic it is further recommended that the annual Civic Awards format for 2020 be amended to focus on recognizing the contributions of individuals and groups during the COVID-19 pandemic in a joint effort with the County of Peterborough.

Submitted by,

John Kennedy  
City Clerk

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