



Municipality of Port Hope

Staff Report

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Report Title: Port Hope Agricultural Society Fair Agreement

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: December 3, 2024

Report Author:

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Department responsible:

Parks, Recreation & Culture

Report Number: PRC-15-24

Recommended Action:

That Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a lease agreement with the Port Hope and District Agricultural Society for use the premises at the Town Agricultural Park (62 McCaul Street, Port Hope) for the purposes of hosting the annual Port Hope Fair as per terms generally outlined in Report PRC-15-24; and further,

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute any agreements and other documents as may be necessary to facilitate the agreement subject to satisfaction of staff and legal counsel.

Highlights:

- The Port Hope and District Agricultural Society has been hosting the Port Hope Fair since 1831.
- The Agricultural Society and the Municipality have had an amicable and successful partnership for this event, and an agreement outlining how the fairgrounds is to be used has been in place since the Town Park Recreation Centre was built in 2002.
- The existing agreement, By-law 72/2003, expired on September 30, 2024.

Background:

The Municipality owns the grounds known as the Town Agricultural Park and leases a portion of southern soccer fields from Trinity College School. The Port Hope and District Agricultural Society (PHAS) has a lease agreement with the Municipality relating to the provisions of accessing the property to plan and host the Port Hope Fair.

On January 20, 1831, a constitution was created, establishing the formation of the Port Hope Agricultural Society and that same year, the first Fall Fair was celebrated. 2024 saw the celebration of 193 years of the Port Hope Fair. Over the course of these 193 years the Agricultural Society, the Municipality of Port Hope, surrounding areas and

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local business partners have worked together sharing a common goal: to continue recognizing agricultural heritage, create more agricultural awareness and education and to provide an annual event where people can come together to celebrate and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

As part of the Town Park Redevelopment campaign (2001-2003), PHAS pledged \$160,000 towards redevelopment including the construction the Fall Fair Centre, making annual payments starting in 2004 until the \$160,000 was paid in full in 2010. Another recent improvement to the park lands include contributing close to \$30,000 towards the re-construction of the main-gate area which was completed in time to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the first wheat harvest in Hope Township. Other significant investments and partnership activities have occurred for many years.

Discussion:

Staff are supportive of executing a lease agreement with the Port Hope and District Agricultural Society, for a period of another 20 years, recognizing the capital investments made to date on the site, as well as the community significance of the event. Staff are recommending the development of lease conditions similar to the terms and conditions as the previous lease, but have collaborated in the review to ensure that it is effective and relevant as there have been significant updates to the park since 2003 (including the expansion of the Town Park Recreation Centre and other outdoor amenities).

General provisions of the lease include:

- A twenty-one (21) year term permitting Fairs up to and including September 30th, 2045.
- Establishing set up and take down dates, room allocations and expectations of the Fair.
- Outlining expectations relating to maintenance, damage and repair of buildings and grounds.
- Confirmation of continued use of storage space in the Fall Fair Centre at no cost to the Agricultural Society.
- Details and requirements for use of community rooms for planning, regular meetings, Annual General Meeting and other provisions at no cost to the Agricultural Society.
- Insurance requirements.

The lease agreement will further be reviewed by legal counsel in order to ensure the Municipality's interests are protected.

Financial Considerations:

There are no new financial considerations over the existing lease relating to this report.

Communication and Public Engagement:

None required in relation to the continuation of this existing agreement.

Conclusion:

The completion of a Lease Agreement with the Port Hope and Agricultural Society is an important step in the continuation of support in hosting the well-known Port Hope Fair, a signature community event. This aligns with the Community Strategic Plan in supporting growth in the community, use of existing infrastructure in creative ways and supporting multi-generational needs in Port Hope.

Attachments:

None.