



CLEARVIEW

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**Report Number:** CS-040-2019  
**Department:** Community Services  
**Meeting Date:** July 29, 2019  
**Subject:** Downtown Beautification of Clearview Settlements

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### RECOMMENDATION

Be It Resolved, that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby:

- 1) Receive the report CS-040-2019 for information; and
- 2) Authorize staff to purchase planters, benches, bike racks, bollards and winter holiday decorations within the approved budget allocation and in consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, Creemore Business Association, and the Hall Boards.

### BACKGROUND

Council budgeting \$100,000 for downtown beautification initiatives. The discussion around the Council table was that the funds could go towards items such as: decorative benches, planters, refuse containers, winter lights, banners and similar items. Staff were directed to investigate and report back to Council with recommendations.

### THE PROPOSAL

Staff have reviewed the existing beautification items in the downtowns and crossroads of our settlements.

### Winter Decorations:

Staff are working toward winter lights for attachment to the hydro or street light poles and potentially other opportunities. However, the report for this will come at a later date and some areas are covered by Hydro One and Epcor and as such requires their approval. The poles in Stayner are owned by the municipality and therefore can support winter decorations etc.

Epcor own the hydro poles in Creemore. Staff contacted Epcor who advised that they do not have staff available to hang the decorations. Therefore it would fall upon the Township to install or have the decorations installed. Staff have asked if anything else is required ie approval of the contractor, prior to moving forward with installation. We have yet to hear back but will act accordingly. Staff are seeking support to move forward with this purchase and installation in consultation with Epcor.



The addition of poles at other settlements may be something to consider so that the municipality can add some winter decorations and/or overhead décor (banner type as shown below) without utilizing Hydro One poles. This will come forward in a Phase 2 of this project.



To meet this holiday season, the order for winter decorations needs to be put in as soon as possible. Staff are seeking Council's support to move forward with an order for Stayner and Creemore. Staff will consult with the business associations.

### **Existing Beautification:**

#### Stayner:

Stayner has some existing infrastructure, some of which is supplied by the Chamber of Commerce such as some benches, planters and banners and other furnishings are supplied by the Township such as the refuse containers and the furniture in Station Park. The Chamber plants the planters and hires a student that the Township currently manages to water the planters.

The First Impressions Exchange Program that was completed in 2017 with the Town of Gravenhurst and identified a need for benches in downtown Stayner. This is proposed. Exact locations will have to be determined to meet the FADS document requirement of 1.5 metre clearance for accessibility. The existing refuse containers are not attractive and if replaced, could be reassigned to other less prominent locations within the Township.

#### Creemore:

Creemore also has some street furniture being benches and refuse containers supplied and maintained by the Township and the BIA, and they have other street decorations such as colourful bicycles and planters supplied by the BIA. The benches were refurbished by the Township and are very attractive. They consist of wood slats over a cast iron frame. The wood does require restoration maintenance on occasion.

The BIA advised that they would like to replace their planters as they are deteriorating. The BIA plants and waters the planters in their area. There may be opportunities for bike racks. Staff will work with the BIA on planters and maybe some bike racks.

#### Other Settlements:

The other settlements do not have any formal street beautification provided by the Township or any formal business association.

### **Opportunities:**

#### Benches:

Other than Creemore who already have benches, some of the settlements would benefit from benches. They should, however, be put in locations where they will be used. In consultation with the Chamber of Commerce in Stayner, they have identified 8 locations for benches in downtown Stayner. As mentioned earlier, locations will have to be reviewed in consideration of the FADS accessibility requirements. The

Chamber has also requested that the benches be black as black is neutral and classic and allows the facades of the businesses to stand out. Staff support the request for black benches.

Moving forward, the approved bench can be used throughout the settlement area downtowns as needed.

Staff prefer the heritage looking bench below. However, this bench does not meet the FADS document for accessibility. I am also aware that not all finishings work for all persons. For instance, some prefer to have handles on both sides to assist them in getting up from the bench, whereas others may wish to slide off their wheelchair onto a bench, hence the need for the end to be open. After reviewing the catalogues of various companies for benches, there isn't a heritage looking bench that would meet our FADS requirement. Therefore, the Township could either use the heritage bench and add some accessible benches or utilize the Superior series of benches from Henderson which is within the same line of the FADS bench so all the benches look consistent. Staff is seeking direction in this regard.

Benches:

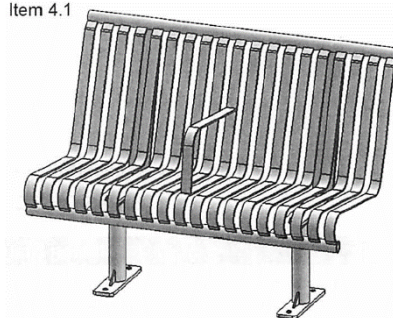


SUPERIOR Series

Model: SV6



Item 4.1



### Refuse Bins:

Stayner would benefit from the replacement of the existing refuse bins with attractive bins. The site tour of other areas of the Township, did not yield any obvious need for refuse bins in the commercial areas of the other settlements. However, should Council identify the need, they can be ordered and installed.

### Existing Stayner Bins



Proposed refuse container except to be in grey with a black frame.



### Planters:

There are six Clearview Entrance Signs. Four of them are on relatively level ground that could support planters underneath. Two of them are on sloped ground that may not be able to support a planter. A site inspection is required to determine if some shims would be possible to level a planter.

These planters would be kept at the site year round.

Note - This picture does not represent the specific planter or plantings.

Stayner has a number of planters owned and maintained by the Chamber of Commerce. The Stayner planters are made of wood and as such require maintenance. As needed these could be replaced with new planters by the municipality to be consistent with the other settlements where planters are proposed. Other locations at the entrances to the downtown could also be considered.

The BIA in Creemore has moved from planters to bikes with flower baskets in the downtown. It is staff's understanding that they are interested in moving back to planters. There may also be opportunities for some planters at the entrance to the Mad River Park and at County Road 9 and Fairgrounds Road (the top and bottom of Mill Street).



No other settlements have an organized business association with planters. However, many would benefit from their addition. Planters could be added under the Township community signs and to strategic locations within the settlements. There are 22 individual community signs in total. The General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture and myself went out the communities to look for opportunities. As with the Clearview signs, some of the locations may not support a planter. To date half of the community signs have been installed. The remaining signs are on order.

In some of the smaller settlements, particularly where planters under the community signs can not be realized, placing the planters at the Community Hall by the community's mailboxes may be the best location. Anywhere where planters are placed, it will have to be ensured that they do not interfere with any sight lines.

Planters examples:



## Bike Racks:

Another item that would be beneficial to the downtowns is the addition of some bike racks. Locations in the larger settlements would need to be determined for this. Only a few would be needed. This is an example of a possible bike rack. Staff will further consult with the Chamber and BIA on style.



## **Consultation**

Staff consulted with the Chamber President and the BIA President. The Chamber provided a number of locations where they would welcome benches. The BIA advised of their desire to have new planters and to be involved in the choice and location of bike racks. We also discussed replacing the refuse bins and the look of the benches and bins in Stayner. Staff will continue to consult with these organizations to ensure that the type and placement of the fixtures is supported.

## **MAINTENANCE AND STAFFING**

The General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture advises that they have staff for beautification, so long as Council continues to fund these staff resources. With these staff resources, there are personnel that work the first week of May until the end of October and could cover the planting, watering and October removal of plant material from the planters.

## **COSTS**

The following are the approximate capital costs:

- Holiday Pole Décor - Snowflake 3' silhouette (no white garland in décor) - \$689.45
  - Snowflake 4' silhouette - \$873.65
  - Snowflake 5' silhouette - \$941.40
  - Snowflake 6' silhouette - \$1,076.85
  - Snowflake 4' enhanced (with white garland in décor) - \$921.10
  - Snowflake 5' enhanced - \$977.95
  - Snowflake 4.5' enhanced - \$861.45
  - Winter Snowflakes 8' silhouette - \$1,328.75
- Holiday Overhead Décor - Snowflakes and swags 40' - \$3,770.95 to \$4,650.00
  - Snowflakes and swag 50' - \$4,650.00 (wider wires but no additional lights or elements)
  - Garland and lights snowflakes on garland swag 40' \$3,222.40
  - Garland no lights snowflakes on garland swag 40' \$2,132.00

**Note most winter décor goes up about 10% if ordered after August 15.**

- Desert Planter
  - 6 foot for Clearview signs - \$614.00 (regular finish)
  - 4 foot for community signs - \$385.00 (regular finish)
- Soil
  - approximately \$40 per planter

Plants	- approximately \$40 per planter
Heritage Bench	- \$814
Superior Bench	- \$885
Accessible Bench	- \$826
Refuse Container	- \$1,515
Bike Rack	- \$460
Bollard	- \$1,547 including freight (non-lit Talisman to match downtown poles)



**PROPOSED PURCHASES AND LOCATIONS:**

Dependent on budget, the program may need to be phased, however, every effort will be made to ensure that the first phase includes winter decorations for Stayner and Creemore and benches and refuse containers throughout the Township. Planters can be ordered in 2020 if budget funds are allocated such that they are ready for planting in the spring of next year.

New Lowell:

Add planters under the community signs if suitable and a bench and planter at the corner of Life’s a Slice and the entrance to the Park.

Add benches in front of the library.

Additional suggestions include plantings at the trailhead along with trailhead signage at County Road 9.

Avening:

Add planters under the community signs once installed if suitable and add planters (or a landscape garden) and a bench in front of the Avening Hall. The Hall Board would be contacted ahead of any work taking place.

Creemore:

Add planters under the community signs if suitable and at the entrance to the Mad River Park and at County Road 9 and Fairgrounds Road.

Additional initiatives could include replacing the wood and wire fence at Mad River Park with vinyl rail fencing.

Bike racks could be added to the downtown in consultation with the BIA.



### Dunedin:

Add planters under the community signs if suitable and add planters (or a landscape garden) and a bench in front of the Dunedin Hall. Again, the Hall Board would be contacted before any work would take place.

### Glen Huron:

Add planters at Station Street and Concession 8. The community sign locations don't appeal to have suitable shoulders for planters.

### Brentwood:

Add planters under the community signs if suitable and at the Brentwood Hall on either side of the entrance, one being by the community mailboxes. Add a bench at the community hall. The Hall Board would be contacted ahead.

### Singhampton:

Add planters under the community signs when installed if suitable or at the intersection of County Road 124 on the Clearview side where permitted.

### Duntroon:

Add planters under the community signs if suitable once installed and at the corners of County Road 124 and County Road 91 where permitted. The location of planters may be an issue at the intersection of the highways and as such planters are also proposed in front of the Duntroon Hall as well as a bench. The Hall Board will be contacted ahead.

### Nottawa:

Add planters under the community signs if suitable and planters and a bench at the Nottawa Hall.

### Batteaux:

Add planters at the intersection of Concession 6 and Batteaux Road at the entrance to the trail. There are no planned community signs.

### Sunnidale Corners:

Planters (or landscape garden) and a bench in front of the Sunnidale Hall. The Hall Board will be contacted in advance. There are no planned community signs.

### Stayner:

Add planters under the community signs and planters at the intersection of Highway 26 and 91 at the northwest and southwest corners; at Highway 26 and Perry Street at the southwest and southeast corners; just before the rail tracks on Highway 26;

and along the walkway between the 7271 and 7273 Highway 26 being the walkway from the lane behind the store on the south side of the street.

Benches throughout the downtown.

Bike Racks would also be installed at strategic locations.

Staff would also recommend that a decorative bollard replace the existing bollard at the walkway between 7271 and 7273 Highway 26 being the walkway from the lane behind the store on the south side of the street.

We recommend replacing all the refuse containers with the container identified in this report above or similar. The existing refuse containers would be reassigned to less visible locations through-out the Township generally in the parks.

#### Old Sunnidale:

Add a planter at the community mailboxes at Switzer and Creemore Avenue. There are no planned community signs.

#### **CLEARVIEW STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Council's direction with respect to this matter furthers the following Goals of the municipality's strategic plan:

- 1.8 Explore and implement Downtown Beautification opportunities.
- 3.2 Develop and implement policies that focus on small business attraction, development and support.
- 3.3 Focus on infrastructure improvement projects and initiatives across the Township.

#### **COMMUNICATION PLAN:**

Communication with the Chamber of Commerce, the BIA and the Hall Boards will take place prior to any work being done.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Council has budgeted \$100,000 for this initiative. Staff will stay within budget. Further, staff will seek out other funding opportunities such as through the County.

#### **REPORT SCHEDULES:**

None

#### **PREPARED BY:**

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#### **REVIEWED BY:**

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