

Recommendation:

That the report C.A.O.-2025-16, dated August 5, 2025, regarding Redirecting Bottle Return Proceeds to Support Local Youth Sports be received; and

That the Community Grant Program and Policy be amended to add a special fund for the revenue received from returnable bottles collected at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station; and

That the amount available for the fund will be based on the revenue collected as of September 30th each year and will be reviewed annually during the budget process; and

That the new fund be only available to local non-profit youth sports and recreation providers who use Township facilities to run their programs; and

Lastly that Staff bring back the amended Program and Policy to a future meeting for Council approval.

Overview:

At the June 6, 2025, Council meeting the following Notice of Motion was brought forward:

Whereas the beginning in 2015 the Township of Douro-Dummer has collected returnable bottles at the Transfer Station with proceeds, typically around \$1,500 annually, donated to United Way Peterborough; and

Whereas United Way Peterborough is a well-respected organization that provides meaningful support across the region, helping improve lives through a wide range of programs and services; and

Whereas the Township recognizes the value of investing in local initiatives where even modest funds can make a significant difference to residents, especially young people; and

Whereas many youth sports organizations in Douro-Dummer, such as hockey, baseball, and soccer, operate with limited budgets and rely on community support to keep programming accessible and inclusive; and

Whereas participation in sports contributes to the physical, mental, and social development of young people and fosters a strong sense of community, belonging, and leadership; and

Whereas United Way Peterborough raises approximately \$1.2 million annually, and the Township's contribution may now have greater impact when directed to grassroots initiatives in our own community; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That beginning in June of 2025, the proceeds from the Township's returnable bottle collection program be redirected to support youth sports and recreation programs within the Township; and

Be It Further Resolved That Council request that staff bring forward a report outlining option for the process to award the bottles and/or funds annually along with timelines and a communication strategy to the first Council meeting in August.

Staff have considered the most efficient way to reallocate the proceeds for bottle returns collected at our Hall's Glen Waste Transfer Station to support local youth sports organizations and recommend that the mechanism for distributing these funds be the current Community Grant Program. As bottle returns occur through-out the year, staff propose the total collected annual proceeds as of September 30th each year be reserved and identified in the Community Grants portion of the next year's annual budget. This would set an annual amount of money available in that portion of the grant which would then be eligible to any local user group of the Townships Recreational Facilities.

After annual budget deliberations, staff would open a window for application, encouraging local sports and recreation organizations to apply for the funding. Depending on annual revenues and as part of budget deliberations, the amount available for allocation could be divided from one amount to multiple amounts / awards. Applications to the program should provide background on the applicant organization, identify how many local community members participate and outline how the organization would propose to spend the award. Each year successful applicants would recognize the Township for its contribution and the Township would recognize the organization as a member of the community. Staff would process the applications and prepare a report to Council for decision. The goal of the program would be to ensure that over time as many local sports and recreation organizations as possible are able to benefit from this program.

Staff would promote this funding opportunity through direct correspondence to all local sports and recreation organizations that are users of Township facilities. Staff would further promote the opportunity and award winners through Township social media and website and potentially through traditional local media avenues.

Conclusion:

There is a long-standing tradition that all revenues collected through bottle returns made to the Township's waste transfer site have been donated to the Greater Peterborough United Way. Council has indicated its interest in redirecting these funds in support of local youth sports and recreation. Staff have proposed to use the vehicle of our Current Community Grant program to assist in the distribution of the funding,

opening an annual window for application and ensuring that over time all youth sport and recreation organizations can benefit from the funding.

Financial Impact:

There is no significant financial impact associated with this program. Effectively it is the result of redirecting unexpected revenues in the neighbourhood of \$1,500 - \$2,000 traditionally donated to a larger regional not-for-profit organization now be donated to local community not-for-profit organizations which support community recreation.

