



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Annual Volunteer Banquet

Date: February 6, 2023

VISION STATEMENT

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region, and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

MISSION STATEMENT

Argyle will provide affordable traditional municipal services for our citizens. Furthermore, Argyle will provide leadership by being actively engaged with the business community to understand their needs, and facilitate growth. We will create innovative programs to foster growth both for community and industry. We will create an environment where our residents seek our partnership in the projects that matter most, and we will provide the expertise needed to ensure those projects are successful. We seek to support and instill cultural pride and a sense of place in our communities. Our mission is founded on the belief that our community assets are plentiful, none more precious than its people, and that Argyle's assets possess the answers to our most difficult challenges.

Background:

The Municipality of Argyle Volunteer Celebrations have been going on for over 40 years now, with recent changes happening to the style of the banquet due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since 2020, we went from a banquet style with a sit-down meal to a virtual recognition style ceremony. With the virtual ceremony, all honored volunteers were recognized on social media with their picture and a write up of what they do as volunteers.

Each year, volunteer organizations would nominate individuals within their organizations who were worthy of recognition. The councilors would choose two volunteers from their districts. They would also choose one individual as the Municipal Representative to represent all volunteers at the Provincial Banquet held in Halifax. Two student volunteers were also honored from the two high schools within our Municipality.

Attachments/Additional Information:

The pros and cons of the in-person and virtual ceremonies are listed below.

In person

More expensive

Less media coverage

Not everyone likes to stand in front of a crowd while receiving their certificate

Receives a framed certificate of appreciation

Does not receive a gift card

It's not always easy to find a caterer when we move locations within the Municipality

The time to plan is similar, need to find a venue

Virtual

Less expensive (~\$1500 less)

More media coverage

Doesn't have to be standing in front of a crowd

Receives a framed certificate of appreciation

Receives a gift card (\$100)

Do not need to hire a caterer

Time to plan is similar, no need for a venue

Also, normally we ask that Council nominate 2 volunteers within their district. The past few years, I have heard that it has become difficult to find 2 volunteers. Does Council want to stay with 2 volunteer per district, or should we go with 1 volunteer per district. The volunteer week is in April (16-22, 2023) and we honor our volunteers during that week.

MGA, Costs and Budget Considerations:

In person budget to be approximately \$5200

Virtual celebration budget to be approximately \$3500

Both budgets represent celebrations with 2 volunteers per councilor district along with the 3 other volunteers nominated (Municipal Representative and 2 students).

Recommendation:

Option # 1 virtual celebrations with 2 honored volunteers each

Option #2 virtual celebrations with 1 honored volunteer each

Option #3 going back to the in-person celebrations with 2 honored volunteers each

Option #4 going back to the in-person celebrations with 1 honored volunteer each

Suggested Motion

Move that Council support Option #1 or Option #2 and that the Volunteer Celebrations take place in virtual style moving forward.