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**Date:** February 26, 2018  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Author:** M. Durocher  
**RE:** Communities in Bloom 2018  
**Report No.:** PR-2018-02

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## **AIM**

To provide council with an update on items relating to the Town of Kingsville's 2018 communities in bloom committee.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Town of Kingsville has competed in Communities in Bloom at the provincial level since 2015. The Town has been very successful in the judging portion of this project obtaining the maximum 5 bloom status the past two years along with additional awards.

At the end of the 2016 project four members of the committee resigned due to committee conflicts. Steps were taken to facilitate better committee dynamics in 2017 in an effort to guard against any further resignations.

In 2017 the Town once again obtained the 5 Bloom status and was subsequently awarded the opportunity to compete at the National Level of Communities in Bloom in 2018.

## **DISCUSSION**

At the initial meeting of the Committee on January 25, 2018, the committee was apprised of their opportunity to move to the National Level. A conversation ensued with comments arising about the future of Communities in Bloom Ontario with administration commenting that they were unsure of what the future might hold for Communities in Bloom Ontario.

On February 6, 2018, a call was received directed to administrative staff from Communities in Bloom Ontario. They had been notified that it had been indicated at a CIB

meeting that Communities in Bloom Ontario had folded. The representative that called was quite adamant that this was not the case, and extremely disapproving that such a statement had been made by a representative of the Town of Kingsville.

This incident was brought to the attention of the Parks Recreation Arts and Culture Committee at their February 22, 2018 meeting, with the following motion being made and referred to council for approval:

**P&R 15-2018** Moved by B. Riddiford and seconded by N. Santos:

**WHEREAS** several members resigned from the Communities in Bloom Committee as a result of concerns related to the application of the code of conduct;

**AND WHEREAS** that Committee was created "To promote the general betterment and positive self-image of our community using the identified strengths that exist in the community" as stated in the Committee's Terms of Reference;

**AND WHEREAS** the provincial judges identified committee cohesion issues during the 2016 and 2017 judging process;

**AND WHEREAS** the Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Committee recommends that the Town of Kingsville repairs its reputation with Communities in Bloom Ontario.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the PRAC Committee recommends that the in 2018 the Town of Kingsville not compete in the judged portion of the National Communities in Bloom Tour, and further recommends that the Town of Kingsville remain as a provincial member of Communities in Bloom Ontario in the non-competitive friend category.

**CARRIED**

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Moving to the noncompetitive category at the provincial level will significantly reduce the Communities in Bloom budget for 2018.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Parks Recreation Arts and Culture Committee

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council concur with the recommendation of the Parks Recreation Arts and Culture Committee with regard to the Communities in Bloom status for 2018 and furthermore that Council consider evaluating the committee application process and consider implementing a reporting requirement at the conclusion of each 4 year term, which report shall be provided from the Administrative support staff, as it pertains to each committee, in advance of the 2018-2022 term of Council.

*Maggie Durocher*

Maggie Durocher Hon. BHK  
Manager of Parks and Recreation Programs

*Peggy Van Mierlo-West*

Peggy Van Mierlo-West, C.E.T.  
Chief Administrative Officer