

Report to Council



Date: January 9, 2017
File: 1620-20
To: City Manager
From: Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager
Subject: Canada 150

Recommendation:

THAT COUNCIL receives, for information, the report from the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager dated January 9, 2017 regarding the plans to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an overview of initiatives planned to commemorate Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017 throughout Kelowna.

Background:

Canada will celebrate its Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of Confederation, in 2017. This milestone is a great opportunity to celebrate Canada's history as well as build excitement for the future both on a national and local level.

Council allocated \$50,000 in 2015, 2016 and 2017, for a total budget of \$150,000, to mark the Sesquicentennial. Through an engagement and planning process conducted in 2015, the following themes were identified as key to the Canada 150 initiative.

- Embrace, preserve and celebrate the natural assets of Kelowna including the lake, trails, landscape and four season recreational opportunities
- Celebrate cultural diversity and freedom
- Empower our youth to shape the community they desire
- Honor the history of our region and the prominent people and events that connect us
- Lay the groundwork for innovation that will strengthen our community
- Recognize and celebrate the rich history and knowledge of Indigenous nations who continue to be an integral part of our community

Many community groups around the city have been inspired to develop programs and initiatives to help commemorate the nation's birthday. This report highlights the impact of Council's investment and provides some information about what's happening in Kelowna in 2017.

Community Celebrations - \$35,000

Coordinated by Festivals Kelowna, several large scale community celebrations have been planned. Starting with New Year's Eve 2016, residents rang in the Sesquicentennial year with fun activities, cultural experiences, giveaways and entertainment.

As spring and summer approach, the Parks Alive! program will showcase a multitude of artists who represent the diverse cultures that form our country. In addition, some historic locations that highlight some of the significant places of our past will be programmed. Partnerships with various heritage and cultural groups will animate these spaces in a unique way.

The Canada Day celebrations on July 1, 2017 will be draped in the Sesquicentennial theme. The traditional Canada Day birthday cake will not have the usual maple leaf displayed, but the Canada 150 logo instead. Well-known Canadian artists will perform and activities for all to participate in are being planned. To end the evening, an extended fireworks display choreographed to Canadian music will take place.

Festivals Kelowna is also planning to enhance their *Pianos in the Park* and *Arts on the Avenue* programs with a Canada 150 flair. The funds contributed from the City will be leveraged through grants and sponsorship to create many free, fun and entertaining programs.

Grants and Projects - \$95,000 (divided in two streams)

Through Council's investment, two community grant streams were developed: Sesquicentennial Grants and Incentive Grants.

Sesquicentennial Grants - \$60,000

Broadly focused with the intent of achieving significant community impact, seven projects have been awarded a Sesquicentennial Grant. Along with a City contribution, these non-profit groups have secured funding from other sources and will each leave a community legacy. Through Council's \$60,000 investment in this grant, seven lead organizations have partnered with 12 additional organizations to contribute close to 2000 volunteer hours and provide experiences for an estimated 48,500 people. A brief description of each project is included below.

- Canada 150 Paddle Trail – coordinated by the Dragon Boat Society, a water trail will be created with wayfinding buoys from Bertram Creek Park to McKinley Landing. The intent is for these buoys to provide paddle enthusiasts with a marked route showing distances and direction to public beaches including those which are only accessible from the water.
- 150 Stories from 150 Years – the Kelowna Museum Society has partnered with Westbank First Nation, Metro Community, the French Cultural Centre and the Chinese Canadian Association to

establish a permanent exhibit which will showcase the prominent cultures that have an important role in our past and present. This multi-media display will include recordings of native languages of the people who inhabited our region: a multi-sensory experience which contributes to greater cultural appreciation and language preservation.

- 150 Years of Art – the Kelowna Art Gallery will curate an exhibition of Canadian artworks owned by local collectors. These works are rare and important pieces of Canadian art history. Through the event, a book will be created to commemorate the project and celebrate art in Kelowna.
- A (Kelowna) Christmas Carol – New Vintage Theatre will research the historical beginnings of Kelowna and write an adaptation of “A Christmas Carol” set in our city! This original work will tell a story of the names, businesses families and First Nations people who contributed to the community we know today.
- Canadiana Suite: A Sesquicentennial Celebration – Ballet Kelowna and the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra will join forces to present a unique performance. It will feature Canadian music, arranged for and performed by the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, and dance choreographed by four renowned Canadian choreographers for Ballet Kelowna’s professional dancers. The performances will be augmented by education and outreach programming that use the project’s Canadian themes and music to connect students in the community.
- Canada 150 Summer Fest – Chamber Music Kelowna in partnership with Festivals Kelowna and the Rotary Centre for the Arts will deliver a summer outdoor jazz concert and an indoor classical performance. It is an opportunity for residents and visitors to celebrate Canadian-grown musical talent, engage and give profile to local musicians. The performances will also allow Chamber Music Kelowna to gauge the community’s appetite for an annual outdoor Chamber Music Festival.
- na’?k’wulamən - The things that we do – Okanagan College, in partnership with Westbank First Nation, Growing Inspired Garden Education and Design and the Central Okanagan Naturalists’ Club, will establish a traditional garden on the Okanagan College campus. The name of the garden loosely translates to “The things that we do” and will reflect a myriad of ways that plants are used in Indigenous culture. This includes maintenance of the land, selection and use of plants for food, technology, medicine, ceremonial purposes and the sharing of this knowledge with those who walk the paths of this garden or access the garden website. The 6,000 square foot garden will be a teaching and learning site for students, campus, Indigenous community and public and will serve as a model for other like gardens in the community.

Incentive Grants - \$35,000

The Incentive Grants have been made available through several existing grants in the Active Living & Culture Department such as Cultural Project Grants, Neighbourhood Grants, Youth Development and Engagement Grants and Sport Grants. Successful applicants are eligible for additional funding when they are able to show a connection to the City’s Canada 150 themes. These grants will be given out throughout the year as per the respective grant guidelines and will enable the Canada 150 movement to reach grassroots organizations.

Community Engagement - \$20,000

Online

The kelowna.ca/canada150 webpage has been established as the main hub for information on Canada 150 related events, projects, grants and celebrations taking place throughout the community. There will be a monthly e-subscribe newsletter sent out that will highlight upcoming events and progress of the various Canada 150 projects taking place – both City sponsored and others.

150 Programs

Throughout Active Living & Culture, Canada 150 themes and branding will be woven into many areas of programming. Toolkits and contests such as “150 Ways to be Neighbourly” or “150 Activities to do in Kelowna” will be developed and promoted in 2017.

150 for 150

In collaboration with Kelowna Community Resources and Volinspire, the City is challenging residents to collectively contribute 150,000 volunteer hours throughout the year. Along the way, as milestones are reached, the community will enjoy some fun rewards!

In addition, a challenge was issued by Volunteer Ottawa to the other volunteer centres across Canada to see how many volunteers could contribute 150 hours in 2017. Coordinated by Kelowna Community Resources and tracked through Volinspire, this challenge has been accepted locally.

Vibrancy

Kelowna will be dressed up for the occasion. Red and white tulips will be planted in key civic gardens and commemorative Canada 150 banners will be hung in Stuart Park. In addition, other community buildings such as the Okanagan Heritage Museum and the Kelowna International Airport will have their own displays. There will also be special Canada 150 giveaways handed out at various community events and initiatives throughout the year.

Summary

This report provides a snapshot of the various events and initiatives that will take place in 2017. Council's investment in this program will see over 150,000 volunteer hours contributed, over 100,000 participants take part in activities and initiatives, a number of community legacies created and an immeasurable impact on community and national pride.

Internal Circulation:

Communications Advisor, Communications
Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
Manager, Cultural Services
Manager, Grants & Partnership
Manager, Sport & Event Services

Financial/Budgetary Considerations: \$50,000 per year in 2015, 2016 and 2017 has been allocated by Council to deliver the Canada 150 initiatives

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

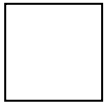
Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments: A communication plan will be developed by Communications and the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager to inform and engage the public on Sesquicentennial initiatives – City and community-driven.

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by: M Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager



Approved for inclusion: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living and Culture

cc: Divisional Director, Communications

Divisional Director, Active Living and Culture

Attachments: