

## **“Our Millennium - Toronto” Volunteer Recognition Contest (All Wards)**

*(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)*

**The Economic Development and Parks Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations of the Millennium Task Force embodied in the following report (October 7, 1999) from the City Clerk:**

### Recommendations:

The Millennium Task Force on October 5, 1999, recommended to the Economic Development and Parks Committee, and Council, the adoption of the report (September 24, 1999) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism wherein it is recommended that:

- (1) the City approve the establishment of a Toronto-based volunteer recognition contest linked to and in support of the local chapter of the Community Foundations of Canada national “Our Millennium” project, namely “Our Millennium – Toronto”;
- (2) the City approve the allocation of \$5,000.00 from available Toronto Millennium Grant monies to fund this volunteer recognition program; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

### Background:

The Millennium Task Force had before it a report (September 24, 1999) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism regarding the “Our Millennium – Toronto” Volunteer Recognition Contest.

(Report dated September 24, 1999, addressed to the  
Millennium Task Force from the Commissioner of  
Economic Development, Culture and Tourism)

### Purpose:

To request that the Millennium Task Force review and approve the following recommendation for the City to allocate unclaimed Toronto Millennium Grant monies to fund a volunteer recognition contest linked to “Our Millennium – Toronto”, a partnership program between the City and the local chapter of the Community Foundations of Canada.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the City approve the establishment of a Toronto-based volunteer recognition contest linked to and in support of the local chapter of the Community Foundations of Canada national “Our Millennium” project, namely “Our Millennium – Toronto”;
- (2) the City approve the allocation of \$5,000.00 from available Toronto Millennium Grant monies to fund this volunteer recognition program; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

“Our Millennium – Toronto” is part of a Canada-wide effort led by Canada’s Community Foundations and other community partners. This program seeks to convince Canadians that one of the best ways to mark the millennium is to do something special for their communities, something that lasts - gifts to the future. They have developed a Catalogue of Possibilities as a starting point to inspire families, neighbours, co-workers, book clubs - any group to create their own gifts to mark the millennium.

The focus of the Toronto program campaign will be towards Youth and Neighbourhood. The City is a partner in the program. This collaboration with Our Millennium includes the following possible benefits and opportunities:

- including Toronto-based initiatives as part of the Our Millennium national registry on the Internet and web site links between our respective sites;
- national profile and promotion of Toronto's local efforts;
- partnering of resources and access to well developed tools, publications and information resources needed to implement and promote millennium projects;
- local distribution of the Our Millennium “Catalogue of Possibilities” booklets and a Toronto focused program brochure through existing channels;
- membership on the “Our Millennium – Toronto” Steering Committee, made up of local community leaders; and
- collaborative volunteer recognition program.

Through this recognition contest, we hope to engage Toronto residents and neighbourhoods in making a difference in the new millennium through a contribution to their community. The contest also serves as a vehicle of challenge, both locally and nationally, encouraging participation in the Our Millennium program and showcasing Toronto’s community spirit.

The Our Millennium - Toronto volunteer recognition contest will run throughout the year closing December 1, 2000. One volunteer group will be recognized for their registered “Our Millennium

gift” in each Toronto ward as selected by the contest committee. A presentation and reception will be held in the Members’ Lounge for the winners during the December 2000 Toronto Council session.

Funding Source, Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Funding for this program will be through existing, unclaimed Toronto Millennium Grant monies with no additional budget requirements. Staff from the Toronto Millennium Office and “Our Millennium – Toronto” will manage and implement the program.

Discussion:

Toronto’s high quality of life is one of our key economic assets. As budget constraints impact City programming, volunteers play a greater role in maintaining this quality of life.

The Toronto Millennium Task Force has a mandate to encourage community involvement in planning City celebrations to mark the turn of the millennium and developing initiatives that will make a positive contribution to our communities. The Task Force has already implemented a Millennium Grant program that will benefit 120 community-based organizations. This contest will recognize and celebrate the efforts and contribution of volunteer groups across the City as we move into a new millennium.

Conclusion:

By encouraging and recognizing grass root contributions throughout the City, we demonstrate our commitment to healthy, thriving Toronto communities in the new millennium.

Contact:

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Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair, Millennium Task Force, appeared before the Economic Development and Parks Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.