



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Etobicoke York District's Great Garden Contest

Date:	June 30, 2015
To:	City Council
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division
Wards:	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,11,12,13 and17
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\CC08-070715-AFS#21526

SUMMARY

The Etobicoke York District's Garden Contest has been in existence since 1998. It is a community-driven event that is coordinated by a community volunteer and occurs with the support of Parks staff. The contest is not taking place in 2015, due to retirement of the community leader and the inability to replace her.

This report provides background and historical information about the costs and staffing required to support the delivery of this event. As well it outlines Parks, Forestry and Recreation efforts to replace the Etobicoke York community lead and other opportunities for garden recognition available in 2015.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact arising from the request.

The current Parks costs and staffing required to support the delivery the Etobicoke York District's Great Garden Contest is approximately \$0.023 million detailed in the table below:

Etobicoke York Great Garden Contest Financial Summary	
Category	Event Costs (000's)
Salary	\$ 12.7
Non-Salary	\$ 9.8
Gross Expenditures	\$ 22.6

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On June 16, 2015, Etobicoke York Community Council directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) to report directly to City Council on the Etobicoke York District's Great Garden Contest, including costs, staffing requirements and other relevant details.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EY7.54>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Etobicoke York District's Great Garden Contest has been a community driven event since 1998. It has been a joint venture of the local garden clubs, horticultural societies and Parks staff. PFR staff have provided support by way of printed promotional materials, provision of facilities for awards ceremonies, volunteer gifts, garden awards and ceremony refreshments.

This spring, the community lead for the garden contest retired from her role. Despite efforts by both her and City staff to solicit a replacement volunteer for her community lead role, a replacement has not been found. The garden contest will be suspended until a community lead can be placed.

COMMENTS

As the 2015 garden season is underway, and the community lead role has not yet been filled, the Etobicoke York District's Great Garden Contest will not take place this year. However, given community support for this initiative and its importance for community building and environmental stewardship, Parks staff are re-evaluating the contest judging process and revising it this coming fall and winter, in consultation with community leads from other local district contests and the former lead of the Etobicoke York contest. The goal is to simplify the judging process and make the community lead role less demanding and more attractive to prospective volunteers.

There will be a City-wide Garden Contest in 2015, for which the winners of the 2014 Etobicoke York contest will be entered and eligible. Parks staff will also continue to work with the Etobicoke York community to try and identify a community lead for the garden contest in 2016 and beyond.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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