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# Staff Report

## Community Services

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**Report To:** Committee of the Whole  
**Meeting Date:** June 26, 2017  
**Report Number:** CSPW.17.076  
**Subject:** Bridge Flower Program  
**Prepared by:** Shawn Everitt, Director of Community Services

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CSPW.17.076 entitled “Bridge Flower Program;

AND THAT Council direct staff to include an operational program sheet with options for consideration for the Bridge Flower Program through the 2018 Budget process.

### B. Overview

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This reports outlines a recommendation from Staff that Council consider options for the Bridge Flower Program through the 2018 budget process.

### C. Background

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Council directed staff to bring forward a report to provide additional details from correspondence that was received regarding the flower program on the Marsh Street Bridge.

Flowers on the bridges on Marsh Street in Clarksburg and Highway 26 in Thornbury have been in place for many years. Historically, the Clarksburg flowers have been purchased and maintained by local volunteers. Approximately 4 - 5 years ago, Grey County required proof of insurance coverage and an Encroachment Agreement from the volunteers in order to maintain these flowers. Town staff worked with the volunteers and Grey County to develop a Friends of Clarksburg Agreement where the volunteers are covered under the Town’s insurance for specified work activities. This program has worked very well, however, funds to purchase and water the flowers have been the responsibility of the volunteer group.

The flowers on the Highway 26 bridge in Thornbury have historically been included in the overall beautification program within the Thornbury Business Improvement Area (BIA). The BIA pays for the purchase and watering of the bridge flowers through the annual budget/Levy.

In 2017, the Heathcote bridge on Grey Road 13 just west of Main Street had flowers added to it under a very similar agreement to the Friends of Clarksburg Agreement. Volunteers have purchased and will be maintaining the flowers.

## **D. Analysis**

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Town staff can provide options to Council for consideration in the 2018 budget that identify a range of opportunities.

There is a benefit to looking at having a consistent program in place as well as identifying any other potential locations that may be considered in the future. Staff have maintained the current arrangements as a measure of fairness to the BIA, as the BIA covers the costs of the bridge program on Highway 26 in Thornbury.

## **E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan**

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Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability

Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence

Goal #5: Ensure Our Infrastructure is Sustainable

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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Beautification of Town and County facilities.

## **G. Financial Impact**

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To be determined through the 2018 budget process.

### 2016 full season of watering

The watering of flowers in Clarksburg started June 5, 2016 and were watered every day up to the Friday of Thanksgiving. Staff were billed out at \$22.27 per day, 1 hour per day, for a total of 92 hours. The Total charge for 2016 was \$2,048.84.

Cost of purchase of flowers is estimated at \$850.00 annually for the Thornbury Bridge.

The 2017 beautification season currently has all agreements in place for Heathcote, Clarksburg and the Thornbury BIA and no action is recommended at this time that would affect the 2017 operational budget.

## **H. In consultation with**

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Senior Management Team

Terry Green, Manager of Park and Trails

**I. Attached**

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None

Respectfully submitted,

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Shawn Everitt  
Director of Community Services

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