



May 1, 2019

The Rotary Club of Thornbury-Clarksburg Request (T-C Rotary)

The T-C Rotary Club has been a very active service club in the Beaver Valley and The Blue Mountains for over 80 years, funding or co-funding projects such as: The Beaver Valley Community Centre (Hall initially, then the arena), The Rotary Pavilion at Bayview Community Park, various Meaford Hospital campaigns, The Blue Mountains Community Health Care Centre, L.E. Shore Library, B.V. Outreach, funding support for different school underfunded programs. The list goes on & on. Over the last 80 years T-C Rotary has fundraised in excess of two million dollars, much of which has been spent here in our local communities.

One of our important fundraising ventures is our Rental Program of “pole tents”, tables & chairs for various events such as the annual Canada Day celebration in downtown Thornbury, annual Library summer party at the BVCC, the annual Mile Long dinner and family reunions, neighbourhood summer bbqs., etc. Please view the club’s website at: www.tcrotaary.ca and click on the rental program for details and pricing.

About ten (10) years ago, when the club was informed that a tent permit would now be required every time we erected one of our larger size pole tent (20’ X 40’), we negotiated with town staff or Council an annual one-time fee of \$50 for an unlimited number of tent set-ups per season (May to Thanksgiving). Yesterday I was informed by town staff in the Building and Permits Department that the club would need to request Council for relief from the fee per tent erection of \$100, because there seems to be no record of the previous agreement other than personal memory of some staff.

Having to pay such a huge fee every time we put up a tent for someone would certainly cause us to consider, as unpaid volunteers, whether this fundraiser is viable any longer. Passing on that cost would make the rental fees seem unreasonable. Taking that cost out of the rental fees would probably make us wonder if it was worth our collective efforts as volunteers.

The Rotary Club of Thornbury-Clarksburg would therefore request of Council and Committee of the Whole an exemption or preferred rate of \$50 per annual season for its Rental Program.

On average we erect perhaps 15 of the larger pole-tents which attract a permit fee. I can’t recall since I’ve been the Rentals Chair when we have ever set up 20 larger tents in a season. Your favourable consideration of this request will allow T-C Rotary to provide an affordable sun & rain shelter with our modest tents and help our club maintain its contributions to this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Rick Offord
Rentals Program Chair
Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary