

Beverley Tripp - Councillor's Report for June 19th, 2017.

Memo on Events Breakdown of In-Kind Services

I was pleased to see this report by our Manager of Operations on the May 15th COTW Agenda. Further to my request to have this topic added as an agenda item last Fall, Council requested a report from staff earlier this year. I had said that it would be beneficial to have a report that could provide a more comprehensive financial picture of City-held events, and "determine where the city could further support the volunteer efforts of groups and clubs that generate so much interest in Grand Forks as a summer destination." I felt this was an important function for council to undertake, not only for fiscal responsibility, but also for civic responsibility. The report as presented was basic due to yet-to-be implemented accounting procedures, but it has provided staff and council with a great starting point in determining how events impact the City in areas such as value to the community, size, how much "in-kind" service the City provides to them, etc. Another vital factor the report will reveal is where optimization of resources can provide the best possible event experience for both residents and visitors to Grand Forks alike. With another summer chock-full of volunteer-run events upon us, we will be better equipped to understand the needs, and have a greater awareness of the impact of volunteer work to benefit the City, and the City's in-kind services that help keep these vital events happening.

Public Works Day

In celebration of Public Works Day, on June 8th the Public Works crew opened their doors down at the public works yard to show off their equipment and expertise, and hand out hot dogs and refreshments to visitors. Along with a good turn-out from the general public, several classes from Dr. D. A. Perley and John A. Hutton elementary schools went down to take in all the fun. Children young and old got hands-on experience with many different pieces of equipment. Activities such as climbing up into the new fire truck, using a fire hose to douse spinning signs, operating a crane with a smiley-faced beach ball attached, hopping through the back of an ambulance, operating a backhoe to grab a bucket of sand kept the group of Grade 5 children I chaperoned through the tour totally entertained. The highlight of the event for some, I was told, was the tour of the wastewater treatment plant. I would like to commend the Public Works crew and City staff for an excellent and creative presentation of their departments!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverley Tripp