



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Joy Anderson, Director, Culture & Community Investment

Date: June 24, 2019

Report No: COMS-007-19

Subject: Milton Youth Advisory Committee 2018-19 Annual Report

Recommendation: **That report COMS-007-19 be received.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Milton Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) provides a forum for youth to participate and have a voice in the Milton community. This report outlines the activities and accomplishments of the committees that have served over the last two school years.

REPORT

Background

The mission of MYAC is “to empower youth to participate and have a voice in the Milton community, thereby fostering a positive image for all young people”.

MYAC membership is open to youth aged 13 – 18 years. The community is invited to submit applications, expressing interest in serving on the committee and representing their respective schools (public & separate schools at the middle & high school level). The term of MYAC aligns with the school year (September – June).

Discussion

2017-2018 Term

A total of 28 youth were appointed to the Committee with an average of 20 members attending monthly meetings. Additional sub-committee meetings were held to plan special events and additional activities. Activities during the term included:



1. Council Meet & Greet - Members hosted a Meet & Greet with the Mayor and Members of Council on February 12, prior to presenting their 2017 Annual Report to Council.

2. Lieutenant Governor Meeting - Members participated in the Lieutenant Governor's visit to Milton on March 9. This visit focused on meeting with youth in the community regarding one of the Lieutenant Governor's priorities: environmental stewardship. Conservation Halton made a brief presentation about the Giant's Rib, followed by discussion about the proposal.

3. Youth Awards - A brochure outlining the award categories, application process and deadline date was reviewed and subsequently distributed. The 10 nominations received were reviewed and scored by members of MYAC and 4 recipients were selected (Appendix A).

The 2018, MYAC Youth Awards were presented during International Youth Week last May. Over 60 people attended the invite-only Youth Awards event including all nominees for each category and their guests. Keynote speaker Kelly Scanlan, an Invictus Games athlete spoke at the event about the value of self-confidence and her amazing perseverance. Many thanks to Mattamy Homes for their sponsorship of MYAC, including support for this event.

4. Social Media & Communications - Members of the committee discussed how to increase the awareness of MYAC through social media channels.

2018-19 Term

Members were appointed starting in August and began their term in October. A total of 40 youth were appointed to the Committee with an average of 30 members attending monthly meetings. This term's work plan included:

1. Development of three Sub-Committees

a) Social Media and Communication: Using various social media platforms as well as other types of media, this committee focused on building additional awareness of what MYAC is, as well as opportunities available to youth in the community.

b) Milton Youth Awards: Entering the fifth year of this program, the committee focused on further increasing awareness of the program and recommended changes to how the award recipients would be announced. The Committee was pleased to receive support to have the awards presented at a Town Council meeting.

c) Community Engagement: MYAC identified their interest in becoming more engaged in the community. They recognized that it was not necessary to create an event but rather to become involved in existing events. Members created a calendar of events for members to review events they could become involved in.

2. Members engaged in initiatives including:

a) Volunteering as parade marshals at the Milton Santa Claus Parade.

b) Presentations on the Milton Transit Master Plan and the "Let's Talk Milton" public engagement software. As follow up to the presentations,



communications staff reported there had been a total of 361 visits to the Transit Master Plan page since its launch and 106 visits took place the same evening as the MYAC presentation. Eight (8) of the 10 surveys completed on the site came from youth (ages 12–19).

- c) A review of the Youth award nomination process and preparation for the awards event.
- d) Attending the Prime Minister’s Town Hall visit to Milton held at Craig Kielburger Secondary School.
- e) An update from staff on the Milton Transit Master Plan.
- f) Presenting to Milton elementary schools to educate students on civic engagement, youth leadership and “What is MYAC”.
- g) Discussions about “What is MYAC” and “What is the message” they want to send, in order to determine the future of the committee. This information will be considered as the department finalizes recommendations for Milton’s Youth Strategy.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristene Scott
Commissioner, Community Services

For questions, please
contact:

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Attachments

Appendix A – 2018 Youth Awards Recipients

CAO Approval
Andrew M. Siltala
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

2018 Milton Youth Award Recipients

Champion for Youth Award - Ebenezer United Church

This award recognizes an adult or business who works determinedly to support, mentor, and encourage youth. This individual or business understands the value that youth engagement provides and plays an essential role in finding ways to help youth grow and thrive as positive citizens in their community.

In April 2017 there was an identified need to provide more youth services for youth in the rural area of Milton. After taking some time to speak with youth in the community and gain feedback by way of a survey, the Church Board learned that youth were looking for a place to meet, socialize with friends and participate in a variety of recreation activities.

The Board received funds from a grant and already had access to a community room, kitchen and outdoor space. With support from students and staff at the University of Guelph, Friday Night Youth Drop In's began in September of 2017. The program runs alternate Friday's from 7-9pm with attendance continuing to increase each week.

This group of caring adults have provided youth with an opportunity to support each other and talk about the issues that are front and center including bullying and relationships. The church is currently looking at creating a similar program for younger youth as well on the Friday night.

Community Leadership Award - Karyssa Chan

This award is presented to a youth who is an engaged resident of Milton and who exhibits strong leadership skills and a passion to improve the community.

Karyssa has been often referred to as positive, energetic, dedicated and driven. She is constantly looking for opportunities to help others or organizations that have a need that she might be able to fill in some way. Examples of her community involvement include raising funds for the Canadian Cancer Society, volunteering her time to pack food bags at a local grocery store, and serving food at community fundraisers. She is equally involved in her school, tutoring, attending leadership programs, is a member of the school teams for volleyball, band, and dramatic arts. Having been a member of Student Council for the past 4 years including Public Relations and current President, has required her to lead a variety of diverse groups, while remaining respectful of all involved.

Painting a Path Award - Sudu Kapar

This award is presented to someone whose art work promotes optimism and opportunity for change.

Sudu is described as a proficient artist with a strong grasp of the elements and principles of art and design. She has used her skills for the betterment of her community, serving as the Marketing and Advertising Director for her school. This role involves the creation of banners and posters promoting campaigns such as WE Scare hunger, WE Are Silent, and WE Walk for Water. This promotion has increased awareness of these initiatives, leading to positive change in the community. Her contributions to the community extend well beyond Milton. This summer she will be travelling to Nepal, where she will be painting murals in a school that was recently devastated by a terrible earthquake.

Spirit of Sport Award - Maria Henein

This award is presented to a youth who exemplifies good sportsmanship and has made an exceptional contribution to sport and the community (on or off the field).

Positive, dedicated and conscientious are but a few of the words to describe Maria. A mentor and coach for younger athletes and an athlete in their own right, this individual has shown that sport is about much more than just playing a game. Her work to promote the value of sport goes beyond the field. Her approach, care, knowledge of the game of soccer and patience when working with young children has gained the respect of players and coaches alike. Her approach is unique and rewarding as she takes the time to understand what is needed to gain the trust and respect of each participant, in turn building their self-confidence and improving their skill set.

She has applied the same work ethic and spirit to her own personal involvement in soccer. She spends many hours a week training and practicing, always willing to play with others regardless of age or skill set. She has been recognized as an athlete who has the ability to balance the competitive nature of the game while enjoying the comradery of being part of a team. Her enthusiasm for the game was showcased last year when she made the school Junior Soccer team but did not play during any games, all season long. Despite this she never missed a game and was a valuable teammate with positive encouragement and a strong work ethic at practice. Her commitment paid off, making the schools senior soccer team this year, despite being a junior player still, proving that sport is about much more than wins and losses.