



Office of the Mayor

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August 4, 2020

Dear Mayors/Wardens and fellow Councillors,

As you are aware, there is a serious shortage of social and affordable housing in our communities. The number of homeless individuals in the South Georgian Bay Area is on the rise and the COVID pandemic has compounded the situation, further stressing the limited resources available. As Collingwood is a larger settlement area in our region, Collingwood Council felt compelled to take action last year by providing a three (3) year commitment of \$75,000 in funding annually for the 'Out of the Cold' Winter Shelter Program started by 211 Community Connection with the assistance of local volunteers in 2019. As a result of the staggering number of individuals from all our communities who were served this past winter, the Out of the Cold Program has requested support for Phase 1 of a Feasibility Study for planning the services needed to properly serve this growing vulnerable population. The projected cost of Phase 1 of the Feasibility Study is \$18,750 and Collingwood Council recently agreed to support 50% of the study to move this important initiative forward. However, the Out of the Cold Program needs the remaining 50% of the funds from other sponsors or municipal partners to carry out the Feasibility Study.

The Collingwood Council passed the following resolution unanimously at a Special Meeting on July 29:

WHEREAS the Out of the Cold Shelter Services benefits Collingwood and the surrounding municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Collingwood is currently the only municipality providing operational funding for the program with an annual \$75,000 committee for 3 years;

AND WHEREAS the proposed feasibility study is divided into 2 Phases, with the second phase dependent on the outcome of the Phase 1;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council herein support funding 50% of Phase 1 of the feasibility study to examine permanent homeless shelter services in the South Georgian Bay Area for Phase 1;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our neighbouring municipalities (The Blue Mountains, Wasaga Beach and Clearview) to request and encourage them to participate in this meaningful exercise.

We are copying this request for financial support to both the County of Simcoe and the County of Grey, as we appreciate that social housing and homelessness are a particular mandate of our upper tier governments. We are hopeful that our Counties will have additional resources available that align their interests with this critical homelessness assessment.

We are also copying Pam Hillier, Executive Director of Community Connection/211, as the representative of the Out of the Cold Program. Ms. Hillier would be pleased to provide you with any additional information regarding the Feasibility Study and address any questions you may have. Ms. Hillier can be reached at (705) 444-0040 x 234 or phillier@communityconnection.ca.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with our neighbours on this important initiative.

Yours very truly,



Mayor Brian Saunderson

BS;jh

CC: The Town of The Blue Mountains (via e-mail)
The Town of Wasaga Beach (via e-mail)
Township of Clearview (via e-mail)
County of Simcoe (via e-mail)
County of Grey (via e-mail)
Pam Hillier, Out of the Cold (via e-mail)