

---

# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report CDP-17-2024 CPP Capital Grant – Fisherville Lions Park Benches For Consideration by Council in Committee on September 17, 2024

---



### OBJECTIVE:

To approve a request from the Fisherville District Lions Club to undertake, at Fisherville Lions Park, the installation of eight (8) park benches.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-17-2024 CPP Capital Grant – Fisherville Lions Park Benches be received;
2. AND THAT the request from the Fisherville District Lions Club, to undertake the installation of eight (8) park benches in Fisherville Lions Park, with a projected budget of \$18,700, be approved;
3. AND THAT capital grant funding, to an upset amount of \$6,545, to support the installation of park benches in Fisherville Lions Park, with related funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, be approved;
4. AND THAT project and funding approval are conditional upon compliance with Policy 2011-01 and County installation standards, permits, and processes;
5. AND THAT the revised budget as outlined in Report CDP-17-2024 be approved.

**Prepared by:** Sheryl Sawyer, Senior Community Partnership Liaison

**Reviewed by:** Katrina Schmitz, Manager, Community Development & Partnerships

**Respectfully submitted:** Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager, Community & Development Services

**Approved:** Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This request is to install eight (8) benches in the Fisherville Lions Park by the Fisherville District Lions Club. Fisherville Park is a vital community park, well-used and well-maintained by the Fisherville Parks Committee, which partners with Haldimand County through the Fields & Parks Management Program for the operations and management of the park.

The Park includes three ball diamonds, a covered Multi-Purpose Outdoor Facility (MPOF), paved outdoor walking track, outdoor fitness equipment, a playground, pavilion and a stand-alone concession building with permanent washrooms to support Park activities. Also on the property is the Fisherville Lions Community Centre, Haldimand County's largest and one of its busiest community halls. The Park, Hall, and multi-use outdoor facility are extremely well-used.

The number of daily visitors to the property often outstrips the availability of existing seating and rest areas in the park, prompting the current request for eight (8) additional benches.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program capital grants stream is intended to encourage and enhance strategic partnerships to the benefit of community stakeholders and the municipality, offering a fair, clear, and customer-focused approach to assessing community initiatives and requests intended to take place on County property. The program balances the rigour of the review process—necessary to ensure legitimate public interest issues are addressed—with flexibility and respect for the volunteer commitment of the groups.

The Fisherville District Lions Club is a robust and committed group with a long history of service to the community through events, civic and capital enhancements, and financial support for community initiatives.

There are currently four related, yet independent, organizations associated with use of the Fisherville Lions Park – the Fisherville Lions themselves, the Fisherville Parks Committee, the Fisherville District Community Centre Corporation and Fisherville Minor Sports – that operate the property in partnership with Haldimand County.

The current request from the Fisherville District Lions Club is for:

- i. Approval to undertake this project on Haldimand County property, and;
- ii. Capital funding to support the installation of eight (8) benches at Fisherville Lions Park with related upset funding in the amount of \$6,545 from the CPP Capital Reserve, representing no more than 35% of the total budget of \$18,700.

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **The Proponent:**

The Fisherville District Lions Club is a dynamic community service club with nearly 40 active members and a strong history of community service. Incorporated in 1971, the Fisherville Lions are enthusiastic adherents to the Lions International motto of, "We Serve", and its more informal tagline, "Where there's a need, there's a Lion".

The Lions Club has been an active partner with Haldimand County since the creation of the municipality's Community Partnership Program, completing multiple projects—large and small—and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for these enhancements.

In 2011, the Club spearheaded the construction of a Multi-Purpose Outdoor Facility (MPOF), raising \$283,000 towards the \$591,300 project budget through corporate solicitation, securing of a \$60,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and grassroots community fund-raising. This covered, 72' x 142' steel structure, on a concrete pad and with boards and acrylic viewing panels the Lions repurposed from the former Dunnville Arena—which replaced a modest existing outdoor rink in the park—has become a vital, multi-functional asset in the community. It is used year-round for ball hockey, court sports (basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc.), walking, special events and, when the weather cooperates, as an outdoor ice rink. The MPOF is operated by the Fisherville Lions through Haldimand County's Fields & Parks Management Program, for which the Club receives an operating grant (\$7,050 in 2024) funded annually through the Tax-Supported Operating Budget.

In 2022, in an effort to mitigate the effects of climate change on the MPOF's outdoor ice surface, the Club presented the County with an innovative solution: the installation of solar panels to protect the ice surface from UV rays while offering power back to the grid as the first stage in a three-stage improvement of the MPOF. In future years, these improvements will include the construction of accessible washroom facilities and a change room, plus a west wall to protect users from high winds. The CPP proposal included a commitment, from the Lions Club, to raise \$227,500 towards the

\$350,000 solar panels project budget, which the Club achieved. It is anticipated the solar panels portion of the project will be ready for the 2024-2025 winter season.

Other major projects completed by the Fisherville Lions Club since the CPP was initiated in 2011 include an extension to the Fisherville Lions Doug Martin storage building and, as the proponent and partner, with the Love Be'in Me Committee, of the Tracey Hoskin-Hartwick Memorial Track and outdoor fitness area.

### **The Partners:**

The Fisherville District Community Centre Corporation leases and operates the County-owned Fisherville Lions Community Centre through the County's Community Halls Program. Strongly aligned with the Fisherville Lions Club, the Hall Board is a separate and legally-incorporated volunteer not-for-profit organization.

Operating and maintaining the ball diamonds and associated amenities (concession, batting cage), walking track and outdoor fitness area, pavilion and playground—through Haldimand County's Fields & Parks Management Program—is the Fisherville Parks Committee, which partnered with the Lions, Fisherville Minor Sports, and Haldimand County to fund-raise and build the walking track in memory of local resident Tracey Hoskin-Hartwick in 2018. The Fisherville Parks Committee and Fisherville Minor Sports (itself funded through baseball activities), are concurrently bringing a proposal before Council (CDP-16-2024) to reinstall the batting cage base and improve drainage on the property.

The Fisherville Parks Committee has signalled its agreement to include the new proposed benches in its overall park maintenance envelope, and to work with Haldimand County to ensure compliance with appropriate inspections and maintenance standards, as is the case with other County-owned but volunteer-managed amenities in County parks. In keeping with previously-approved CPP projects, future capital replacement of the assets will be considered through a partnership with the County and its various grant programs (Community Beautification, CPP).

The property is well-used and is in strong and capable volunteer hands. Staff strongly support the current bench installation initiative by the Fisherville District Lions Club.

### **The Proposed Project:**

The current proposal is to install an additional eight (8) park benches, compliant to County standards, in Fisherville Lions Park to complement the existing six benches (including one which includes the Lions logo and traditional colours of purple and yellow to honour Lions International). The remaining five existing benches are black, and comply with County standards that were in place at the time of installation. The current proposed benches will complement the existing black benches and shall be secured to suitable concrete pads that comply with Haldimand County's standards for park furniture and for accessibility requirements, as also described in Haldimand County's Commemorative Program Policy 2022-03.

County staff support the proposed new bench locations, and shall confirm these locations prior to placement.

This project will enhance an existing County asset and meets the strategic objectives and criteria established through the Community Partnership Program capital grants stream, including:

- i. Enhancing community vibrancy and the creation of a healthy community;
- ii. Supporting corporate image and efficient government;
- iii. Creating or maintaining public infrastructure, and
- iv. Capitalizing on collective energies and expertise of participating groups.

## FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Policy 2011-01 states the Community Partnership Program (CPP) will encourage and actively support partnerships with not-for-profit community groups. Within the CPP capital grants stream, Council has the responsibility to approve community capital projects with an overall budget of over \$10,000.

The overall proposed budget for this project is \$18,700; the requested CPP funding of \$6,545 is in keeping with the CPP grant funding limitation of 35% of the total project value.

Based on the approved/recommended projects to date requiring funding from the Community Partnership Capital Reserve, there are sufficient funds available in the Reserve, including the current report (CDP-17-2024) and CDP-16-2024, which is also being presented at this meeting. Should both these initiatives be approved, there remains approximately \$56,700 in the Community Partnership Reserve which remains unallocated for 2024.

The CPP policy requires all community funding for Council-approved projects to be in place with the County or secured/confirmed with the applicable community group prior to the start of any on-site work. The Lions Club has confirmed it is able to commit its share of the project (\$12,155) upon approval of the current request.

As a result of the proposed project, the following capital budget amendment is required:

	<b>Current Council-Approved Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Revised Budget</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Fisherville Lions Park Benches	\$0	\$18,700
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$18,700</b>
<b>Financing</b>		
Community Contribution (65%)	\$0	\$12,155
Community Partnership Capital Reserve (35%)	\$0	\$ 6,545
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$18,700</b>

In addition to the funding required for the requested enhancement, the Public Sector Accounting Board reporting standards require the County to record the fair market value of contributed assets. This enhancement will be amortized over the estimated life of the associated asset for account purposes.

Ongoing inspections and maintenance of the benches will become the responsibility of the Fisherville Parks Committee. Future capital replacement or repair of the assets—potentially through a partnership with the Fisherville community groups identified in this report—will impact the County’s existing long-range capital funding plan.

## STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

This application was assessed and supported by the Community Partnership Program Staff Review Team, with particular input from the following Divisions: Community Development & Partnerships (CDP), Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations (FPC), Facilities Capital & Asset Management (FCA), Finance, and Legal & Support Services (LSS). Further, the request was reviewed and supported by the County’s Accessibility Coordinator.

The other three entities operating in Fisherville Lions Park (Fisherville Parks Committee, the Fisherville District Community Centre Corporation and Fisherville Minor Sports) have also reviewed and are in support of this application by the Fisherville District Lions Club.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

## **REFERENCES:**

1. [Policy No. 2011-01 Community Partnerships Program](#)
2. [Policy No. 2019-04 Fields & Parks Management Program](#)
3. [Policy No. 2022-03 Commemorative Program](#)

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Location Map – Fisherville Lions Park.