
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report EDT-04-2025 Request for Event to be Deemed Municipally Significant For Consideration by Council on March 24, 2025



Objective:

To seek Council's approval to designate the Haldimand Business Symposium to be held on May 1st, 2025 at the Haldimand County Administration Building as a Municipally Significant Event.

Recommendations:

1. THAT Report EDT-04-2025 Request for Event to be Deemed Municipally Significant be received;
2. AND THAT the Business Symposium being held at the Haldimand County Administration Building on May 1st, 2025 be designated as a Municipally Significant Event.

Prepared by: Lidy Romanuk, EcD., Manager, Economic Development and Tourism

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

Approved: Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

This report outlines a request to Council for the Haldimand County Business Symposium event, planned to be held at the Haldimand County Administration Building on May 1st, 2025, to be deemed a Municipally Significant Event. Designating the event will allow staff to obtain a Special Occasion Permit (SOP) from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

An event of municipal significance requires a designation by the municipality in which the event will take place. Special Occasion Permit applications for a municipally significant public event must be accompanied by either a municipal resolution or a letter from a delegated municipal official designating the event as municipally significant. This report serves as the means to obtain the former.

Background:

To host a licensed event that is open to the public, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) requires that the event be designated "of significance and/or to raise funds for charitable purposes and objects that benefit the public-at-large". As such, Special Occasion Permits for public events are only issued to:

- Registered charities.
- Non-profit Organizations whose object is to promote charitable, educational, religious or community objects.
- Tailgate events are public events that are held in connection with, and in proximity to, a live sporting event and where attendees may bring their own liquor (BYOB) for consumption at the event.

Haldimand fits into the second category with the Business Symposium being an event focused on education and building community (networks) for our business owners.

Analysis:

The Business Symposium serves as a key opportunity for Council, staff, and the local business community to come together, celebrate the contributions of businesses to Haldimand County, and foster valuable networking opportunities. This event not only allows businesses to connect with one another, but also provides a platform for Council and staff to engage with and acknowledge the importance of our local business sector. A key aspect of the event is also to equip attendees with knowledge and inspiration through a keynote address from an invited speaker.

Previously held as a breakfast event, the format of the Business Symposium was successfully shifted in 2024 to an evening gathering with a focus on networking and a keynote speaker who provided insights and opportunities for local businesses. The event also featured appetizers and the chance to showcase local beverages from Concession Road Brewing Company.

For the 2025 symposium, the format will remain largely the same, with one key update: both of Haldimand County's local breweries, Concession Road Brewing Company and Oranje Son Brewing, have been invited to participate. This addition of a second alcohol provider necessitates a change in how we obtain the Special Occasion Permit from the AGCO. In 2024, the single provider was able to utilize a Caterer's Endorsement permit; however, with two beverage providers, this option is no longer feasible. Therefore, staff are requesting Council's approval to designate the Business Symposium as a Municipally Significant Event, which would allow us to proceed with obtaining the necessary permit.

Should Council approve this request, staff recommend the establishment of a policy or framework for future events of this nature, particularly if the symposium continues beyond 2025.

As the event will be hosted on County-owned property, it will also undergo the required Special Events application process, which is circulated to various County divisions and key external stakeholders to ensure all concerns are addressed. That process is already underway.

In light of the above, staff respectfully request Council's approval to designate the 2025 Business Symposium as a Municipally Significant Event.

Financial/Legal Implications:

There are no financial considerations related to deeming an event Municipally significant.

Stakeholder Impacts:

Not applicable.

Report Impacts:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

References:

None.

Attachments:

None.