



Report

Subject: Sustainable Orangeville ‘Baby Tree’ Sapling Program

Department: Community Services

Division: CMS

Report #: CMS-2024-020

Meeting Date: 2024-10-07

Recommendations

That report CMS-2024-020, Sustainable Orangeville ‘Baby Tree’ Sapling Program be received; and

That Council direct Staff to end the Baby Tree sapling program.

Overview

The Community Services Department has supported Sustainable Orangeville’s ‘Baby Tree’ sapling program initiative for many years by leading the administrative coordination and resources for the success of the program. The interest in the program is declining and the department lacks the resources to properly support the implementation.

Community Services Staff approached Sustainable Orangeville Committee with the recommendation to transition the coordination of the Baby Tree program to Sustainable Orangeville to include in future tree planting initiatives. After consultation with Sustainable Orangeville Committee, a motion was passed at the August 29, 2024 meeting proposing the dissolution of the Baby Tree program.

Background

The Baby Tree program was created to build a sense of belonging and community spirit within the Town of Orangeville by celebrating babies registered in the program with an annual tree planting ceremony with a plaque placed alongside the tree(s).

Analysis/Current Situation

In recent years, there has been low participation in the program, which evoked the Community Services Department to review the Baby Tree program's overall impact. Please see Attachment 1 displaying the number of trees planted each year.

Staff propose that the Community Services Department no longer lead the coordination of the program. The department is finding it challenging to properly resource the program and find new locations to plant the trees. As a result, Staff recommend that the Baby Tree program either be transferred to Sustainable Orangeville or be dissolved.

Community Services staff attended the Sustainable Orangeville Committee meeting on August 29, 2024, to review the Baby Tree program administrative requirements and recommendations of next steps for the program. After a fulsome discussion, a motion by the Chair was carried for Community Services staff to report to Council recommending the dissolution of the Baby Tree program.

Sustainable Orangeville is committed to reaching the Council approved tree canopy target and will continue to work with local organizations on tree planting initiatives and in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation, which will be included in the Committee's 2025 Work Plan.

Corporate Implications

This report will not generate direct implications. If future actions related to this report will have a corporate impact, a report will be presented to Council for approval, if required.

Conclusion

To wrap-up the program for the current year, the Community Services Department will order trees, a commemoration plaque, and determine the location for the fall dedication ceremony prior to the end of program. In coordination with Sustainable Orangeville, the dedication ceremony for the 2023-2024 Baby Tree Forest will take place in Spring 2025.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal: Future-Readiness

Objective: Sustainability

Notice Provisions

Not Applicable

Respectfully submitted by:

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Attachment(s):

Attachment 1: Number of trees planted per year – ‘Baby Tree’ Sapling Program