THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING AGENDA THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025 @ 12:00 PM MEETING ROOM, MOUNT FOREST AND DISTRICT SPORTS COMPLEX

TIME	SUBJECT	PAGE	LEAD	ACTION			
12:00 PM	Calling to Order		Chair				
	Adoption of Agenda						
	Recommendation: THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable approves the agenda for the July 10, 2025, meeting as presented.		Chair	Resolution			
	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest						
			Chair				
	Minutes of Previous Meeting – May 15, 2025 (approved by Council on June 2, 2025)						
	Recommendation: THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee receives for information the minutes of the May 15, 2025, Committee Meeting.	001	Chair	Resolution			
	Deputation None		Chair				
	Oliai						
	Business Arising None		Chair				
10:05pm	New Business		Chair				
12:05pm	Pride Recognition – Community		Staff				
	Seniors Community Grant – Tech and Treks:						
	Adventures, Connections and Learning Initiative		Staff				
12:20pm							
	 Workplan Item 1: Wellington North Farmers' Market Verbal Update 		EDO / Farmer' Market Lead				
	 Workplan Item 2: Cultural Grants and Donations Report C&ED 2025-026 - McLean Crest Farms and Orchards 	006	CDC				
	 Workplan Item 3: Cultural Moments June 2 – Trees of Wellington North June 23 – Swamp Sisters 	011 013	CDC				
	 Workplan Item 5: Wellington North Culture Days Saugeen Bus Tour Update Artisan Showcase Update 		EDO/ Member Vair				

	Workplan Item 6: Minto, Hanover, WN Cultural Roundtable partnership		EDO				
	 Tourism Growth Program Driftscape – Soft launch - Verbal Update 	015					
12:40pm	Historical Society/Museum and Archives Reports						
	Recommendation:						
	THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee receives for information the activity reports from the Arthur and Area Historical Society and the Mount Forest Museum and Archives.			Resolution			
12:50pm	Cultural Roundtable Terms of Reference						
	Committee Terms of Reference O Committee Membership						
1:20pm	Other Items						
	 Arthur Arena Display Cases Heritage District Discussion 		All				
1:45pm	Items for Consideration						
	 Wellington Advertiser Cultural Ads May June 	017 018	EDO				
1:50pm	Upcoming Events						
	Mount Forest Fireworks Festival July 17-20						

1:50pm	Roundtable					
			All			
	Date of next meeting and adjournment					
	Next meeting date: Recommendation: THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting of July 10, 2025, be adjourned at p.m.		Chair	Resolution		



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MAY 15 @ 12:00 PM ARTHUR AND AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE, UPPER HALL

Committee Members Present:

- Bonny McDougall, Chair
- Doris Cassan, Member
- Penny Renken, Member, Councillor
- Faye Craig, Member
- Carol Vair, Member
- Trina Reid, Member (joined at 12:07 p.m.)

Regrets:

- Linda Hruska, Member
- Tim McIntosh, Member

Staff Members Present:

- Robyn Mulder, Economic Development Officer
- Mike Wilson, Community Development Coordinator

Calling to Order

Chair McDougall called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Renken Seconded by Member Cassan

THAT the agenda for the May 15, 2025, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting be accepted and passed.

CARRIED

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting – March 20, 2025

Moved by Member Cassan Seconded by Member Craig THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee receive for information the minutes of the March 20, 2025, Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

Deputation

None

Business Arising

None

Update on Workplan Items

Workplan Item 1: Wellington North Farmers' Market

EDO Mulder introduced Casey Taylor – Summer student and Project Lead – Farmers' Market and Community Gardens.

There are currently seven Growers/Producers (four confirmed for the whole season), eight bakers/crafters (three confirmed for whole season) including two Youth Entrepreneurs.

The committee discussed further vendor ideas, weekly events and food options.

The Market will be located on Grant Street for the initial three markets of the season, allowing the newly planted grass seed to get established.

Rain contingency. There is no indoor/undercover contingency, however the market will move onto Grant Street if rain is forecasted. Notice will go out to vendors on Friday night preceding the market.

ACTION: Project Lead to reach out to Barrel House for Pickle Pete giveaways and reach out to High School for student participation.

ACTION: Member Reid to send Farmers Gold contact information to the Project Lead to reach out for corn snacks, popcorn stand.

Workplan Item 2: Cultural Grants and Donations

CDC Wilson provided a verbal update to the committee about the grants awarded so far in 2025:

- \$750 to Metz Pumpkinfest
- \$350 to the Mount Forest and District Arts Council

CDC Wilson noted that there is a remaining \$900, of the \$2,000 that was included in the 2025 operating budget.

The Committee asked about adding a reporting component to the grant process that would see funding recipients provide a brief report to the Cultural Roundtable on how those funds were spent. CDC Wilson will investigate and report back at a future meeting.

Workplan Item 3: Cultural Moments

CDC Wilson provided a verbal report to the committee about the Cultural Moment videos being presented at Council meetings and shared on social media. These videos continue to be well received by Council and the public, with videos in 2025 averaging 786 views per video. CDC Wilson said the number of views per video seems to vary, so he will investigate and come back with an update at the next meeting. CDC Wilson informed the committee that the Cultural Moment schedule for May 20 will be used on June 2, as the May 20 meeting of Council has been cancelled.

CDC Wilson is also working on a booklet of past Cultural Moments that can be distributed to local long-term care homes for residents to enjoy at their leisure. He will bring a draft of this booklet to the next meeting for the committee to review and provide feedback on.

Member Reid has recorded 15 Cultural Moments to air on 88.7 The River at various times throughout the month. Member Reid reported that she has received several positive comments from the public about these segments.

The committee discussed several potential topics for future Cultural Moments:

- Ted Arnott
- Mike Murphy
- The Swamp Sisters
- Marvin Howe/Howe's House
- Dentist Chair from the Arthur Historical Society

Workplan Item 5: Wellington North Culture Days

EDO Mulder provided a verbal report to the Committee on Culture Days activities, including the Ontario Culture Days event September 19 – October 12.

Event Registration has opened on the Ontario Culture Days Website.

Culture Days Bus Tour – is scheduled for October 4. In partnership with the Town of Minto and the Town of Hanover.

The Wellington North Artisan Showcase will be held on September 27, and will include the Wellington North Farmers' Market in the parking lot at the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex. Councilor Renken suggested having some funds from the Cultural Roundtable available to provide coffee/tea/snacks to guests.

ACTION: Project Lead to add Wellington North events to the Ontario Culture Days website.

Workplan Item 6: Minto, Hanover, WN Cultural Roundtable partnership

Tourism Growth Program

Driftscape: EDO Mulder provided a verbal update to the committee. The Project Manager is a quarter of the way through uploading Wellington North 'Places of Interest' to the Driftscape App. The content upload will continue for another week or until all locations have been completed. It was suggested to add charging stations and washrooms to the app if feasible.

May 30 Symposium: Committee members Craig, Reid and McDougall advised they were not able to register on Eventbrite.

ACTION: EDO Mulder will ask the event organizer to add committee members to the registration list.

Other Items

Member Vair reported the local art exhibit will take place at Strathcona Long Term Care on Friday, May 23. A local photographer has taken several photos of the area and arranged for them to be framed. These photos will remain at Strathcona following the May 23 event for residents to enjoy.

Items for Consideration

Wellington Advertiser Cultural Ads

The Committee reviewed the March, April and May 2025 cultural advertisement pages in the Wellington Advertiser.

Upcoming Events

Cultural Roundtable Symposium May 30, 2025 Wellington County Library, Harriston location Hosted by the Town of Minto in partnership with Hanover and Wellington North

Wellington North Farmers' Market June 14 – September 27 393 Parkside Drive, Mount Forest

Roundtable (verbal)

An update was provided to the Committee regarding a meeting held between Mandy Jones, Manager of Recreation, Community and Economic Development, Councillor Renken and Kate Rowley of the Mount Forest Museum and Archives. The Main Street Plaque Program has placed 22 plaques on downtown businesses in the historical downtown area, from Queen St. to Birmingham. Many building owners have participated, although some out-of-town owners are taking longer to engage. The program aims to evoke memories and create storytelling opportunities, showcasing the heritage-friendly nature of the community. The housing plaque program, which began in 1979 to recognize centennial homes, has transitioned to a digital registry maintained by the Archives, documenting over 200 homes with addresses, images, and details of the homes today. Updates on the Lynes Blacksmith Shop include anticipated door installation and occupancy by the end of July, with future programming focusing on summer use. Kate expressed desire to maintaining the current approach to the Blacksmith Shop's heritage designation, though Councillor Renken expressed interest in pursuing formal designation through by-law eventually.

ACTIONS: Request updates from the Arthur and Mount Forest historical societies to be included in the Cultural Roundtable agenda. Send updated draft Community Improvement Plan (CIP) guidelines, specific to heritage, to Kate Rowley for review and comment.

The Volunteer Celebration and Newcomer Welcome Event on May 1 in Arthur was cancelled due to a power failure. All meals were successfully distributed by take-out the following day. Special thanks to caterer Linda Saunders for accommodating the change in date/times/delivery.

Councilor Renken - Pike Lake Auxiliary plant sale takes place on May 17, 2025.

Member Reid – Wellington Heights Secondary School is hosting its drama presentation this weekend. Artists in Mount Forest will be doing a new summer mural in the downtown. The Mount Forest Art Gallery's next exhibit is "June with June Turner." Mount Forest plant sale is on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at the Mount Forest Green House on Durham Street.

Member Cassan - Township wide yard sale this Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Member Craig – Canada Day celebrations June 28, 2025 from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Vendors, entertainment and three food trucks.

Date of next meeting and adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 19, 2025 (Arthur and Area Community Centre, Upper Hall)

Following Meeting: Thursday, July 10, 2025 (Mount Forest and District Sports Complex – Meeting Room)

Moved by Member Cassan Seconded by Member Craig

THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting of May 15, 2025, be adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

CARRIED



TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH

TO:	Cultural Roundtable
DATE:	2025-07-10
MEETING TYPE:	Open
SUBMITTED BY:	Mike Wilson, Community Development Coordinator
REPORT #:	C&ED 2025-026
REPORT TITLE:	Cultural Events and Sponsorship Funding

RECOMMENDED MOTION

THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable receive the Cultural Events and Sponsorship Funding application from McLean Crest Farms and Orchards;

AND THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable approves the application, with direction on the dollar amount approved.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/BY-LAWS/RESOLUTIONS

C&ED 2024-032 Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Application C&ED 2025-010 Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Application

BACKGROUND

The Wellington North Cultural Roundtable values the important role that not-for-profit community organizations and community groups play in delivering events and projects that support our community.

The Programming Fund and Sponsorship initiative provides funding aimed at enabling local community groups and organizations to incorporate culturally significant elements to their existing events, programs and projects.

To support this initiative, \$2,000 was included in the 2025 operating budget. ANALYSIS

McLean Crest Farms and Orchards hosts an annual Orchard Days in September. During this event, McLean Crest Farms and Orchards opens up the orchard to the public for apple picking, as well as an agri-tourism experience complete with wagon rides, antique tractor plowing, visiting with farm animals including Clydesdale horses, and a walk to the pumpkin patch. Local vendors are invited, free of charge, to share their artisan and local products.

This year, McLean Crest Farms and Orchards would like to hire local musicians to provide free musical entertainment to attendees.

This year marks the third annual Orchard Days. CONSULTATION

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

McLean Crest Farms is requesting \$1,200 from the Cultural Events and Sponsorship Fund.

It should be noted that the Cultural Roundtable has previously expressed interest in supporting the Mount Forest Diwali Celebration through the Cultural Events and Sponsorship Funding budget, but has yet to determine a dollar amount.

Operating: Currently, \$1,100 of the \$2,000 allocated in the 2025 budget has been assigned by the committee, leaving \$900 available for further allocation. Previous Commitments:

- \$350 has been allocated to the Mount Forest and District Arts Council.
- \$750 has been allocated to Metz Pumpkinfest.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: McLean Crest Farms and Orchards – Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Application

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024

- Shape and support sustainable growth How:
- Deliver quality, efficient community services aligned with the Township's mandate and capacity How: Supporting local cultural events and programs

How: Supporting local cultural events and programs.

- Enhance information sharing and participation in decision-making How:
- □ N/A Core-Service

Approved by: Mandy Jones, Manager of Recreation, Community & Economic Development 🛛



Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Application

The Wellington North Cultural Roundtable values the important role that not-for-profit community organizations and community groups play in delivering events and projects that support our community.

Funding as it relates to the **sponsorship/promotion of culturally significant initiatives** such as the promotion of the arts, live arts, exhibitions and/or oral storytelling shall be directed to apply to **Wellington North's Cultural Roundtable Programming Funding.**

The Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship initiative provides funding aimed at enabling local community groups and organizations to incorporate culturally significant elements to their existing events, programs and projects. This fund provides an opportunity to do more than just financially support a project or group and is intended to facilitate the provision of ongoing benefits to the community.

For committee use only:

Date Application Received:		July 8, 2025	
Approved:	YES		Amount Approved: \$

To be Completed by the applicant:

Organization Name:					
Organization Name:					
McLean Crest Farms and Orchard					
Contact Name(s) & Address:					
Dwayne and Lorna McLean					
Contact Telephone:	Contact email:				
Amount of Funds Requested: \$ 1200	Date of Event: September 13 and 14, 2025				
Percentage of overall event costs:15	Date Funds Required: September 12, 2025				
What is the Mandate of your organization and he	ow long have you been in Wellington North?				
McLean Crest Farms and Orchards hold annual Orchard Days each September.					
During Orchard Days we open up our orchard to the public for apple picking as well as an					
agritourism experience- complete with wagon rides, antique tractor plowing, visiting with farm					
animals including Clydesdales, and a walk to the pumpkin patch. We invite local vendors to					
share their artisan and local products; there is no cost to the vendors to participate in Orchard Days.This year we would like to hire local musicians to provide free musical entertainment to					
everyone who attends.					
McLean Crest Farms is a Century Farm that has been	n in our family for 106 years.				

1) Please provide a brief description of your project/event and what you intend to do with the grant from the Cultural Roundtable. Orchard Days at McLean Crest Farms is a two day annual event opening up our orchard for apple picking. We invite families to enjoy wagon rides, games, walking through the orchard, photo stops, the path to the pumpkin patch, antique tractor plowing and a chance to win our Heaviest Apple Contest. We would like to use the grant to pay for the time of local musicians to perform at no cost to our Orchard Days visitors. 2) How many years have you held this event/project and what benefits will the project bring to the Wellington North community? This is our 3rd Annual Orchard Days at McLean Crest Farms. We promote local agriculture and horticulture. Last year we marketed out first crop of peaches grown right here in Wellington North. We offer families a chance to experience our farm life. We partner with local vendors, small businesses and producers including; Dyce Honey, Spanky's BBQ Food Truck, Split Creek Farm, and Casi Gray Photography, to help market their products and skills. This year we would like to have local musicians perform live music for our visitors. 3) Please list the main objectives that your project aims to achieve. (max of 3) 1. Promote local agriculture and horticulture. 2. Provide community members with a farm/orchard experience to enjoy. 3. Promote local artisans, musicians, businesses and vendors. 4) What partnerships have you developed with other community groups to plan and/or implement your event or project? 1. Partnership with Arthur Agricultural Society- Fall Fair supplying apples given out for free during the Fall Fair as part of their local agriculture promotions 2. Partnerships with local artisans, vendors and businesses

3. Sponsorship from local business- CarQuest Ontario, Equipment Ontario

5) How do you propose recognize the contributi		ct in the community and how w Roundtable?	/ill you		
Support from local busines Social media event postings Website Colouring Contest Cultural Round Table Grant local musicians	s- recognized in all posts a	lisplay flyers, signs and flyers as providing the live music sting music will credit grant	from		
	-grant credited on brochu	res provided to all of our visitors			
6) Other information you	u would like to provid	e to help us approve your app	lication.		
	e can offer to all of our vis	ntinue to grow as a local orchard, we itors and to build connections with otl			
I hereby make the above application for a Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Cultural Events Funding & Sponsorship, declaring all the information contained herein is true and correct, and acknowledging that the Township of Wellington North's Cultural Roundtable will process the application based on the information provided.					
Signature:		Title:			
Printed Name of Signate	ory:	Date:			
The personal information reque	sted in this form is being co	llected for determining eligibility of an a	pplicant to receive a		

The personal information requested in this form is being collected for determining eligibility of an applicant to receive a grant. The information is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Questions regarding the collection of this information may be directed to the Municipal Clerk at 519-848-3620, ext. 27 or at the Municipal Office, P.O. Box 125, 7490 Sideroad 7 West, Kenilworth, ON N0G 2E0.

The Township of Wellington North's Cultural Roundtable may promote the program and reserves the right to use approved and funded projects as examples in promotional programming. The Township of Wellington North's Cultural Roundtable may promote an approved project by using photographs and descriptions of the project in promotional materials.



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CULTURAL MOMENT FOR JUNE 2, 2025 CELBRATES THE TREES OF WELLINGTON NORTH

One of the key landscape features of Wellington North, particularly Mount Forest, are the mature trees.

Mature trees are vital to both urban and natural environments. They absorb more carbon dioxide than younger trees, improve air and water quality, and provide shade. Their large canopies support diverse wildlife and enhance biodiversity.

To help protect these trees, Tree Trust Legacy was founded in 2019 in Elora. After attending a ceremony, members of the Mount Forest Green Team formed the Mount Forest Chapter of the Tree Trust Legacy. Spearheaded by Erin Kiers, Daphne Rappard and Rhoda Seibert, the



Arborist Manuela shows attendees how to properly plant a tree at the 2024 Tree of the Year ceremony. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)

Mount Forest chapter was formed in 2024. The Tree Trust's mission is to preserve older trees as they anchor our eco system, beautify our land, provide psychological benefits and, of course, link us to history.

Tree Trust understands that one mature trees does the work of 300 saplings and is on a mission to preserve these trees through professional assessment and care from specialized arborists. Tree Trust is the only charity dedicated to saving older trees, and the first adopted tree in Mount Forest was nominated and unveiled in September 2024. This amur cork is located behind Canada Post at Wellington and Elgin Street. A celebration and ceremony marked the occasion with local representatives and residents.

Each year a new tree is nominated and designated. In addition to this, Tree Trust provides educational seminars and events throughout the community and provides valuable framework for municipalities with regards to tree management and best practices, protecting these vulnerable trees from abolishment. To date this organization

has cared for over 80 mature trees and 210 saplings, which provides over 322 tonnes of carbon stored.

Tree Trust is a charity that relies mostly on sponsorship and donations. If you wish to donate, nominate a tree or be part of this worthy organization check out <u>treetrust.ca</u>.

Submitted by Trina Reid, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable



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CULTURAL MOMENT FOR JUNE 23, 2025 CELBRATES THE SWAMP SISTERS

Out of the mist on a moonlit night emerge two shadows making their way from the marsh into Damascus. These foreboding visions in search of men, moonshine and mayhem are fondly known as the Swamp Sisters.

They first attended the West Luther Centennial celebrations in 1981, where hands down they won the log sawing contest. However, the most remembered moment for the Sisters is when Dean Hopkins, an NHL player with the Los Angeles Kings, attended the township centennial. It is said Dean never took a check as hard as he did when one of the Swamp Sisters hit him with their purse.

During the next decade, most locals could hardly wait until the Arthur Enterprise



West Luther's highly sophisticated, extremely good looking, very shy, well mannered, always behaved Swamp Sisters made a surprise appearance at the West Luther Centennial variety show in 1981. (Jeff McKee/Arthur Enterprise News photo)

News was in their mailbox to anxiously read the next instalment of the column 'The Damascus Road.' It was there where the report of the Sisters brightened our day.

The Sisters have a soft side. They were reported to have visited the newest senior citizen of Damascus for their birthday with a gift from the swamp - turtles.

There was also a sighting in Drain 36. One of the Swamp Sisters surprised two local residents who were out for an Easter Sunday walk. They were strolling along the edge of the drainage ditch when a canoe came out of the mist. It was gone as quickly and quietly as it had approached.

Trouble, however, was never far behind. Even during harvest season, when most were too tired for nonsense, the Sisters found time for new antics. One was rumoured to be raising large, toad-eating snakes—and letting them roam freely through neighbours' gardens.

The Luther Marsh, a sprawling 12,000-acre wetland and a vital stopover for hundreds of thousands of migrating birds, was their domain. Strange things happened there. Canada geese were seen stomping across rooftops, honking wildly. A Swamp Friend blamed it on the "quack grass" the Sisters had been feeding them.

Just at dusk on a fall Sunday evening, as the fog and the mist settled in, they were spotted sitting on the steps of the Damascus store. Soon a crowd had gathered, leery of getting too close to them. But finally, one brave soul approached within 20 feet. As she did so, the Sisters faded into the fog and mist, no doubt on their way back to the swamp.

For just over a decade, the Swamp Sisters reigned in West Luther, where they were rumoured to have control over Reeve Jack Lennox. Now, whispers stir once more. Could they rise again, this time to challenge Mayor Andy Lennox?

Only the mist knows for sure.

Submitted by Bonny McDougall, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable















* Please review your proof and reply with changes or approval*

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