



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Terri Towstiuc, Manager of Community Services/Clerk
Date: 2025-06-26
Subject: Roots & Revival Festival, Requests to Council

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Terri Towstiuc, Manager of Community Services/Clerk Re: Roots & Revival Festival, July 18-20, 2025, Requests to Council; And

That Council hereby approve the laneway closure for the municipal “laneway” that runs from Munroe Street to Main Street (West Lorne); And

Further that Council approve the use of the sound equipment for the festival; And

Further that Council approve the use of the parking lot located at the Bo Horvat Community Centre, for the Firefighters Barbeque, and supply of picnic tables and waste receptacles; And

Further that Council approve the concept of the mural(s), to be painted on the bay doors of the West Lorne Fire Department;

Further that Council approve a donation of up to \$3,000 for paint supplies for the painted murals; And

Further that Council deny the request for use Municipally owned pulled behind cherry picker style equipment.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to summarize the requests from Amy Sousa, Roots & Revival Committee members, presented during the delegation on June 12, 2025.

Background:

In 2024, members of the community created the Roots & Revival Festival, with Rodney as the initial location, as a week-long festival to showcase local artists, vendors and business. This year, the festival will be a scaled back weekend event, on July 18-20th, and will take place in West Lorne, celebrating local heritage, farmers, musicians, artists, and community with a variety of events and activities for all ages.

On June 12, committee member Amy Sousa attended Council as a delegation, requesting the following items from Council:

1. A “laneway closure”, for the municipal “laneway” that runs from Munroe Street to Main Street (West Lorne), through the parking lot of the West Elgin Community Health Centre. The request is for both Saturday and Sunday, utilizing the parking lots for vendors and events.
2. Use of the Municipally owned sound equipment, acquired with the tourism grant that was received for the 2024 Roots & Revival Festival. **The equipment is currently being stored at the Recreation Centre in Rodney and is available for use that weekend.**
3. Access to the youth mural from 2024, to be displayed publicly. **This is not municipally owned property; however, it was stored at the Recreation Centre. Recreation staff and committee members have already been working together to find a more suitable, permanent home for the artwork.**
4. Picnic tables and garbage cans/waste containers for the festival. **Parks & Rec will deliver picnic tables and garbage cans, prior to the festival.**
5. Use of the Bo Horvat Community Centre parking lot for the Fire Fighters BBQ. **Confirmation has been received that there are no conflicting events at the arena, so use of the parking lot should not be an issue.**
6. Use of the municipally owned scissor lift. **After reviewing available equipment, West Elgin does not own a scissor lift; West Elgin has boom lift (a pulled behind cherry picker), which requires a different license than a scissor lift. To move it can take up to 20-30 minutes as there are leveling legs with it and need to be moved with a pickup truck. This equipment would not be ideal for the planned mural event. Therefore, staff do not recommend this request.**
7. \$3,000 to cover the expense of the mural supplies (paint, brushes, etc.). **The 2025 Budget included \$30,000 for Community Grants, with \$19,000 approved for “cash” donations. This request can be processed under the 2025 Community Grant program.**

At the time of report preparation, and formal design has not been completed, however the concept of the mural will include historical events incorporating the 'donkey baseball' game held in July 1970 and adding in historic pieces into the background (water engine from 1916-1917 which was patented here, the first fire truck from 1930, the fire siren from 1966 and there was an old air force hangar from the Fingal training base from WW2 which was moved here as the arena and destroyed by fire).

Committee members have provided a festival map (attached), as well have provided a certificate of liability insurance for the festival.

Financial Implications:

\$3,000 from Community Grants

Policies/Legislation:

By-law 2019-05, Community Grant Policy

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Terri Towstiuc, Manager of Community Services/Clerk

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Roots and Revival Festival, Requests to Council - 2025-14-Community ServicesClerks.docx
Attachments:	- SiteMap.jpg
Final Approval Date:	Jun 23, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Robin Greenall