

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2019-236
Report Date	November 14, 2019
Meeting Date	December 16, 2019
Service Area	Corporate Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Civic Recognition/Awards Program

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve the Civic Recognition/Awards Program and the Civic Recognition/Awards policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Civic Recognition/Awards Program provides a formal opportunity for the City to recognize and celebrate individuals and groups that have made a positive impact in the lives of citizens of Saint John.

The award categories include:

- 1) *Freedom of the City* – The highest honour Council can bestow on a person or group, including military units.
- 2) *Citizen of the Year* - Awarded by Council to resident individuals or groups that have made a significant impact on the City.
- 3) *Council Commendation* - Awarded by Council to an individual or group in the Greater Saint John Region for distinguished service to the City.
- 4) *Mayor's Certificate/Proclamations/Letters of Greeting*

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

November 19th, 2018: Direct the Common Clerk to prepare a Freedom of the City Policy to enable the award be granted to exceptional individuals and groups, including military and cadet units.

REPORT

It is important for the City of Saint John to recognize and celebrate excellence in our residents, groups and organizations.

A formal civic recognition program is a common practice in many municipalities as a way to say “thank you” to those dedicated individuals and groups who work hard to make their communities a better place to live.

The City of Saint John Civic Recognition/Awards Program provides Common Council with a variety of recognition opportunities for deserving individuals/groups. The award program will offer formal recognition opportunities (Freedom of the City and Citizen of the Year) as well as more frequent and less formal recognition awards (Council Commendation and Mayor’s Certificate).

The Civic Recognition/Awards Policy takes into consideration the City’s financial resources when hosting an award ceremony. There will be no financial consideration to the recipient(s) attached to the Civic Awards.

Freedom of the City

The Freedom of the City is the highest award the City can bestow on a person or persons (including a military unit) “for the purpose of Honourable Distinction”.

The Freedom of the City has been awarded in Saint John since 1901 when it was enabled by an Act of the Legislature. Notable recipients include:

- 1901 - Boer War Veterans
- 1926 - Charles Gorman (World Speed skating Champion)
- 1928 - The Rt. Hon. William Maxwell Aitken (Lord Beaverbrook)
- 1956 – Anne Eleanor Roosevelt, Wife of the late President of the USA
- 1968 – Kiyoshi Togasaki, President of Rotary International
- 1968 - 3rd Field Artillery Regiment (The Loyal Company)
- 1968 – Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada
- 1989 - St. Mary’s Band (Civilian concert band)
- 1968 - Kenneth Colin Irving (Industrialist)

- 1999 - Frederick Ross (Visual Artist)
- 2012- J.K., Jack and Arthur Irving
- 2013 – Dr. Richard Currie
- 2018 –The Friars Sisters (Charitable Fundraisers)

Recipients may be nominated by the public or a Council Member. The nominations are reviewed by the Committee of the Whole and require unanimous consent of Common Council for approval. A formal ceremony outside Council Chambers or a special or regular council meeting is traditionally arranged to present the Freedom of the City award.

Citizen of the Year

“Citizen of the Year” is awarded to a resident, group, organization or business in the City of Saint John that has had a significant impact on the City, making it a better place to live through their exemplary actions, volunteer efforts, achievements or contributions, including advancing growth. There will be at least one (1), and up to three (3), recipient(s) awarded annually. The recipient(s) are to be nominated by two (2) members of the public or by a Member of Common Council. The nominations are reviewed by the Committee of the Whole and approved by resolution of Common Council. A formal ceremony outside Council Chambers or a special or regular council meeting is arranged to present the Citizen of the Year award. A Nomination Form with timelines to submit will be made available on the City’s website.

Council Commendation

“Council Commendation” represents the expression of appreciation to an individual, group, organization or business in the Greater Saint John Region for their distinguished services and/or contributions that have benefitted the community at the municipal or regional level. The frequency of the award is at the discretion of Council. The recipients are nominated by a Council Member. The nominations are reviewed by the Committee of the Whole and approved by resolution of Common Council. A special or regular council meeting is provided to present the Council Commendation award at a convenient date(s).

Mayor’s Congratulatory Certificate, Proclamations and Letters of Greeting

“Mayor’s Congratulatory Certificate” is issued by the Mayor to recognize significant milestones, including: newborns, birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, achievements and official openings throughout the year.

The Mayor may also provide “Proclamations” following the Proclamations Policy. The Mayor may also send “Letters of Greeting” for printed programs or display

purposes to requesting groups, organizations or businesses hosting events in Saint John.

The certificate, proclamation and letters of greeting are provided at the discretion of the Mayor.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Vibrant City, Fiscally Responsible

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The annual cost of the Civic Recognition Program may vary depending on the number of awards given and the venue chosen for the ceremony. The cost associated with each framed certificate is approximately \$200.00. Generally it is recommended that the ceremony be held in the Council Chamber or a City owned facility to reduce costs. Other venue locations may be selected at the discretion of Council. A modest amount of funding (approximately \$2000.00) will be earmarked in Council's annual operating budget for the awards program. There will be no financial consideration to the recipient(s) attached to the Civic Awards.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Research Civic Awards throughout Canada.

ATTACHMENTS

Sample of Research Civic Awards
Civic Recognition Policy
Civic Recognition Framework