

Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury

Recommendation to Council

N° : 2024_REC_60

File N°:

Date of meeting: December 9, 2024

Subject: BIA – Main St. E benches

Recommendation

Whereas the COMZAC-BIA is offering a contribution of \$25,000 to the Town to install 8 benches in the downtown core of Hawkesbury along Main St. E between McGill St. and John St., and;

Whereas studies show that public places with more amenities, such as benches, are perceived as safer and more enjoyable, creating a sense of belonging and a more accessible public space.

Be it resolved to proceed with the purchase and installation of eight (8) benches as recommended in the document 2024_REC_60.

Explanation, history, context

In spring of 2024, we applied for funding under the My Main Street – Community Activator Stream for a series of Main St beautification and community-building projects that included the supply and installation of benches in the Business Improvement Area (BIA) along Main St E between McGill St and John St. Unfortunately, the Town was not awarded funding for these projects. When we informed the BIA commission (COMZAC-BIA-BIA) that we would not have the funding, they offered to allocate \$25,000 towards the purchase and installation of benches in 2025.

For reference, the COMZAC-BIA currently has 9 wooden, cedar benches placed in the downtown core from spring to fall every year. The Town takes care of removing and storing these benches for the winter season each year. A few issues to be noted about these benches are that they:

- do not match the Town's other benches (notably those in the Pioneers' Place Park),
- are made of wood, vs. the more durable composite benches proposed,
- are due to be stained and varnished,

- and are frequently stolen or moved since they are not fixed to the sidewalk.

We are therefore recommending replacing these benches with 8 benches of the same model we have in parks throughout the Town (including Pioneers' Place), as pictured below.



Additionally, the COMZAC-BIA wishes to have a permanent 4" x 6" aluminum composite panel (ACP) plaque on each of the benches featuring their logo. We recommend the design of this plaque be a collaboration between the COMZAC-BIA and the Town's administration to include both logos. The COMZAC-BIA will cover the costs associated with the production and installation of these plaques.

Location of benches

The attached map of proposed locations for the benches includes a total of 14 possible locations, however we recommend doing a survey in early 2025 to get the public's input on these locations and narrow it down to the 8 preferred locations.

The 14 proposed locations were chosen as a collaboration between the COMZAC-BIA and Town administration with the following considerations.

The COMZAC-BIA wanted to have benches placed in areas where they would not be in the way of pedestrian traffic in front of store locations and also in areas where there is more distance between the front of the building and the street. Given that there are already a few benches at Pioneers' Place, the proposed locations are concentrated more to the middle and west end of Main St. to balance the seating options throughout

the downtown core. The locations are also balanced between the north and south side of Main St, and preference was given to locations near trees to provide shade.

North side of Main St. E:

1. 57 Main St., Hoffman Jewellers - west side of the building
2. 115 /119 Main St. Red brick building, Parisien law office.
3. 159 Main st E – Between Lalonde Physio and Spécialiste de l'aspirateur
4. 179 Main St. Pizza Pizza, near West entrance
5. 179 Main St. Pizza Pizza, near East entrance
6. 245 Main St. Le Petit Pain
7. 285 Main St. Hoffman Optical

South Side of Main St. E:

8. Corner of William St and Main St E
9. 224 Main St. Pearl's Paradise
10. 214 Main st E – Guardian Pharmacy
11. East side of building at 201 Main St E - lower Outaouais Family Health Team
12. Between 186 and 178 Main St E – Bogue Photo and Duval Ventures
13. 134 Main St. CSEPR and many other businesses
14. 100 Main st E, Scotiabank

Memorandum of understanding

Lastly, we recommend drafting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) about the division of responsibilities between the COMZAC-BIA and the Town concerning the benches and flowerpots in the COMZAC-BIA, based on the following lists of responsibilities. This MOU would be resented to Council at a subsequent meeting for consideration.

Town responsibilities:

- Purchase and installation of benches (concrete pad for each bench)
- Seasonal removal and storage of benches for the winter season to facilitate snow removal operations and increase bench longevity
- Seasonal re-installation of benches in the spring
- Watering of 24 flowerpots (provided and distributed each spring by the BIA, at predetermined locations)

COMZAC-BIA responsibilities:

- Contribution of \$25,000 to the Town to cover the costs associated with the initial purchase and installation of benches

- Cover the costs associated with the purchase and installation of the plaques on the benches (with COMZAC-BIA and Town logos)
- Seasonal purchase and distribution of the 24 flowerpots in the spring, 2 on either side of each bench, and the balance of 8 flowerpots at predetermined locations
- Sale of the existing cedar benches

Options/alternatives

Continue with the cedar benches and not purchase fixed benches.

Impact on budget

There is no impact on the budget. All purchase and installation costs would be provided for by a donation from the COMZAC-BIA. The total cost including installation, concrete pad, the bench itself, and taxes, amounts to \$2,825 per bench. The purchases required would be made by the Town and the total cost would then be billed to the BIA (with the exception of the ACP signs, purchased directly by the BIA).

Relevant studies

N/a

Supporting document

- Map of proposed bench locations

Communication plan

Survey in early 2025 to get the public's input on the bench locations and narrow it down to the 8 preferred locations.

Department(s) involved

- Recreation
- Public Works
- Communications

Submitted and recommended by

Jennifer Ashfield, Chief of Staff, 29 November 2024

Comments of the Chief Administrative Officer

Samuel Cardarelli, Chief Administrative Officer

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024-REC-60 - BIA - Main St E benches .docx
Attachments:	- Cartes des bancs_Benches map - 14 options.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 29, 2024

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

Sonia Girard - Nov 29, 2024 - 1:36 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cardarelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Samuel Cardarelli - Nov 29, 2024 - 2:17 PM