



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2021-M-030

Memorandum to Council

Subject:	Civil Unions
Agenda Date:	March 4, 2021
Attachments:	

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Memo 2021-M-030, Civil Unions, for information.

INFORMATION

Staff have been asked to prepare a report on the possible business advantage should appropriate Municipal Staff be trained and offer the service of Civil Unions.

From a municipal perspective, any cost associated with the performance of the ceremony would be recovered from the recipients. If municipal facilities, including the Community Centre, were also used then the result would be increased revenues. Presently our Community Centre does not cover all the operational costs so this would narrow this gap.

Typically, weddings are accompanied by a meal, reception, and friends and relatives from out of town. It is understood that presently, not all weddings are religious events. Municipal Clerks have been able to, with the appropriate training, perform Civil Unions for the past decade or so. Having this service based in Temagami increases the possibility that Lodges and Resorts located within the Municipality as well as our facilities, could be used to host weddings of this nature.

According to 2015 figures, for Tourism Zone 13 (we are in Zone 13a) there was a total of \$1,122,197 spent by tourist with a total of 7,727,900 visits. This works out to an average spend of \$145.21 per visit. This takes in all types of tourism activity from hunting/fishing to snowmobile to some of the newer types of tourism like geocaching and dark sky visits. While these numbers are dated, if we round to \$150 average spend per visitor, even a small wedding with a total of 20 'visitors' would add \$3,000 to the local economy.

Add to this catering (approximately \$30 per plate) and other events that typically go with weddings, even a small wedding could add about \$5,000 to our local economy. If the number of guests at a wedding was 100, it is conceivable that this event would add \$20,000 to our local economy between accommodation, meals, and tourist like activities.

We have requested information from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) on the course and cost required for Municipal Staff to perform these services. As we approach the time when this is possible, Staff will prepare a report for Council's consideration on the municipal fees and costs for this service.

Respectfully Submitted:
Craig Davidson
Treasurer/Administrator