FORMAL REPORT

To:	Mayor Strathdee and Members of Council
Prepared by:	Brent Kittmer, CAO/Clerk
Date of Meeting:	10 April 2018
Subject:	**CAO 12-2018 St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation Fee Waiver Request**

PURPOSE

This report is to provide Council with a request received on March 27, 2018 from the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMMHF) to waive the building and planning fees associated with the expansion to the Wellness Centre.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT CAO 12-2018 St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation Fee Waiver Request be received; and

THAT Council approves a variance to the Community Grant Program to fund the request from the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation to waive building and planning fees for the Tradition Mutual Wellness Centre expansion.

BACKGROUND

The SMMHF has submitted a request to Council to waive the building and planning fees associated with the expansion to the Wellness Centre. The fees requested to be waived total $19,340.00. This includes a site plan application fee of $2,200.00 and a building permit fee of $17,140.00 (7,433 ft^2 expansion).

The most recent comparable decision by Council to waive building and planning fees was for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's expansion. The total fees waived in that instance were $4,840.00 ($2,200.00 for site plan application, and $2,640.00 for the building permit).

REPORT

When considering a response to this request there are two possible alternatives for Council:

1. **Deny the request** – The rationale for denying the request would be that health care is not a service that municipalities are responsible to fund. In addition, Council has made a one-time donation totaling $300,000 to the "Someone I know Campaign", and provides annual support of $50,000 to the SMMHF.
2. **Approve the request** – The rationale for supporting the request is that the St. Marys Memorial Hospital and the Tradition Mutual Wellness Centre are important assets to the community. These assets provide support to our existing residents, and serve to make our community more attractive when attracting newcomers and attracting/retaining youth.

SUMMARY

The fee waiver requested by the SMMHF represents a total of $19,340.00 in waived fees.

Rationale for supporting this request can be found in Council's strategic plan. Council's "Balanced Growth" pillar sets out a goal to attract newcomers to the community, and to attract and retain youth. To achieve this goal, the key tactic is to identify infrastructure, including public services, that needs to be in place to attract newcomers and to attract / retain youth.

Although funding and providing health care services are not core municipal responsibilities, the St. Marys Memorial Hospital and Tradition Mutual Wellness Centre are provincially funded public services that St. Marys residents and the surrounding community significantly value. Both of these community assets serve to make St. Marys an attractive community to live.

If Council chooses to approve this request, the Community Grant program would incur an equivalent variance representing the transfer of revenue to the Building Department.

STRATEGIC PLAN

☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.

- Pillar #3: Balanced Growth ("The two identified demographic groups that will further the vibrancy and culture of the Town include youth and newcomers. Growth must be balanced both geographically and economically in such a way that it is sustainable.)
    - **Scale Based demographic growth and targeted immigration:** One of the only remaining means of growing the population is by attracting newcomers to St Marys
    - **Youth recruitment and retention strategy:** It is important to not only attract youth to the Town, but also to retain existing youth by ensuring there are adequate opportunities. Tactics will focus on youth of all ages and abilities.
    - Tactic(s): Identify what infrastructure needs should be in place to attract retain this demographic (e.g. housing that's affordable, public services, etc.)

OTHERS CONSULTED

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

REVIEWED BY

Recommended by the CAO

Brent Kittmer
CAO / Clerk