



Rural Youth Group Committee Meeting

June 5, 2025, at 5:30 pm at Royal Canadian Legion

Present: Chair Marg French, Mayor Chris Hope, Corinne Penstone, Jeannette Godfrey, Mary Thomson, Barry Burton, Secretary

Guests: None

Regrets: Co-Chair Ashley Brandt

Delegations: None

M. Thomson left the meeting at 6:00pm. C. Penstone left the meeting when it entered into closed session due to virtual attendance.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm by M. French
2. C. Penstone lead the committee through the land acknowledgement
3. Disclosure of Interest
None
4. Acceptance of the Agenda
A motion was put forward to add to the agenda
Moved by B. Burton - Seconded by J. Godfrey
That the agenda be accepted with the following additions:
 - 6.b. Update Regarding Meeting with the Village
 10. Enter into Closed Session Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25:
Section 239(2(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local boardMoved by C. Hope - Seconded J. Godfrey
Carried.
5. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
Moved by B. Burton - Seconded by C. Hope
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rural Youth Group approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2025 and Special Meeting on May 16, 2025.
Carried.
6. Old Business
 - a. Finance Update
To date the Committee has received \$14,100.00 in donations and \$1,200.00 in pledges. The thermometer and tree visuals will be updated and posted to social media to acknowledge donors.
 - b. M. French and B. Burton met with the Village on June 3rd, 2025. M. French provided the group of a summary of the meeting which included the need to demonstrate interest for the centre through youth survey results and other

mechanisms prior to applying for more grants. The committee was unsure if they received approval to move ahead with a Go Fund Me campaign or if the Village needed to set it up. C. Barr to confirm with Treasurer and update the committee. M. French provided the group with some of the following stats:

Stats Canada 2021									
	Total	0-14	15-19	20-24	under 20			Under 24	
Burk's Falls	957	150	40	40	190	19.85%		230	24.03%
Ryerson	745	85	30	25	115	15.44%		140	18.79%
Armour	1565	175	40	25	215	13.74%		240	15.34%
Magnetawan	1755	175	65	50	240	13.68%		290	16.52%
Strong	1565	210	70	55	280	17.89%		335	21.41%
		795	245	195					

M. French has created action items with timelines from meeting with the #1 item being demonstrated interest.

c. Youth Communication

Manual surveys were completed by patrons of the Celebrate Downtown event held on the May long weekend. C. Penstone will input the data into the digital platform. Discussion occurred to extend the deadline for the survey to the end of August. M. Thomson will pick up the flyers from C. Penstone and post them.

The Committee discussed placing an update article in the Great North Arrow along with the survey QR code. The deadline for the paper is next Wednesday and approval from the Village must be provided first. M. French to share article with M. Thomson and C. Penstone for feedback, followed by the Village for approval.

The committee discussed having the survey available for a town hall/open house to be held in the near future.

d. Website and Social Media

The group now has 50 followers on Facebook. The Committee has been sharing events that are happening for youth in the area. M. French asks to receive an updated bi-weekly donor listing so they can be added to the tree and thermometer images and shared to social media. This will be a recommendation to Council. M. French to follow up with the Village regarding consents for the name of winners to be shared on social media from the Downtown Celebration.

e. Staffing Update

J. Godfrey provided an updated job description for the coordinator position along with guidelines for "Regular Volunteers", "Workshop Leaders and Presenters", and "Occasional Volunteers".

B. Burton put forward a motion to accept the descriptions for informational purposes. Seconded by C. Hope.

The committee discussed the criminal reference check process and how two were returned by the OPP due to not having enough information regarding how committee members will be 1-1 with youth and in a position of authority over youth. C. Barr provided the two people with a more detailed letter to provide to the OPP outlining this. Committee members were still unclear on the rules as it relates to these checks for themselves. C. Barr is asked to reach out to by-law officer for insight.

f. Fundraising Update

200 letters have been sent out to businesses with follow up occurring by M. French. Grant applications are on hold at this time.

7. Terms of Reference

No action taken to update the terms at this time. C. Penstone is aware of two people who would be interested in joining the committee. The committee discussed needing clarification on how vacancies are filled.

8. New Business

a. A townhall meeting to promote awareness

The Committee discussed hosting two open houses at a public skate this summer. The public would be invited to skate and chat with members about the proposed centre. At the next committee meeting C. Hope will provide an update.

b. Downtown Celebration/Canada Day

Attending the Downtown Celebration was a success. The committee was asked if they would like to participate in the Canada Day celebration to engage public and promote survey. No one is able to commit at this time.

c. Extending the committee beyond 7 members

The current committee make up is 7 members. The group was advised that to fill a vacancy the position would need to be posted with the candidate selected by Council which is the process for committees of Council. It was shared that there are people interested in sitting in on meetings and being advisors to the committee based on their areas of expertise. It is unclear if this can be permitted without a delegation to the committee. C. Barr to seek clarity on this matter and advise what the process for filling committee vacancies is, and the three volunteer positions. In the meantime M. French will invite volunteers to the meetings to listen.

d. Esprit Place- Mental Health Resources

M. French met with an employee of Esprit Place that reached out to the Village. This person has experience supporting the Drop in Parry Sound and is interested in

the Rural Youth Centre initiative. M. French will invite her to the meetings as first steps.

9. Recommendations to Council

a) That Council approve the Treasurer to provide M. French a biweekly summary of donations received to date.

10. Committee entered into Closed Session at 6:55pm pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25:

Section 239(2)(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board

Moved by B. Burton - Seconded by C. Hope

11. Council entered back into their regular meeting at 7:17pm

12. Date of Next Meeting: July 3, 2025, at 5:30pm

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm. Moved by M. French - Seconded by J. Godfrey



Signature of Chair- Marg French