

City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: CSBU-2025-037

Date: June 5, 2025

Originator: Ian Kilgour, Melinda Fry

Business Unit:

Community Services

Department:

Community Development and Growth

Subject: 2025 Centennial Celebration and Budget Update

Closed Session: yes ☐ no ☒

Recommendation

That Council receive Report to Council No. CSBU-2025-037 dated June 5, 2025, by Ian Kilgour and Melinda Fry for information purposes.

Background

Summary

This report provides an update on the City's Centennial budget and outlines how the approved \$915,000 in funding is being allocated across City-led initiatives, community-driven events, and community legacy projects. As we celebrate North Bay's 100th anniversary in 2025, we are pleased to share that Centennial funds are being effectively and responsibly invested to support a full year of inclusive, collaborative, and impactful celebrations that reflect the spirit and diversity of our community.

Community-Centered Approach

North Bay's 100th Celebration was intentionally designed as a year-long, City-wide event involving dozens of community groups, organizations and residents. Recognizing the importance of community leadership, Council supported the formation of the Community Centennial Committee in 2024. This volunteer committee represents a diverse range of community stakeholders. Their role has been instrumental in guiding the design and development for the delivery of events and legacy projects that are both celebratory and impactful.

To ensure broad community interest and successful implementation, a budget for the Centennial Celebrations was developed. The budget, with current and projected expenditures and revenue is provided in Appendix A. Two (2) community engagement funding programs were launched. The Centennial Legacy Projects Fund and the Centennial Event Hosting Fund. With these community funding programs in place, the Centennial Celebrations Committee envisioned a full year of centennial events that would bring the community together to celebrate this milestone.

Centennial Budget Overview

See Appendix A – Centennial Celebration Summary

1. Administration & Promotion

- **Staffing and Coordination**
Primary support for the administration of Centennial grants, liaise with community organizations, internal planning and implementation.
- **Promotions and Communications**
Marketing and outreach to raise awareness of Centennial events and encourage participation.

2. City-Led Programming

- **Enhanced Annual Municipal Events**
 - Families First – New Year’s Eve (2024)
 - Canada Day
 - Santa Clause Parade
 - North Bay Summer Concert Series
 - Hot Summer Nights Concerts (Civic Long Weekend)
 - North Bay Summer Concert Series
 - Families First- New Year’s Eve (2025)
- **New Centennial Events in 2025:**
 - Four Drone Shows (June 6, July 18, August 3, August 29)
 - Homecoming (Civic Long Weekend)
 - Centennial-themed Free Public Skates
 - Time Capsule Ceremony
 - March Break Free Youth Activities
 - Special Centennial Battalion Hockey Game

3. Community Centennial Legacy Projects

The Centennial Legacy Projects Fund was created to support community groups, organizations, and residents to create commemorative projects that reflect the story and spirit of North Bay over the last 100 years. The projects are intended to leave a legacy that future generations can enjoy.

See Appendix A for a list of Centennial Legacy Projects that have been completed or are currently underway.

4. Community Centennial Events

The Centennial Event Hosting Program fund supports community groups and organizations to incorporate Centennial-themed elements into their existing events or create new programming for 2025. This fund helps ensure that celebrations are City-wide and reflect the diversity of our community.

To date, more than 30 community organizations have received support through this fund.

See Appendix A for a full list of participating organizations.

Community Impact

All Centennial Celebration events are free and open to the public, aiming to provide high-quality, accessible experiences throughout the Centennial year. The community's response has been overwhelmingly positive, with strong engagement from a diverse cross-section of residents, organizations, and community groups as highlighted in the attached news articles (see *Appendix B*). We are grateful for this enthusiasm and proud to celebrate together.

Financial/Legal Implications

All activities outlined in this report are being funded within the previously approved Centennial budget. No additional financial commitments are required at this time. Expenditures are being managed in accordance with the City's financial policies and procedures to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Natural North and Near | ☒ Economic Prosperity |
| ☒ Affordable Balanced Growth | ☒ Spirited Safe Community |
| ☒ Responsible and Responsive Government | |

The 2025 Centennial Celebration initiative includes items that meet all five (5) of the City's Strategic Priorities, including the following Strategic Plan's specific objectives:

Specific Objectives

- Celebrate North Bay's proud history and heritage.
- Foster the creation of a community with a positive environment that instills pride and confidence and supports a resilient diversified and inclusive economy.
- Attract investment by better telling the North Bay story regionally and across Ontario.
- Provide smart, cost-effective services and programs to residents and businesses.
- Support and promote community and special events.
- Promote and encourage arts and culture as a cornerstone of a dynamic community
- Ensure that Council and staff have a shared perception and goals

Options Analysis

Option 1:

That Council receive Report to Council No. CSBU-2025-037 dated June 5, 2025, by Ian Kilgour and Melinda Fry for information purposes.

This is the recommended option.

Option 2:

That Council not receive Report to Council No. CSBU-2025-037 dated June 5, 2025, by Ian Kilgour and Melinda Fry for information purposes.

This is not the recommended option.

Recommended Option

That Council receive Report to Council No. CSBU-2025-037 dated June 5, 2025, Ian Kilgour and Melinda Fry for information purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Ian Kilgour, MCIP, RPP

Title: Director, Community Services

Name: Melinda Fry

Title: Manager, Sports & Events

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name: Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name: John Severino, P.Eng., MBA

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: Melinda Fry

Title: Manager, Sports & Events