

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. CSD-2024-0010

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
COUNCIL**

June 12, 2024

SUBJECT: KESWICK MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB – AGREEMENT RENEWAL

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council receive Report No. CSD2024-0010 prepared by the Community Services Department dated June 12, 2024, respecting Keswick Model Aircraft Club – Agreement Renewal.
2. That Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to renew the license agreement between the Keswick Model Aircraft Club and the Town of Georgina for a five-year term, expiring on June 30, 2028.
3. That a Bylaw be passed to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a license agreement between Keswick Model Aircraft Club and the Town of Georgina.

2. PURPOSE:

To obtain Council authorization to renew the license agreement with Keswick Model Aircraft Club for five years, expiring on June 30, 2028.

3. BACKGROUND:

The Keswick Model Aircraft Club (KMAC) has been in operation in Georgina for over 40 years.

The first agreement with the Town of Georgina was formed in 1992 for the use of lands at the Civic Centre however they moved to the current site at the Keswick Cemetery in 2007 when the Civic Centre grounds were under construction. The Town has consistently renewed the agreement for several terms over the last 17 years.

The KMAC agreement is for the use of the eastern portion of the lands at the Keswick Cemetery, located behind a large berm (as shown on Attachment 3).

The KMAC has non-permanent trailers/structures on site which contain storage and a small office area. They have also installed a special fabric that is adhered to the ground acting as their runway and can easily be removed, rolled up and re-installed.

The Club owns the structures and is responsible for all land and building maintenance and carrying the necessary insurance, therefore, the Town does not incur any costs requiring recovery. Therefore, the agreements were for \$1/year.

The use of the cemetery site has proven to be a positive experience. The KMAC is seeking a renewal of the agreement.

4. ANALYSIS:

The KMAC has a membership of approximately 100 people. Over the years, the agreement outlines the licensee's responsibilities which include the volunteer club members maintaining the following:

- Cutting grass
- Removing garbage
- Keeping structures in good condition
- Maintaining the access driveway in good condition as indicated on Schedule "A" of the agreement (Attachment 2).

Although the agreement and facility permit are for a full calendar year, the club typically operates from April to October, flying on the weekends. Only on a couple of occasions during the winter months, some members may fly their planes on a bright day. Due to their activity, the weather must be favorable to operate the aircraft. At any time, the Town may temporarily stop the group from operating to host a Town activity, perform facility maintenance or for the consideration of an interment at the Cemetery. The KMAC does not have exclusive use of the space.

KMAC carries general liability insurance including property damage. They follow Transport Canada guidelines to set their flying space as shown in Attachment 2. The current designated space meets all requirements and has been used since they moved to the cemetery site.

The residents have embraced the Club and their activities. As noted by the site map, there are very few residents that are directly impacted by the model aircraft. Therefore, the site has proven to be a successful move for the Club.

It is understood by both the Keswick Model Aircraft Club (KMAC) and the York Simcoe Amateur Astronomers Club (YSAAC) that the site can serve the mutual needs of both groups, as they operate during opposing hours of the day, and neither would have exclusive use of the property.

It is further understood by both groups that said lands are under the management of The Town of Georgina.

A proposed agreement for the York Simcoe Amateur Astronomers Club (YSAAC) is being presented to Council under a separate report and bylaw.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Creating a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all – continue to optimize local parks, facilities, and recreational amenities.

6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Not Applicable, except for the nominal \$1/year license fee.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

No public consultation was undertaken. The license agreement has existed for years. This is a renewal and extension of the existing agreement.

8. CONCLUSION:

The Town's agreement with the Keswick Model Aircraft Club (KMAC) has proven to be a positive experience for the Town and the Club. Staff recommend renewing the license agreement for a five-year term.

APPROVALS

Prepared By:	Jessica Anthony Administrative Coordinator, Community Services
Reviewed By:	Bob Ferguson Manager of Parks Development & Operations Community Services
Recommended By:	Steve Lee-Young Director, Community Services
Recommended By:	Rob Wheeler Deputy CAO/ Treasurer
Approved By:	Ryan Cronsberry Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - License Agreement – Keswick Model Aircraft Club 2024 - 2028