

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. CSD-2024-0018

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
COUNCIL**

November 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Georgina Community Food Pantry, Community Fridge - Memorandum of Understanding

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council receive Report No. CSD-2024-0018 prepared by the Community Services Department dated November 20, 2024, respecting the Memorandum of Understanding for the Georgina Community Food Pantry, Community Fridge.
2. That Council authorize Mayor and Clerk to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Georgina and the Georgina Community Food Pantry, Community Fridge for a five-year term, expiring on October 31, 2029.
3. That Council approve a Bylaw to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgina Community Food Pantry for the operation of the Community Fridge located at the Georgina Ice Palace.

2. PURPOSE:

To obtain Council authorization to renew the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Georgina Community Food Pantry (GCFP) for the operation of the Community Fridge located at the Georgina Ice Palace for a five-year term expiring on October 31, 2029.

3. BACKGROUND:

On March 1, 2023, Ashley Mutch attended Council as a liaison who was inspired by the success of the Newmarket Community Fridge and recognized the need for this incredible resource in Keswick. The Town of Georgina, Mayor, and Members of Council along with the GCFP supported this initiative through Resolution No. C-2023-0101, and a one-year agreement was executed, expiring October 25, 2024.

The Community Fridge initiative is unique due to its inclusivity. Anyone can contribute to the fridge 24/7, which fosters a sense of unity and shared responsibility within the community. The GCFP staff and 40+ volunteers play a crucial role in the ongoing management and operations of the fridge, overseeing sign-ups, volunteer management, cleanliness, and coordination of food donations.

The Community Fridge accepts the following items:

- Produce - Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Dry goods - cereals, rice, pastas
- Hygiene and toiletry items
- Store packaged bakery products
- Dairy products - milk, eggs, cheese
- Canned goods
- Prepared meals from a public health certified kitchen (must be labeled with expiry date and allergens)
- Pet food

The Community Fridge **does not** accept the following items

- Frozen or raw meat products
- Frozen food of any kind
- Homemade food or baking
- Expired food (after Best Before Date)
- Dented cans or opened food packages
- Alcohol or medications
- Clothing or household items

The Georgina Ice Palace is a prime location for the Community Fridge due to its access to washrooms in a climate-controlled facility, its proximity to busing services and resources available at the Georgina Public Library. The GCFP is an essential service considering the rapidly rising use of food pantry services and the food insecurity associated with the use of these services year over year. The Community Fridge allows for dignity in accessing essential resources for everyone.

4. ANALYSIS:

Staff recently approached GCFP to discuss their interest in the continuation of the Community Fridge operating at the Georgina Ice Palace for a five-year term. Staff have continually received positive feedback regarding the Community Fridge and have observed that it is being managed in a satisfactory and customer-friendly manner that meets the needs of the patrons who use this service.

The volunteers and members of the GCFP have maintained a positive working relationship with staff and adhered to the terms within their current MOU.

When asked for comments regarding the operation of the Community Fridge and the renewal of the existing agreement, GCFP responded enthusiastically as well as provided feedback which you will see in 'Attachment 1'. Within one year this project has filled an essential need in the community of Keswick that will only grow and thrive over time.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Delivering service excellence

Creating a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all

6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:

There is no financial impact on the Town to extend this agreement aside from nominal costs with regards to janitorial supplies provided on occasion through the Facilities Division.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Not applicable.

8. CONCLUSION:

Staff recommend renewing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgina Community Food Pantry for the operation of the Community Fridge at the Georgina Ice Palace for a five-year term expiring on October 31, 2029.

APPROVALS

Prepared By:	Jessica Anthony Administrative Coordinator, Community Services
Reviewed By:	Tim McClatchie Facility Manager, Community Services
Recommended By:	Steve Lee-Young Director of Community Services
Recommended By:	Rob Wheeler Deputy CAO/ Treasurer
Approved By:	Ryan Cronsberry Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Letter provided by Georgina Community Food Pantry

Attachment 2: Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgina Community Food Pantry for the operation of the Community Fridge.