TO: Bert Meunier, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Lance Thurston, Commissioner, Department of Community Services
PREPARED BY: Mark Fluhrer, Manager, Policy & Support Services, Department of Community Services
DATE OF MEETING: October 19, 2004
SUBJECT: Information Report – Communities in Bloom Program 2004

RECOMMENDATION TO:
This is an information report only.

ORIGIN/PURPOSE:
The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the City of Kingston’s ongoing successes in the Communities in Bloom program.

‘Communities in Bloom’ is an international and national program that fosters civic pride, beautification, and environmental awareness through community participation. The Communities in Bloom program is one of the most effective community development vehicles available. What makes the Communities in Bloom program so effective is the many creative ways in which the program can and is applied to each community. All communities that participate in the Communities in Bloom program benefit in many ways.

At a later date staff will be providing Council with a more detailed ‘Year End Report’ that will outline our individual program successes, lessons learned and provide our plans and recommendations for the 2005 Communities in Bloom program.

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:
Please refer to Appendix ‘A’ for more background information related to the City of Kingston’s 2003 success in the Communities in Bloom program.

**The 2004 Communities in Bloom Kingston Experience:**

In late 2003, Council approved our continued participation in the 2004 Communities in Bloom Ontario program. The City of Kingston re-connected with our founding partners - the Chamber of Commerce, the Kingston Horticultural Society and the Software Factory in the participation in the 2004 Provincial Communities in Bloom program. The Communities in Bloom (CIB) Steering Committee was formed.
Deputy Mayor Foster and Shirley Thomas, President of the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, agreeing to stand as the 2004 Communities in Bloom Co-Chairs.

It is due to prescribed rules set at Communities in Bloom national headquarters that first time participants and those competing at the ‘Canadian Classic’ level and who are not past national champions, must return to the provincial level of competition for at least one year. If that participant achieves a 4 or 5 bloom rating at the provincial level they can once again participate at the National level.

The Results:

On September 12, 2004, at the Provincial Awards Ceremonies in Kincardine Ontario, in front of hundreds of delegates from across the province of Ontario, Kingston was awarded a very high 4 bloom ranking (15 points short of a 5 bloom ranking!). The City of Kingston also achieved top honours in the Provincial ‘Gateways’ competition for communities of populations of over 100,000! And that is not all; Kingston was recognized for special achievement in Natural & Architectural Heritage Conservation.

The Communities in Bloom judges were particularly impressed with Kingston’s many achievements in Tidiness, Floral Displays, Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas, Natural and Architectural Heritage Conservation, Environmental Awareness and Community Involvement. Details of the Communities in Bloom judge’s assessment of Kingston in the competition will be provided at a later date to Council in the ‘Year End Report’.

We await the official word from the Communities in Bloom National Committee whether we are in a position to “go national” in 2005. It is believed we stand a very good chance.

New Initiatives in 2004:

The 2004 Communities in Bloom program saw an increase in involvement from all sectors of our community. Thanks to the foresight of Councillor Sutherland, Manager of Housing Greg Grange and the Communities in Bloom ‘Kingston Blooms’ committee, the Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation participated and included their already well established gardening contest in the Communities in Bloom program in 2004. The inclusion of the K&FHC program in the local ‘Kingston Blooms’ program (our local Communities in Bloom competition) broadened the strong base of the CIB program in many important ways.

A second new program of note this year was the initiative of the Kingston Horticultural Society, its president Jane Murphy and their many dedicated volunteers. This program was a ‘Kingston Blooms’ competition (our local CIB competition) and student curriculum enhancement program in Kingston’s schools. In its first year several schools received 3, 4 and 5 blooms through the efforts of students, parents, teachers and school staff to improve the grounds of their respective schools; yet again, another example of true community development at its best.

A Great Deal Accomplished in Two Short Years:

Our community should be very proud of our achievements given that this is but our second year of participation in Communities in Bloom, and our first year standing alone in competition. It is worth noting that it is not unusual of a City or community to participate for many years in the Communities in Bloom program and not achieve what the City of Kingston has in such a short time! Communities in Bloom meets and exceeds expectations in terms of building community capacity, which with ever
dwindling City of Kingston community resources the program greatly assists in filling those critical resource gaps.

The Mayor and City Council must be recognized for your support and foresight. Deputy Mayor Foster must be recognized for standing as Co-Chair in 2004. Many thanks go to various departments such as: Community Services, Operations, Planning and Development and Corporate Services and their staff for their in-kind support and belief in this program.

A special thanks goes to the founding partners such as the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce (Shirley Thomas, President; Bob Scott, General Manager; Andrea Gunn); The Kingston Horticultural Society (President Jane Murphy, Mary-Elizabeth Poirier, Irene White, Maureen Thompson, Val Genge to name a few); Collins Bay Master Gardeners (Dianne Huddle and Co.); the Software Factory (website services extraordinaire); Holiday Inn (Lorne Weary, General Manager, Nevia Carrol, James Golden and staff); DigiGraphics for their incredible work on the ‘Brag Book’; (to name just a very few!) Mark Fluhrer, Program Manager and Sue Hitchcock in the Department of Community Services for Project Coordination; and, the many community groups, organizations and businesses and volunteers that gave so generously of their time and energy to make the Communities in Bloom program such an overall success these past two years.

At a later date staff will be presenting to Council a detailed ‘Year End Report’ that will include all of those that should be recognized for their contributions to the Communities in Bloom program; and, included in the ‘Year End Report’ will be lessons learned and future considerations.

Worth Noting:

The national/ provincial Communities in Bloom program committee has asked Kingston to host the Eastern Ontario Communities in Bloom workshop on March 2, 2005. This is something the Communities in Bloom committee asked of us given that they were quite impressed with the level of organization and commitment of Kingston and the Communities in Bloom team! This will present Kingston yet another opportunity to ‘showcase’ itself as a proud, historic, innovative and beautiful community.

EXISTING POLICY/BY-LAW:
N/A

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:
Council has endorsed Communities in Bloom as described in the Strategic Priority Area Culture FOCUS Kingston Project Action Plan ‘Beautification – Communities in Bloom’.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
A more detailed ‘Year End Report’ will include a report on revenues and expenses as they relate to our given budget as assigned in fall of 2003 by Council.
CONTACTS:
Mark Fluhrer, Manager, Policy & Support Services (CIB Program Manager), Department of Community Services. 546 – 4291 ext. 1342 mfluhrer@cityofkingston.ca

Sue Hitchcock, Program Coordinator, Communities in Bloom, Department of Community Services 546 – 4291 ext. 1302

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:
Deputy Mayor Leonore Foster
Shirley Thomas, President of the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce (548 – 4453)

NOTICE PROVISIONS:
None.

APPENDICES:

Appendix ‘A’ - A Communities in Bloom ‘Backgrounder’ (background information on the Kingston Experience in Communities in Bloom thus far)

The Communities in Bloom ‘Brag Book’ will be distributed prior to the Council meeting.
Lance Thurston, Commissioner,
Department of Community Services

Bert Meunier
Chief Administrative Officer
Appendix ‘A’

‘Communities in Bloom’ - Backgrounder:

‘Communities in Bloom’ is a non profit Canadian organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and challenge of a friendly competition. National beautification programs have flourished in Europe, including England, France and Ireland, for decades, and were the inspiration of Communities in Bloom. It began in 1995 with 29 Canadian communities and has grown to include hundreds of municipalities registered in the national and provincial editions. ‘Communities in Bloom’ program promotes community involvement and action by citizens of all ages, the municipal government, local community organizations, institutions and businesses. The program strives to improve the tidiness, appearance and visual appeal to Canada’s neighbourhoods, parks, open spaces, streets, businesses and institutions through imaginative use of flowers, plants, trees, cultural heritage conservation and environmental initiatives....."It is more than a beauty contest...”

Categories judged include: Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas, Floral Displays, Turf Areas, Heritage Conservation, Environmental Awareness, Community Involvement and Tidiness. Judges suggest that a community’s cultural awareness and programming will become a part of the ‘grid’ in subsequent years.

Benefits to the Community:

Participant communities in the Communities in Bloom program have documented the following... (to name a few)....

- Increased tourism,
- Increased marketing and promotional potential from increased quality of life, profile
- Increased economic development benefits
- Decreased vandalism
- Citizens, community groups and organizations, business, municipal and other government agencies all working together and mobilizing to a common cause
- Continuous improvement process for entire community
- Information and cultural exchanges with area and other communities

It is well documented and known that when either businesses or individuals are seeking relocation opportunities, communities offering superior community resources and quality of life have a noted advantage. The Communities in Bloom program is focused on such factors and assists a community in a direct and indirect manner achieve this status.
The 2003 Communities in Bloom Kingston Experience:

In December of 2002, Council approved the City of Kingston’s participation in ‘Communities in Bloom’ as described in the Strategic Priority Area Culture FOCUS Kingston Action Plan ‘ Beautification – Communities in Bloom’ and our partnership with the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, and further in February of 2003, that the City of Kingston endorses a partnership with the City of Oshawa for entry in the 2003 Communities in Bloom Canadian Classic competition.

As you may already know, the City of Kingston, twinned with the City of Oshawa, and, in partnership with the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce (and many other community volunteer partners, and citizens), were winners of the ‘Canadian Classic’ National Competition of the 2003 Communities in Bloom program!

2003 was Kingston’s first year of entry into any Communities in Bloom (CIB) program and Oshawa’s third national title. Given that this was the community of Kingston’s first Communities in Bloom competition the results were remarkable in many ways. Firstly and most importantly, many businesses, agencies, community groups, organizations and citizens came together in a common cause to build a solid workable partnership foundation. In terms of building capacity within our community to help off set ever dwindling resources and address the many challenges we face, such a building of understanding in partnership sets a good example from which to follow on other and like community challenges.
TO: Bert Meunier, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Denis Leger, Commissioner of Corporate Services
PREPARED BY: Hal Linscott, City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services
DATE OF MEETING: October 19, 2004
SUBJECT: 2004 – 2nd Quarter Information Report – Provincial Offences Court Administration, Legal Services Branch

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:
Receive for information.

ORIGIN/PURPOSE:
This Report has been prepared to provide information on the 2nd Quarter (April 1- June 30/04) revenues and expenditures of the Provincial Offences Court, as well as caseload volumes.

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

Revenues
Fine Revenues for the 2nd Quarter are $251,095.72. Revenues for the first 6 months are $474,772., 42% of the full year’s budgeted revenues of $1,165,654. Revenues are lower than in the same period for 2003 due to a decrease in the number of charges received, fines paid and convictions registered.

Expenditures
Expenditures until the end of June are $308,787., 42% of the full year’s budgeted expenditures of $731,019.

Outstanding Fines
Outstanding fines as of June 30, 2004 are $5,545,442.84. This represents an increase during the 2nd Quarter over the 1st Quarter, 2004 of $118,044.70. Collection efforts continue to be undertaken by POA and Finance Division staff.

The following two charts summarize revenues and expenditures to date.
QUARTERLY REPORT - REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual 1st Quarter 2004</th>
<th>Actual 2nd Quarter 2004</th>
<th>Actual 3rd Quarter 2004</th>
<th>Actual 4th Quarter 2004</th>
<th>Actual Year to Date 2004</th>
<th>Annual Budget 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REVENUE</td>
<td>$233,768</td>
<td>$251,095</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$474,772</td>
<td>$1,165,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROSS EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$54,321</td>
<td>$254,466</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$308,787</td>
<td>$731,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (FINES)</td>
<td>$5,427,398</td>
<td>$5,545,442</td>
<td>$5,545,442</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

COMPARATIVE REVENUE BY QUARTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE YEAR</th>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
<th>Year to Date Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$234,730</td>
<td>$273,278</td>
<td>$305,289</td>
<td>$262,721</td>
<td>$1,076,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$233,768</td>
<td>$251,095</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$484,863</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Charges

The following two charts summarize charges received in the Provincial Offences Court Office for the 2nd Quarter of 2004 and comparative charges received for the year 2003 and 2004.

PROVINCIAL OFFENCES ACT
CHARGES RECEIVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH 2004</th>
<th>PART I</th>
<th>PART II</th>
<th>PART III</th>
<th>TOTAL BY MONTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,922</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>2,221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPARATIVE CHARGES RECEIVED BY QUARTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
<th>Year to Date Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>2,480</td>
<td>3,091</td>
<td>2,011</td>
<td>9,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,239</td>
<td>2,221</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next two charts represent courtroom utilization for the Kingston and Sharbot Lake Courts.
COURTROOM UTILIZATION FOR 
KINGSTON AND SHARBOT LAKE POA COURTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH 2004</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>POA P1 TRIALS</th>
<th>POA P2 TRIALS</th>
<th>POA P3 TRIALS</th>
<th>FCA P1 TRIALS</th>
<th>FCA P2 &amp; P3 TRIALS</th>
<th>TOTAL SITTING TIME</th>
<th>TOTAL SITTING DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharbot Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharbot Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharbot Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharbot Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Kingston utilized an average of 1.84 hours of sitting time per sitting day during the 2nd Quarter
- Sharbot Lake utilized an average of .86 hours of sitting time per sitting day during the 2nd Quarter

COMPARATIVE COURTROOM UTILIZATION HOURS BY QUARTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sitting Time Year</th>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
<th>Year to Date Total Sitting Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 - Kingston</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>62.7</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>320.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharbot Lake</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>28.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 - Kingston</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>28.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharbot Lake</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Matters

The City of Kingston's initiative of providing On-Line Services (Electronic Service Delivery) to the public for POA fines has been operational since January 24, 2004. During the 1st Quarter, 22 payments were processed and during the 2nd Quarter, 150 payments were processed, for a total of 172 payments on-line for POA fines to date.

The POA Court Administrator continues to be a member of the Municipal POA Court Managers' Association. The East Region POA Managers for Kingston, Brockville and Cornwall completed a comprehensive training manual for POA Clerk/Monitors. The training was delivered in April and early May 2004 by the POA Manager from Kingston to 36 staff from within the East Region.

The City's Municipal Prosecutor continues to be a member of the Prosecutors' Association of Ontario. The Prosecutors' Association assists all Prosecutors across the Province by providing opportunities for continuing legal education and support. These programs include regularly scheduled seminars and annual training sessions designed to enhance the professional development of the membership.
EXISTING POLICY/BY-LAW:
N/A

LINK TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:
N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
Revenues to the end of the 2nd Quarter are below target at 42% due to a decrease in the number of charges received, number of fines paid and new convictions registered. Gross expenditures to the end of the 2nd Quarter are on target at 42% of the full year’s budget amount.

CONTACTS:
Eldeen Murphy, Court Administrator
Mark McLaughlin, POA Municipal Prosecutor

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:
N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:
N/A

APPENDICES:
N/A

Denis Léger
Commissioner of Corporate Services

Bert Ménard
Chief Administrative Officer