

## **Staff Report To Council**

**From:** Laura Christen  
**Date:** June 2, 2025  
**Report:** PRC-05-25  
**Subject** **Volunteer Fair**

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### **Recommendation**

That Report PRC-05-25 Volunteer Fair be received for council's information.

### **Background**

Local organizations continue to express growing challenges in recruiting and retaining volunteers. Many experience ongoing shortages that directly impact their ability to deliver services and programs. This issue is not unique to our community and it reflects a broader trend where the demand for volunteer support is rising while the supply of willing and available individuals is declining.

In response to this pressing need, the Parks, Recreation, and Culture (PRC) Advisory Committee suggested the idea of a Volunteer Fair as a proactive step toward building awareness and connecting residents with meaningful ways to contribute their time and talents. Around the same time, the Hanover Public Library had also been exploring opportunities to encourage volunteer engagement. The decision to collaborate and partner together emerged naturally, resulting in a joint event presented by the Town of Hanover and the Hanover Public Library.

### **Discussion**

The primary goal of the Volunteer Fair is to bring a diverse range of organizations together under one roof, making it easier for residents to explore volunteer opportunities and connect directly with the groups that need their support.

The event will take place on June 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the arena floor at the P&H Centre. To date, 30 vendors have confirmed their participation, representing a wide array of local non-profits, service clubs, cultural groups, and public-serving organizations. Participating organizations will be set up in a trade show-style format, allowing them to showcase their missions, highlight current volunteer opportunities, and engage with residents interested in getting involved.

To encourage community participation and boost attendance, the first 100 attendees will receive free pizza and swim passes. The event has been promoted with the local schools and shared directly with numerous organizations.

The town will also be participating in the Volunteer Fair promoting various volunteer opportunities, including town committee recruitment, the Trail Eyes and Ears program, youth day camp volunteer opportunities, and more.

There is still space available for more vendors to join. Interested groups can contact Brandon Dobson at 519-364-2310 x 2128 or [bdobson@hanover.ca](mailto:bdobson@hanover.ca) for more information.

### **Financial Implications**

Admission is free and there is no fee for organizations to participate in the Volunteer Fair. The objective is to make the event as accessible as possible, and removing any cost to participate helps ensure that all interested groups, regardless of size or resources, can be included.

Staff time for the event will be covered within the existing PRC and Library budgets and the 100 swim passes will be funded through the PRC budget.

Free pizza for attendees is generously sponsored by Dominos Pizza, and the Cultural Roundtable is supporting the event with a dedicated advertising campaign to further promote community participation.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

This report supports the indicated Strategic Goals and Action Plans of the Town of Hanover.

#### ☐ **Goal 1: Safe and Reliable Infrastructure**

Build, maintain and continuously improve our municipally owned properties, buildings, and equipment.

#### ☒ **Goal 2: Healthy and Welcoming Community**

Care for our natural environment and provide an enviable quality of life for everyone who calls Hanover “home”.

#### ☒ **Goal 3: Strong and Vibrant Economy**

Refresh downtown Hanover and retain and attract local economic investment and jobs.

#### ☐ **Goal 4: Balanced Growth**

Work together to create a community we can all be proud of.

#### ☐ **Goal 5: Open and Responsible Government**

Deliver services in a friendly, efficient and effective manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

Laura Christen  
Director, Parks Recreation & Culture

Sherri Walden  
CAO