

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Heidi Jennen, Engineering Services Administrator
Meeting Date: May 30, 2022
Report Code: OP-22-029
Subject: Billy Bishop Heritage Fest – June 18, 2022

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-22-029 respecting Billy Bishop Heritage Fest, City Council approves the road closure as outlined in the report to accommodate the Billy Bishop Museum Heritage Fest on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Highlights:

- Until June 2011, the Billy Bishop Museum had the approval to close the 900 block of 3rd Avenue West to host events.
- For 2022, Billy Bishop Heritage Fest will be featuring an Open House highlighting their new event, 'Ground Truth,' an exhibit that shares veterans' stories from the ground in Afghanistan.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Previous Report/Authority:

At their May 9, 2022 meeting, City Council approved Report [OP-22-028](#) permitting the road closures in the River District for the 2022 Pride parade.

Background:

On May 5, staff from the Billy Bishop Museum approached the City seeking permission to close 3rd Avenue West from 9th Street West to 10th Street West on Saturday, June 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The road closure is required to accommodate military displays and antique cars that will encroach onto the roadway during the Billy Bishop Heritage Fest event.

The actual event will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and will include live entertainment and a BBQ in the museum backyard. Military personnel, military equipment, and antique cars will be displayed along the street fronting the museum. The museum will also be hosting an Open House highlighting their new event, 'Ground Truth,' an exhibit that shares veterans' stories from the ground in Afghanistan.

The organizers anticipate that approximately 100 people will be in attendance throughout the day.

The organizer has arranged visitor parking to not interfere with parking in the River District area.

The road closure along 3rd Avenue West will be in addition to the 2022 Pride Parade road closures in the River District approved by City Council on May 9, 2022.

Analysis:

On June 18, beginning at 10:00 a.m., 3rd Avenue West is proposed to be closed from 9th Street West to 10th Street West to accommodate the Billy Bishop Museum Heritage Fest.

According to the [2016 Traffic Counting Study](#), the average annual traffic count (AADT) for the 900 block of 3rd Avenue West is 2,243 cars daily, categorizing this road as a low-volume traffic road. Vehicular traffic is further reduced on weekends when access to the North Heritage Pet Hospital is not required.

The 900 block 3rd Avenue West road closure may cause minimal, short-term disruption to vehicular traffic. At the same time, Police Services provides traffic control through the 10th Street intersection as the Pride parade moves through and motorists are using alternate routes to travel across the City.

The organizer has arranged visitor parking to not interfere with the anticipated reduced parking in the River District area associated with the Pride Parade.

'Figure A' below shows the road closures within the downtown and River District area on Saturday, June 18, 2022. The orange highlighted area offers the area of closure for the event.

Figure A



When these two events would be occurring concurrently, staff note that the remaining open roads network does have sufficient capacity to absorb the estimated additional 374 vehicles per hour, or six vehicles per minute, that will have to be redirected from the 900 block of 3rd Avenue West, it should be noted that this is a conservative (or worst case) estimate because it assumes that all 2,243 vehicles per day will be redirected during the 6-hour road closure. The Pride Parade duration would be over that same 6-hour time period, which will not be the actual case.

Financial Implications:

Based on the average cost associated with special events road closures, including overtime costs for Public Works staff to set up and tear down the road closure, the cost to the City is estimated to be approximately \$500 for the 900 block of 3rd Avenue West to be closed for the specified period.

Communication Strategy:

The organizers are responsible for promoting their event. A Media Advisory will be issued to advise residents and visitors to the City of any road closures

due to the event, and any related road closures will be posted on Municipal 511.

Consultation:

Rhonda Mitchell and Emily Jolliffe from the Billy Bishop Museum, the City Manager, Director (A) Public Works and Engineering, Manager of Engineering Services, Public Works Superintendent, and the Manager of Community Development were consulted. Police Services have been made aware of the road closure.

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services

Mike Crone, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Engineering Services Administrator, at hjennen@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440 ext. 3302.