



**April 22, 2019**

**Mr. Mayor and Members of Town Council:**

We take strong exception to your response to our offer of a Volunteer Gift to the Town of Pelham, to permanently replace the Town Square Arches. The Rotary Club of Fonthill and the Summerfest Committee have offered to fully finance this project (over \$100,000.00), including the engineering, tendering, erection processes and maintenance costs to bring this project to fruition, again, at no cost to the Town.

This Volunteer Gift was presented by two long serving and productive citizen volunteers (aka taxpayers):

Frank Adamson as Council appointed member of the Summerfest Committee, as Citizen of the Year and as a Rotarian leader and;

Bill Gibson who has sat for over five years on numerous Town Committees, past Chair of the Community Centre Oversight Committee, Chair of the Summerfest Committee and a person who offers professional services to the Town pro-bono.

We stood before you with a Gift to the Town formulated by a great number of dedicated citizen volunteers who have over the years expended their talent, time and personnel reputation in delivering extraordinary services for the betterment of our community.

Instead of graciously accepting this generous citizen gift to the Town, and based on musings, by the Mayor, who claims not to have strong feelings one way or the other you all voted to amend our submitted motion to:

Conduct a poll/survey to gauge public support for the acceptance of our Volunteer Gift with no:

- time line (posting/closure) for the issuance of the poll
- criteria for council to accept and or reject our proposal (50%+1, 85% in favour?)
- wording for this poll/survey
- notification for the public on how to partake in a poll/survey
- etc.

Canvas for other designs/projects by interested parties with no:

- Time line for the issuance of the request for Interest (RFI)
- Minimum criteria that an alternative submission must meet (fully funded, engineering, erected, etc.)
- How the RFI will be posted
- The evaluation criteria, and who will evaluate any submitted RFI
- Indication if we have to resubmit through this RFI process

- etc.

**Of Note:**

- a. Councillor Wink, stated that it is a very small minority of disgruntled people who oppose the Arches. The Voice of Pelham has already conducted a poll, with 55% in favour of the replacement of the Arches at no cost to the taxpayer. Thirty-six percent noted they were willing to contribute financially.

**The Question arises:**

**-why is this poll not sufficient for council to approve a Volunteer Gift such as ours?**

- b. The Arches have received a Niagara Community Design Award and are prominently featured in the Town's web site and other promotional and advertising material. The arches have a very strong brand recognition and serve a useful purpose for Pelham Summerfest, the Town Christmas Celebration, World Polio Day Lighting and on the cover of the most recent edition of the Community Guide, etc.

**The Question arises:**

**– given the success and the acceptance by the community of the Arches Design – over the last six years – why are you seeking another design or replacement project?**

- c. Given that at least two prominent volunteer organizations in town, plus other Individual Citizens, Volunteer Groups and four Community Business Leaders, only hearing of our proposal without any fundraising campaign have stepped forward pledging substantial monetary donations to this Volunteer Gift.

**The Question arises:**

**-Given the above why does council not see this as a strong affirmation of public support for our proposed Volunteer Gift?**

- d. This Volunteer Gift is being presented by two organizations in Town. These organizations are composed of very long-serving and dedicated volunteer citizens that donate cumulatively thousands of hours of their time contributing greatly to the quality of life in Pelham and have expended and will continue to expend a significant amount of personal time, some through gratis professional services to fundraising, formulating, presenting and bringing this Volunteer Gift to fruition.

**The Question arises:**

**By obfuscating on your approval to accept this gift, why has council voted to be so disingenuous and insulting to citizen volunteers, and is this the new norm for council vis a vis volunteer proposals to improve the community in the future?**

- e. Given that your open-ended delay in approving this Gift to the Town and knowing that your actions will significantly delay the planning for the final design and more importantly the necessary fundraising for this initiative.

**The Question arises:**

**How are you going to justify (given the Voice of Pelham's poll results) to the citizens, property owners, voters and the hundreds of volunteers that through your actions, the Mayor and Councillors of this Town, are significantly jeopardizing and obstructing the delivery of this Gift to the community? (again at no cost to the rate payers)**

With encouragement from many citizens of Pelham, the support of a great many Citizen Volunteers and in good faith we presented to Council a Volunteer Gift to replace the Town Square Arches. As Council's actions have indicated you do not share our philanthropic gesture to improve the community in which we live.

We trust that on receipt of this letter that Council will immediately re-visit its previous actions on this Volunteer Gift at your next Council Meeting and accept our generosity to the Community in the spirit in which it is intended.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Adamson



Bill Gibson



Cc. Nancy Bozzato