

From: Francis Perry
Sent: June-30-20 11:55 AM
To: Chris Frotten <cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com>
Subject: Pride Flag

Chris Frotten, CAO
Municipality of Barrington
June 30, 2020

Could you please bring this to the attention of Barrington Council. Thank you.

I attended a council committee meeting last June that concerned itself with the topic of displaying a Pride Flag in the municipality. I spoke at that meeting, as did others, about the feelings of reassurance that particularly young people struggling with issues of sexual identity would feel when a Pride Flag was displayed in an “official” manner by the municipality. At that time, it was approved by committee and taken to council for further approval, allowing such a flag to be flown when Pride events were taking place across Canada. The flag was flown that year on a relatively small pole near the Barrington River bridge.

The flag suffered some vandalism in 2019, and a re-flying of the flag in 2020 has also suffered at the hands of vandals apparently opposed to it.

At the time of discussion in 2019, it was suggested, and seemed to receive general verbal agreement in the room, that 2019 was kind of a test year, and if things did not go well at the river location, council should consider a larger, more prominent flagpole in the Islandview Park near the causeway.

There are a number of causes, whether for social concerns, medical campaigns, or commemorations, where various groups or agencies might request the flying of a flag to catch public attention. It was suggested in 2019 that a flagpole in Islandview Park, while being topped by a Canadian flag, would be a good location where flags for various campaigns or commemorations could also be flown on a scheduled basis. This location would catch public attention, as well as cut down on vandalism because of the public exposure and regular traffic in the area.

Since the Barrington River location seems to be a relatively secluded area that invites vandalism, I would suggest that council consider the “plan B” approach of having a good sized pole erected in Islandview Park, publicizing an application process and policy for groups wanting to have a flag displayed there, and work toward this being an accepted part of life in Barrington Municipality.

My thanks to the Council for seriously considering this matter, originally flowing out of the June 2019 meeting.

Francis Perry
Barrington