

To: Community and Operations Services Committee

From: Kevin Alexander, Commissioner,
Community and Operations Services Department

Report Number: CO-25-57

Date of Report: December 3, 2025

Date of Meeting: December 8, 2025

Subject: Update to the Eligibility Criteria for the Oshawa Community
Legend Award and the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion
Award

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Council's direction regarding CO-25-23 dated May 12, 2025, for staff to undertake a review and update of the eligibility criteria for the Oshawa Community Legend Award and the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award:

"Therefore be it resolved that staff be directed to undertake a review and update of the Oshawa Community Legend Award and the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award process to clarify the eligibility criteria to include exclusions regarding self-nominations and posthumous nominations."

2.0 Recommendation

That the Community and Operations Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report CO-25-57 dated December 3, 2025, concerning an update to the eligibility criteria for the Oshawa Community Legend Award and the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award be received for information.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

- Corporate Leadership Team
- Legal Services
- Legislative Services

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Revisions to the Eligibility Criteria for the Oshawa Community Legend Award and the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award

On May 26, 2025, Oshawa City Council approved revisions to the eligibility criteria for the Oshawa Community Legend Award and the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award. The updated criteria now exclude both self-nominations and posthumous nominations.

4.2 Oshawa Community Legend Award

On January 16, 2006, Council approved of the procedure and criteria for the recognition of a Community Legend at the Delpark Homes Centre. The goal of this annual program is to celebrate the accomplishments of an Oshawa Community Legend and to recognize individuals and/or groups who have significantly contributed to their discipline and/or the Oshawa community.

4.2.1 Updated Criteria:

The goal of the program is to annually celebrate the accomplishments of an “Oshawa Community Legend.” A Community Legend is a person and/or group who:

- Excels in the activity or sport in which they participate.
- Contributes to, or makes an impact on, the Oshawa Community at a grass roots level in the following areas:
 - Art and culture
 - Sport
 - Community initiatives
- May be of any age.
- Is not necessarily a resident of Oshawa, as long as they have made an impact in Oshawa.
- Has not received recognition through other organizations, i.e. Sports Hall of Fame, O.C.C.N.A. and affiliates, Y.W.C.A. etc.
- Cannot be self-nominated.
- Cannot be nominated posthumously.

Nominations must:

- Be submitted and endorsed by an individual or an organization.
- Be submitted on a City nomination form.
- Identify the merit of the individual being nominated.
- Provide evidence of the impact of the individual on the Oshawa community.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations must include a summary that adequately describes the individuals' accomplishments in either art and culture, sport or community initiatives and how they have contributed to or impacted the Oshawa community.

Selection Committee:

- The Commissioner, Community and Operations Services will verify that the nominations under consideration meet the eligibility criteria. The Community and Operations Services Committee will recommend an award recipient to City Council for approval.

Recognition:

- A letter from the Mayor.
- A certificate.
- A complimentary three (3) month Level 1 fitness membership.
- Their name is on a permanent plaque in the main corridor at Delpark Homes Centre.
- Their name and achievements are highlighted on the corporate website, featured in a media release, and promoted across social media channels.

4.3 E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award

In 2016, Council approved the E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award which is a program for Honouring the Windfields Farm Legacy (Report DS-16-23). The E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award celebrates someone who exemplifies innovation and has overcome adversity. The E.P. Taylor Windfields Farm Champion Award is awarded once every four years, in the fourth year of the council term.

4.3.1 Updated Criteria:

- Recipient lives or works in Oshawa OR collaborates with an Oshawa-based organization.
- City of Oshawa employees are not eligible for the award but may nominate individuals.
- The recipient must exemplify innovation. This could include:
 - Developing and implementing new ideas into tangible initiatives, programs or projects in the community.
 - Leading transformational change that has impacted the community.
 - Innovation may focus on technological products, organizational changes, or social impact.
- The recipient must have demonstrated an ability to overcome adversity in their journey.
- Cannot be self-nominated.
- Cannot be nominated posthumously.

Nominations must:

- Identify the merit of the individual being nominated.
- Provide evidence of the impact of the individual's innovation on the community.
- Provide evidence of the individual's ability to overcome adversity.
- Provide evidence of recognition by the local community.
- Describe the individual's career path and/ or organizational background.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations must include a summary that adequately describes the individuals' innovation, or contribution to the community through innovation. The summary must also describe how the individual overcame adversity and struggled to succeed with innovation.

Selection Committee:

- The Commissioner, Community and Operations Services will verify that the nominations under consideration meet the eligibility criteria. The Community and Operations Services Committee will recommend an award recipient to City Council for approval.

Recognition:

- A letter from the Mayor.
- A certificate.
- An etching of Northern Dancer.
- Their name and achievements are highlighted on the corporate website, featured in a media release, and promoted across social media channels.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations contained in this Report.

6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area "Lead: Governance and Service Excellence" with the goal to embrace innovation and advance continuous improvement initiatives and actions.



Stacey Gray-McQuat, Director,
Recreation Services



Kevin Alexander, Commissioner,
Community and Operations Services Department