

To: Community Services Committee

From: Ron Diskey, Commissioner,
Community Services Department

Report Number: CS-22-55

Date of Report: May 11, 2016

Date of Meeting: May 16, 2022

Subject: Official Flower of the City of Oshawa

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to the consent motion dated December 13, 2021, initiated by Correspondence [CS-21-128](#), from the Oshawa Garden Club:

“That the following be referred to staff for further investigation:

Whereas the City of Oshawa annually provides our citizens and visitors with prize-winning public gardens including winning several National Communities In Bloom awards; and,
Whereas, due to the pandemic, citizens of Oshawa are spending more personal time at home as opposed to traveling, and

Whereas spending active personal time outdoors is deemed to be beneficial to personal health; and,

Whereas many citizens take great pride in their personal residential gardens,
Therefore, be it resolved that based on Correspondence [CS-21-128](#) from the Oshawa Garden Club:

1. The City of Oshawa seek status of a 'Garden Friendly City' to encourage even more residents to add to the beautification of our City; and,
2. That the City flower be changed from the Rose to the Peony; and
3. That notwithstanding the current proclamation policy, that the City of Oshawa declare 2022 as the Year of the Garden.”

Staff responded to part 1 and part 3 in the Whereas Motion [CS-22-35](#) dated April 19, 2022. Part 2 was referred to staff to investigate and conduct public consultation and report back in Q2.

Attachment 1 – Oshawa Flag Image

Attachment 2 - Results of the Oshawa's Official City Flower Consultation Process

2.0 Recommendation

That the Community Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Community Services Committee select an option detailed in Section 5.5 Report CS-22-55 "Official Flower of the City of Oshawa" dated May 11, 2022.

3.0 Executive Summary

N/A

4.0 Input From Other Sources

The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Recreation and Culture Services
- Corporate Communications
- City Clerk Services
- Operation Services
- Oshawa Museum

5.0 Analysis

5.1 Background

On March 9 1953, at the request of the Oshawa Horticultural Society (now the Oshawa Garden Club) the rose was adopted as the official flower of Oshawa by City Council. The City does not knowingly display this flower on any signage, but has made available small "ROSE" crests for special occasions and for visitors. It was agreed that the rose may be of any colour.

At a meeting of Oshawa City Council on September 4, 1973, a resolution was adopted that the Flag Design Contest for Oshawa's Gold Anniversary be held, which was open to all public, separate and secondary schools in the City of Oshawa, Durham College and the general public. The closing date of the contest was October 15, 1973. Miss Julia Lakas, a public school student, won the contest with the design shown in Attachment 1. The flag has a royal blue background, with the City Crest in the centre, encircled by two rows of flower petals to depict the rose, Oshawa's flower. The flag was specifically designed for Oshawa's Golden Anniversary Year and City Council formally adopted it as the Official Flag of the City of Oshawa on November 4, 1974.

On December 6, 2021 through Correspondence Requiring Action [CS-21-128](#), a request from the Oshawa Garden Club was made to City Council to change the official flower of the City to the peony in celebration of the Year of the Garden in 2022. Oshawa features

one of the Canada's largest contemporary peony collections in bloom at Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens located adjacent to Children's Arena (155 Arena St.).

In 2017, the Oshawa Garden Club changed their logo from the rose to the peony, as the City of Oshawa is known for the Peony Garden and award winning Peony Festival. This is the reasoning why they have requested the change.

5.2 Public Consultation Process

Staff undertook a four-week public stakeholder consultation process beginning on Monday, March 14 and concluding on Monday, April 11 to engage community members on the proposed change of the City's official flower from the rose to the peony.

The consultation process was comprised of various engagement initiatives that included the use of Connect Oshawa (www.connectoshawa.ca), the City's online engagement platform. Engagement opportunities included a feedback form available online on Connect Oshawa and on paper through Service Oshawa.

Community members who preferred to complete the feedback form on paper were asked to call Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311 during regular business hours.

The public consultation was promoted to the community and stakeholders through various mediums, including media materials, social media, as well as print and digital promotional material.

5.2.1 Public Response

In total, 284 completed the feedback form through the Connect Oshawa platform.

Note: Standardized questions were used in the online and paper feedback form to ensure consistency.

5.2.2 Findings

Out of the 284 respondents, 83% of the respondents indicated that they are in favour of changing the City flower from the rose to the peony.

Input was received from various age groups, with the bulk of the respondents being between the ages of 65-74 category.

Oshawa residents and/or business/property owners made up 91.2% of the respondents.

The majority of respondents learned about the opportunity via the City's social media channels.

Please refer to Attachment 2 for the feedback form results.

5.3 Proposed Options for the Official Flower

Staff are presenting two (2) options for consideration:

a) Option “A” – Official Flower of the City of Oshawa continues to be a rose

If Option “A” is selected, a rose will continue to be the Official Flower of the City of Oshawa.

If Committee were to choose this option, the following motion should be passed:

1. That Council continue to maintain a rose as the official flower of the City of Oshawa.

b) Option “B” – Official Flower of the City of Oshawa is revised to a peony

If Option “B” is selected, a peony will become the Official Flower of the City of Oshawa.

If Committee were to choose this option, the following motion should be passed:

1. That Council authorize City staff to revise the official flower of the City of Oshawa from a rose to a peony.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report addresses the Oshawa Strategic Plan by responding to the goal of “Accountable Leadership”, specifically the theme of “Deliberate Community Engagement”.



Jim Naumovski, Director,
Recreation and Culture Services



Ron Diskey, Commissioner,
Community Services Department

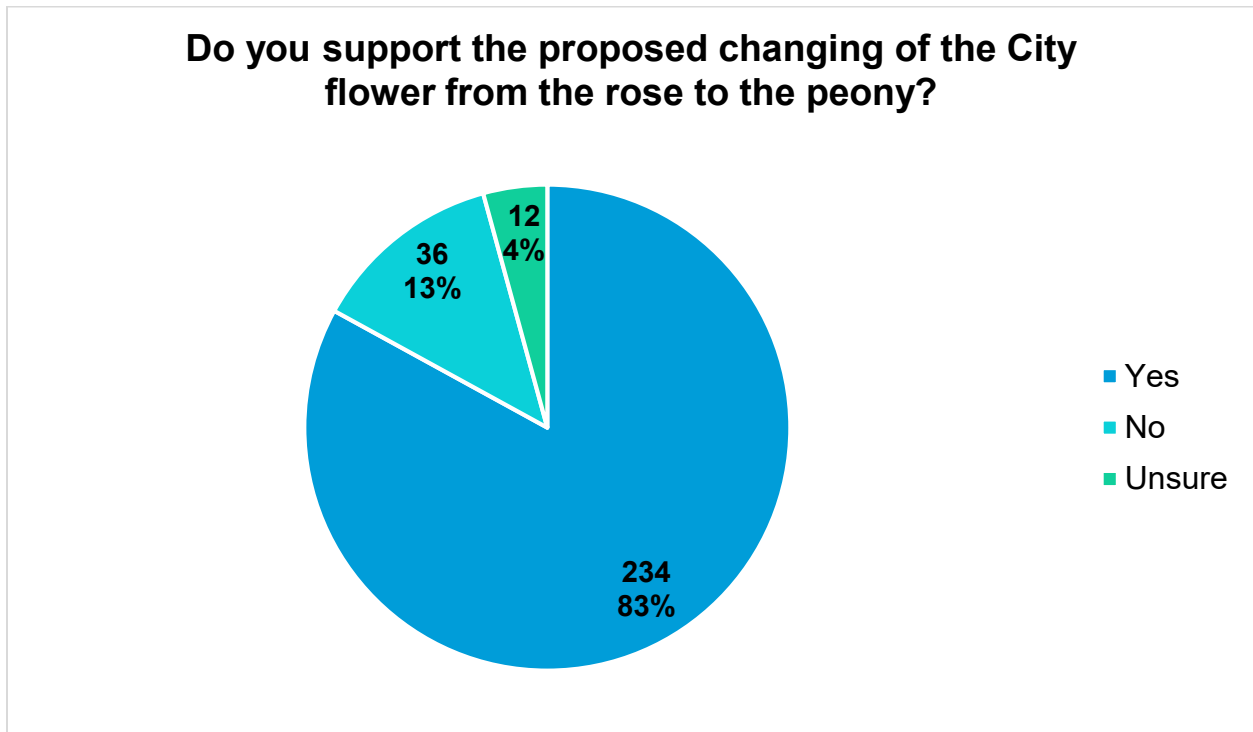
Oshawa Flag Image



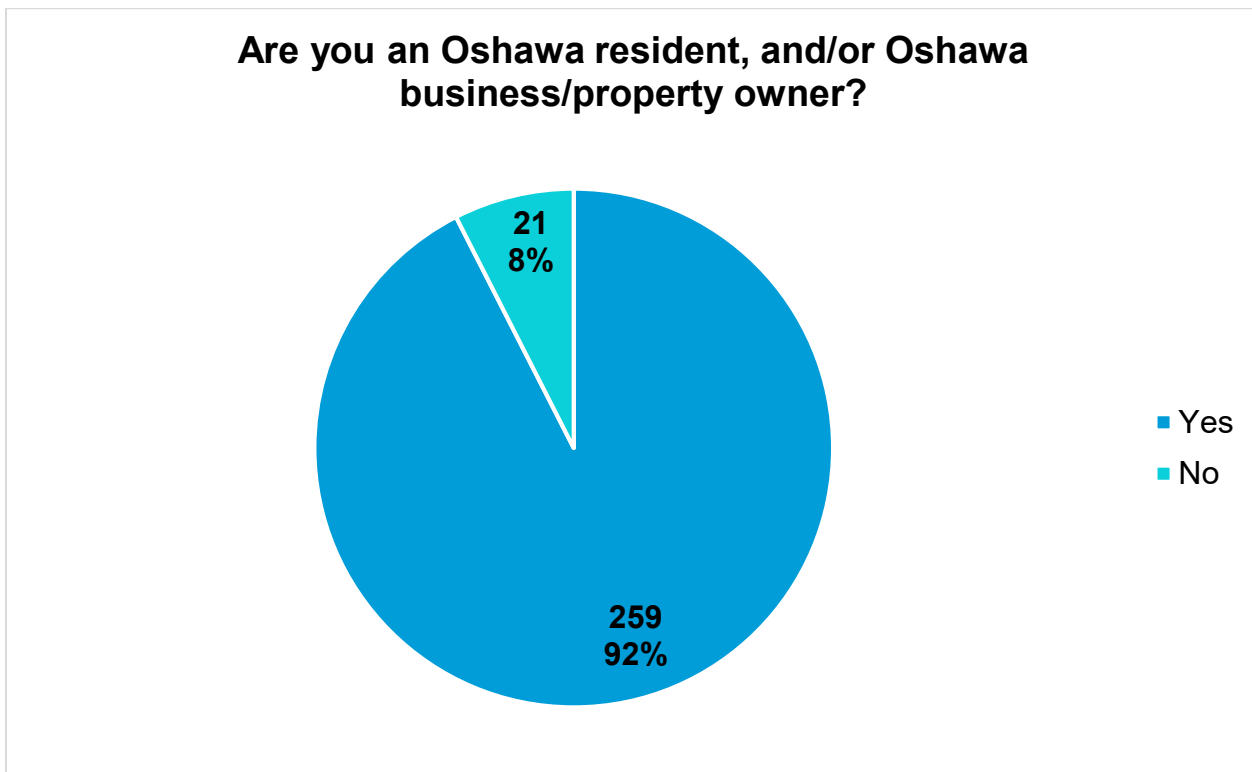
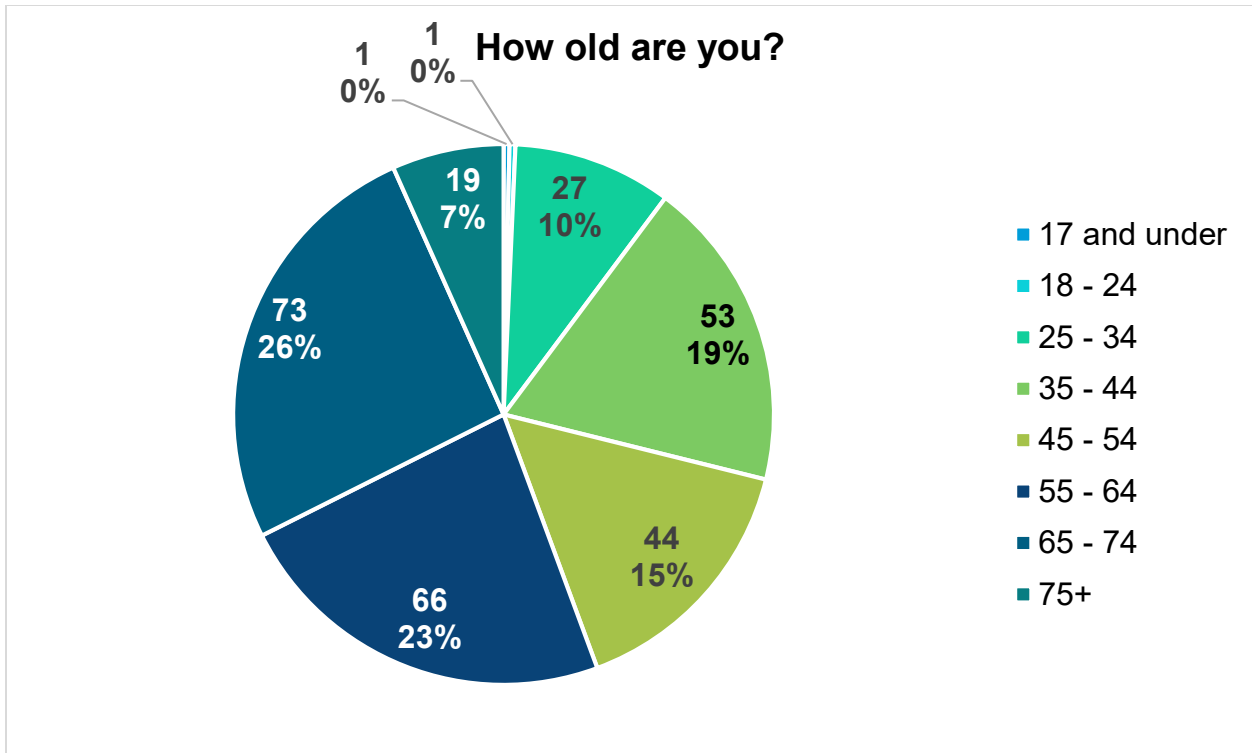
Oshawa's Official Flower: Feedback Form Results

Staff engaged the public to gather information from Oshawa residents and businesses regarding changing Oshawa's official flower from a rose to a peony.

Below are the graphic results of the findings from the feedback opportunity that 284 respondents participated.



Skipped: 2



Skipped: 4

How did you learn about this community engagement opportunity? Select all that apply.

