

TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY

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Press Release

To: Residents/Media/Stakeholders
From: Mayor Larry Braid, Township of Georgian Bay
Date: April 16, 2015
Subject: Raising Special Event Flags
Pages: 1

In response to a number of inquiries about the Committee of the Whole of Council (COW) defeating a motion to raise a Special Event Flag {Muskoka Pride}, the Township of Georgian Bay, in keeping with its' vision statement, has stated that **it will remain a safe and welcoming place.**

The Township of Georgian Bay operates within its Council approved guiding document, the "**Community Based Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015**". Within this plan and under the pillar of Our Society and Culture it states in Strategy 5:

To be a safe, connected community for all residents, ranging from youth to seniors, which recognize that a diversity of lifestyles, health, affordability and the freedom to choose are important assets.

"We are pleased to have Muskoka Pride as a stakeholder in our community" I have spoken to Chair Heather Hay personally, and have whole-heartedly identified that we support Muskoka Prides efforts for ensuring that inclusion and diversity in our Township can be safely expressed.

At the April 14th Committee of the Whole of Council (COW) meeting, staff was directed to prepare draft policies and procedures to address protocols, and standards necessary for the raising of "Special Event" banners/flags. The draft policies will be presented on May 12, 2015, where COW will enter into further discussions regarding flag and banner etiquette.

It is with deep regret that the actions of the committee have been misconstrued.

