

Staff Report 2020-0205

Meeting Date: June 9, 2020

Subject: Cancellation of Summer Recreation due to COVID-19

Submitted By: Heather Savage, Manager, Recreation Services, Community Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

That all current summer programs including summer camps be cancelled;

That staff develop a modified version of summer camp programming that is within Recreation's 2020 Council approved Tax Subsidy and in accordance with the Ontario Public Services Health & Safety Association's guidelines;

That the 2020 Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day events be cancelled; and

That staff focus their planning efforts on the 2020 Southfields Grand Opening and the 2021 WinterFest event.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all recreation facilities were closed as of March 14, 2020 until further notice.
- Subsequently, all Spring recreation programs and rentals were cancelled through to July 2, 2020.
- Summer programs are tentatively scheduled to begin on July 6 and there are participants enrolled in various programs such as swimming lessons, summer camps and fitness classes.
- Existing summer programs should be cancelled for 2020.
- The Ontario Public Services Health & Safety Association released guidelines pertaining to the safe delivery of summer camps. Dr. Lou, Peel Medical Officer is in support of Peel municipalities offering camps, provided they are structured in accordance with Provincial guidelines.
- Staff intend to survey existing recreation clients to ensure a more informed choice regarding service delivery during the pandemic.
- Provided summer camps are financial feasible, Town Staff will implement new camp options that incorporate public health measures designed to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Earlier this spring, Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day events were postponed.
- Staff have consulted with the Volunteer and Staff Working Group who both recommend cancelling the 2020 Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day events.
- It is recommended that event planning efforts be focused on the Southfields Community Centre grand opening and the 2021 WinterFest celebration. Both events are scheduled at a time when larger gatherings may potentially be permitted.

DISCUSSION

Summer Programs

On March 14 all Town facilities were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Spring recreation programs and facility rentals have been cancelled through to July 2. Summer programs such as camps and swimming lesson have not been cancelled and there are people registered in the programs.

Based on the Region of Peel, Public Health's recommendations to decrease exposure to stop the spread of the virus, summer recreation programs cannot be delivered in the traditional manner. All 2020 summer programs should be cancelled, and registered participants should receive a full refund.

On June 2, the Ontario Public Services Health & Safety Association released guidelines pertaining to the safe delivery of summer camps. Dr. Lou, Peel Medical Officer of Health, suggests Peel municipalities can offer camps if the programs are structured in accordance with Provincial guidelines.

Staff are confident all guidelines can be met, if not exceeded. And, to make a more informed choice, Staff intend to survey existing recreation clients to gauge whether residents are in need of this service.

Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day

On April 7, Council approved staff's recommendation to postpone the Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day events previously scheduled for June 19 and 20, 2020, due to the pandemic.

The Volunteer and Staff Working Group met twice to work through various scenarios to host the events at a later date. The group also looked at ways to modify the events that would not compromise the quality of the event. After lengthy discussion the group felt it was necessary to cancel the event.

If the Provincial order 'Prohibiting Organized Public Events and Certain gatherings' (O.Reg. 52/20) is lifted and Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day can be held at a later date this year, other challenges occur.

- The event budget heavily relies on alternative revenue sources such as sponsorship and vendor fees. Businesses may not be in a position to support the event.
- There is a limited window of warmer months to host outdoor events. Depending on when the Provincial order is lifted, September and October most likely will be saturated with third-party events.
- To properly implement larger events like Caledon Day, staff would require three months to implement, especially when public health measures would be added to the design of the event.

- Planning for Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day would be difficult at this time. Town staff responsible for the events are currently on Declared Emergency Leave and the return to work date is unknown at this time.

Due to these challenges, Staff recommends that the 2020 Cheers Caledon and Caledon Day events be cancelled. Instead, planning efforts should be focused on the Southfields Grand Opening (tentatively September 2020) and the WinterFest celebration (January 2021). These events are scheduled later and can be the focus of community celebration once the Province and Peel Public Health permits larger gatherings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2019, 179 camp programs were offered in July and August which accumulated over \$525,000 in revenue. However, the costs to run the modified camps will be equal to/or greater than the revenue generated.

Staff will conduct an analysis of the cost to operate modified programming and determine a financially feasible modified camp program, based on Recreation's Council approved 2020 tax subsidy requirement of 49%.

A total of \$3,764.93 in operating supplies were purchased for Caledon Day 2020 which can be used in 2021.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Connected Community: Increase quality of life through shared experiences.

Good Governance: Manage reasonable community expectations.

ATTACHMENTS

None.