



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Parks & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Anthony, Director Parks & Recreation Services

Date to Council: June 9, 2020

Report Number: PRS-2020-15

Subject: Cancellation of Summer Events

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report PRS-2020-15 with respect to the cancellation of summer events **be received**;

And that as a result of the ongoing restrictions to public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic the following 2020 special events **be cancelled**:

Summer Concert Series
Canada Day Celebration
Outdoor Movie Nights
End of Summer Celebration

Executive Summary

Each summer, the Town of Tecumseh hosts a number of community events. Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department has been reviewing scheduled events to determine the feasibility of offering events under the COVID-19 health guidelines.

Although the Province is moving toward the recovery phase that involves the reopening of some businesses and facilities, there remain strict guidelines on the number of people permitted for gatherings. As a result, Administration recommends that the following Town events be cancelled: Summer Concert Series, Canada Day Celebration, Outdoor Movie Nights and End of Summer Celebration. The Tecumseh Corn Fest was addressed in a separate report to Council in April and has now been cancelled for 2020 as well.

To date, minimal expenses have been assessed because of Administration's decision to place a hold on financial commitments towards summer events until further information regarding COVID-19 was known. Any expenses incurred thus far were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

Each year, the Town of Tecumseh is host to a variety of community events; local community groups coordinate events as well as events coordinated directly by the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared globally on March 11, 2020 and the Ontario Premier declared a state of emergency on March 17, 2020, the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department has been reviewing scheduled events to determine the feasibility of offering events under the COVID-19 guidelines. Over the last several months, the Town has announced the cancellation of events including the Town's Earth Day Celebration, the Optimist Club's Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks, the Taste of Tecumseh Festival and most recently the Tecumseh Corn Festival.

Although the Province is moving toward the recovery phase that involves the reopening of some businesses and facilities, there remain strict guidelines on the number of people permitted for gathering.

Comments

As a result of the current health restrictions, the Town has reviewed the upcoming summer events schedule and is recommending that the following Town events be cancelled:

Summer Concert Series

The annual Summer Concert Series that offers free outdoor concerts at Lakewood Park was originally scheduled to begin on June 14, 2020; however, a decision to cancel all programming in June, including three summer concerts, was announced in early May. A total of six (6) concerts were re-scheduled to begin in July and included scheduled performances by Beebo Music, The Fontaines, Leave Those Kids Alone, Stilletto Fire, Allesandro Rotondi, Norm Ackland Jr, Midlife Jazz, and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra.

Administration considered opportunities to continue to offer the Summer Concert Series by marking off areas within the park to promote physical distancing, however, this was reconsidered out of caution for the inability to control attendance numbers safely, and to observe the no social gathering of over five individuals.

Canada Day Celebration

The annual Canada Day Celebration at Lakewood Park, scheduled on July 1, is a free community event that includes family friendly activities including bouncy castles, lawn games, music, balloon twisting, face painting, stage performances, and more. The event attracts hundreds of families each year.

In lieu of the Town's Canada Day celebration, Administration will be promoting a Virtual Canada Day 2020 Celebration hosted by the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage will be hosting a Virtual National Canada Day Celebration that includes live broadcasts at noon and in the evening that will include performances from across Canada. A link to the National Canada Day will be available on the Town website for residents to access and will include a number of links to a variety of at home Canadian themed activities. In addition, the Virtual National Canada Day Celebration will include a virtual fireworks display for residents to enjoy from the safety of their own backyards.

Outdoor Movie Nights

Since 2016, the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Youth Advisory Committee and Essex Power Corporation has offered two (2) free Outdoor Movie Nights. These evenings have attracted up to 100 audience members to the park for each showing. This year, movie nights were scheduled for August 8 and September 4.

Administration considered opportunities to continue to offer the outdoor movie nights by marking off areas within the park to promote physical distancing, however, this was reconsidered out of caution for the inability to control attendance numbers safely, and to observe the no social gathering of over five individuals.

End of Summer Celebration

Since 2017, the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department has coordinated an End of Summer Celebration that includes a free evening of activities at Lakewood Park including a musical performance under the park gazebo, bonfires on the beach with complimentary marshmallows to roast, and a fireworks display presented by K & H Distributing. The event attracts a very large crowd and attendance has increased each year.

Administration considered opportunities to continue to offer the End of Summer Celebration by amending the event to offer the concert and fireworks (no bonfire / marshmallows); however, this was reconsidered out of caution for the inability to control attendance numbers safely, and to observe the no social gathering of over five individuals.

Consultations

Local Health Officials

Financial Implications

The above listed events are included in the Special Events (7790) budget. As of the date of this report, minimal expenses have been assessed as a result of Administration's decision to place a hold on financial commitments to summer events until further information regarding COVID-19 was known. Any expenses incurred were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The chart below reflects the 2020 Approved Budget, 2020 Year-To-Date Actuals, and Year-To-Date Variance.

Special Events (7790) General Operating Budget	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Year-To- Date Actuals	Year-To-Date Variance
Revenues	\$2,800	\$0	-\$2,800
Expenditures	\$31,669	\$90	-\$31,579
Net Expenditures	\$28,869	\$90	-\$28,779

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable 2019-22 Strategic Priorities

- ☐ Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
- ☒ Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
- ☐ Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
- ☐ Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
- ☐ Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐ Social Media ☐ News Release ☐ Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Kerri Rice
Manager Recreation Programs & Events

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None