



## 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 23, 2020

**Report Number:** PRS-2020-16

**Subject:** Cancellation of Summer Recreation Programs

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report PRS-2020-16 with respect to the cancellation of summer recreation programs **be received;**

**And that** as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that the summer recreation programs, including the Tecumseh Summer Day Camp and the Tecumseh Leisure Pool, **be cancelled.**

### Executive Summary

Each year, the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department offers registered summer recreational programming including a Day Camp and learn to swim programming at the Leisure Pool.

On June 8, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced regional specific Stage 2 re-opening starting June 12, 2020 that includes Community Centres and Water Recreational Facilities, however, Windsor-Essex County was not included and remains under Stage 1 guidelines.

As a result of the current health restrictions, Administration has reviewed the upcoming summer programming schedule and is recommending that the Summer Day Camp and Tecumseh Leisure Pool programs (learn to swim and recreational swims) be cancelled.

## **Background**

Each summer, the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department offers the following registered summer recreational programming:

### **Summer Day Camp:**

The Tecumseh Summer Day Camp program provides supervised structured programming for children ages 5 to 12 during the summer school break. The program is offered Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and incorporates programmed activities such as sports, games, crafts, movies, hot lunches, and field trips. The Day Camp employs up to eight students as well as an additional four high school students through a partnership with the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board's Youth in Community grant. Typically, the Day Camp program is coordinated for one (1) week at the Tecumseh Recreation Complex & Arena followed by six (6) weeks at St. Pius X School (as part of the Focus on Youth grant program) and then returns to the Arena complex for the final two (2) weeks of summer. In 2019, the Day Camp supervised up to 70 children each day (while at St. Pius X school facility) and 50 children each day (while at the Arena) throughout the summer.

### **Learn to Swim Lessons and Recreational Swims:**

The Tecumseh Leisure Pool, located within Lacasse Park, operates seasonally and offers recreational swimming and learn to swim lessons throughout June, July and August for swimmers of all ages. The Leisure Pool usually employs up to 25 students each year that are certified lifeguards through the Lifesaving Society. In 2019, close to 1,000 registrants participated in 250 learn to swim programs and over 6,500 swimmers enjoyed recreational swims (open swim, adult lengths, aquafit, and tot time).

On June 8, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced regional specific Stage 2 re-opening as of June 12, 2020 that includes the opportunity to open Community Centres with limited or modified on-site recreational programs and Water Recreational Facilities including outdoor swimming pools, at the discretion of the operators. However, Windsor-Essex County was not included in the Stage 2 announcement and remains under Stage 1 guidelines.

## **Comments**

The Ontario government's Stage 2 framework for reopening includes parameters to offer summer day camp programs and public outdoor swimming. In anticipation of Windsor-Essex County moving into Stage 2, Administration has reviewed guidelines and recommendations for offering a summer day camp program as well as programming at the Tecumseh Leisure Pool to determine if these programs can be provided safely to the community. Upon review of the guidelines and taking into consideration the format of the programs, the facilities where the programs are conducted, the staffing levels required for the programs and the program operating costs, Administration is recommending that the 2020 Summer Day Camp and Tecumseh Leisure Pool programs (learn to swim and recreational swims) be cancelled.

## **Summer Day Camp:**

The guidelines released by the Ministry of Health for Day Camps are reflected in Appendix 1.

As indicated in the guidelines, the space requirements to host a Day Camp under COVID-19 must allow additional spacing to ensure physical distancing. The use of St. Pius X school is not an option for the Day Camp this summer (the facility has been closed for use since the Province closed the schools due to COVID-19 in March) therefore the program would have to utilize the Tecumseh Recreation Complex & Arena (Arena). Unfortunately, the Arena does not have sufficient space to accommodate the program because the facility does not have a gymnasium, it only has two (2) small program rooms, and the rink floors are currently set up for the flood transfer centre. These limited spaces within the Arena do not allow for the program to ensure physical distancing is maintained. Furthermore, in order to meet the requirements for limiting cohorts of no more than 10 individuals, including both staff and camp participants, registrations would be limited to a maximum of 16 participants per day. With the limited registration, the program revenues would not cover program expenses.

## **Tecumseh Leisure Pool:**

Recommendations released by the Lifesaving Society to re-open aquatic facilities are reflected in Appendix 2.

In order to meet the requirements as outlined in the recommendations, the learn to swim programs at the Tecumseh Leisure Pool would be significantly reduced and the most popular programs for the primary school aged children would not be offered because physical distancing cannot be maintained between the instructors and the participants. Additionally, leadership programs that provide training to become a lifeguard and swim instructor would not be offered because physical distancing cannot be maintained. In addition, the number of swimmers permitted in the facility for recreational swims would be reduced by 75% and would not cover the costs for the lifeguards. Furthermore, the costs to maintain the pool's mechanical system would far exceed any revenues collected to operate the facility.

## **Consultations**

Financial Services  
Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Guidance: Summer Day Camps  
Lifesaving Society, Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts

## **Financial Implications**

As of the date of this report, minimal expenses have been assessed to both the Recreation Programs budget (7501) and Leisure Pool budget (7550) as a result of Administration's decision to place a hold on financial commitments to summer programs until further information on COVID-19 was known.

The Day Camp program is included in the Recreation Programs (7501) budget. Expenses incurred to date are fixed expenses reflective of salary, memberships and computer software and these will continue to be incurred therefore affecting the overall year-end variance.

Recreation Programs (7501) General Operating Budget	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Year-To- Date Actuals	Year-To-Date Variance
Revenues	\$110,900	\$350	-\$110,550
Expenditures	\$221,487	\$53,948	-\$167,539
Net Expenditures	\$110,587	\$53,598	-\$56,989

The Tecumseh Leisure Pool budget includes revenues from the sale of swim passes for the Seniors Community Grant program; these swim passes will be honoured next season. Year to date expenses incurred reflect facility maintenance salary, repairs associated with seasonal maintenance, hydro, insurance and computer software. Some additional maintenance expenses will be incurred over the remainder of the season therefore affecting the overall year-end variance.

Pool (7550) General Operating Budget	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Year-To- Date Actuals	Year-To-Date Variance
Revenues	\$154,500	\$1,327	-\$153,173
Expenditures	\$261,699	\$15,726	-\$245,973
Net Expenditures	\$107,199	\$14,399	-\$92,800

## 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:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm  
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA  
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1	COVID-19 Guidance: Summer Day Camps
2	Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts, Lifesaving Society guidelines for reopening aquatic facilities after COVID-19 closure