



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: July 28, 2020

Report Number: PRS-2020-18

Subject: Stage 2 Reopening of Services – Tecumseh Arena

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Council receive Report PRS-2020-18 Stage 2 Reopening of Services - Tecumseh Arena;

And that the Scenario 1 strategy for resumption of services at the Tecumseh Arena outlined in the Financial Implications section of the report, **be approved**.

Executive Summary

This report sets a strategy with alternative scenarios for Stage 2 resumption of services at Tecumseh Arena. The recommended scenario involves reopening one ice surface for rentals as of August 10th, 2020 with the second pad reopening in September.

There have been challenges in developing this strategy due to lack of clarity in some of the regulations, different interpretation of the regulations across the sector, the speed at which the Province changes direction and managing public expectations. The strategy provides a “Made in Tecumseh” approach to adopt services that will meet our residents needs while maintaining compliance with Provincial regulations.

Background

On March 17th, 2020 the Premier of Ontario declared a state of emergency throughout Ontario related to COVID 19 under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Following the Provincial directive, on March 17th the Town closed all Town facilities to the general public and user groups, including the Tecumseh Arena.

As a result of the closure and the Town's need to assist residents during a flood emergency, both ice surfaces, A and B, at the Tecumseh Arena have been planned as the Town's Emergency Flood Information/Transfer Centre. Rink A is planned to receive residents from the flooded area as a brief transfer point until they can organize to get to their temporary shelter. Rink B was set-up specifically to receive any resident showing COVID-19 symptoms or a COVID-19 positive resident in order to separate these individuals from any of the other evacuees. As flooding continues to be a threat to our community, the strategy to partially reopen the Arena for recreational use has to account for this important role. An alternate location for the Emergency Flood Information/Transfer Centre has been arranged in cooperation with the Legion.

During the time the arena has been closed, staff have had the opportunity to undertake a number of projects and improvements to the facility, as well as assisting with maintenance and cleaning of other town facilities as required.

All 2020 approved capital projects have been completed, including: replacement of spectator netting in Rink B, installation of a building environment control system, replacement of Rink A brine pump and chiller, second floor kitchen renovations and new door installation for referee's room. Capital repairs were also completed replacing Rink B supply brine line and replacing the water main supply line to the facility when leaks were discovered in these utilities.

Numerous other projects were undertaken such as completing a deep clean of entire facility, painting all hallways and dressing rooms, repair work to walls in various locations within the facility, replacement of hallway fixtures with new LED lights and stripping and waxing of all floors. Work was also undertaken by Arena staff at the St. Clair Beach Community Centre, including: patching and repainting of the entire facility, stripping and waxing of all floors and a deep clean.

The arena facility was also used during the Miracle food drive to receive and store food and goods collected in Tecumseh on June 27th. A significant amount of product was accumulated at the arena and the large parking lot and drive-through configuration worked well to stream a steady flow of vehicles dropping off goods that day. Our ability to store product at the arena gave organizers the time needed to arrange to transfer the goods to the receiving agencies.

On June 24th, it was announced by the Province of Ontario that Windsor - Essex County minus Leamington and Kingsville would be moving to Stage 2 of the "Framework to Re-Open the Province effective Thursday June 25th (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/framework-reopening-our-province-stage-2>). This news was very encouraging and an indication that things were moving in a more positive direction reflective of COVID-19.

Town staff have reviewed different scenarios to re-designing our services in order to meet the new regulations. Consideration has been given to information provided in various guidance documents, advice from Windsor-Essex County Public Health Unit (WECHU), and understanding community expectations and demand. Other balancing factors, include, but are not limited to financial viability, placement of activities within the Tecumseh Arena facility and protecting the safety of staff and the public.

The information below summarizes the Ontario regulation as it pertains to the services that can now be offered at the Tecumseh Arena under Stage 2:

Indoor Sports and Recreational Fitness Activities

- Facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities, including gymnasiums, yoga and dance studios and other fitness facilities are closed.
- Facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities may open for the purpose of being used by one or more of the following organizations, leagues or clubs to train amateur or professional athletes or to run amateur or professional athletic competitions:
 - A national sport organization funded by Sport Canada or a member club of such an organization.
 - A provincial sport or multi-sport organization recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries or a member club of such an organization.
 - Any national sport organization that is a member of, or is recognized by, either the Canadian Olympic Committee or the Canadian Paralympic Committee or a member club of such an organization.

The Emergency order was further amended to allow additional indoor sport and recreation activities to take place, increasing the number of businesses and organizations that can access facilities for training purposes.

Businesses and organizations who wish to use facilities in order to train amateur and professional athletes are no longer required to be affiliated with the following governing bodies of sport:

- National Sport Organization funded by Sport Canada; a Provincial Sport or Multi-sport organization recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries, an Organization that is recognized by the Canadian Olympic Committee or the Canadian Paralympic Committee, or a member club of such organizations.

Comments

While circumstances have been unusual, with many factors outside of Tecumseh's control, Staff have approached the opportunity to reopen by applying the following guiding principles to our decision making:

- Safety of staff and public is paramount;
- Continuation in the delivery of essential public services;
- Responding to the needs of the community as the pandemic evolves;
- Fiscal responsibility and appropriate use of taxpayers funding.

Municipalities across Ontario have been working together as much as possible to re-design the services traditionally offered in parks and recreation. This has included consultation with Parks & Recreation Ontario, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, review of Provincial guidance documents, policies and protocols with industry experts, and working with our WECHU.

In addition to the Provincial Directives, staff has also reviewed the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Guidelines regarding safe operation of facilities including capacity limitations, sanitation recommendations and other operational considerations to ensure all requirements are met.

There have been challenges in developing this strategy due to lack of clarity in some of the regulations, different interpretation of the regulations across the sector, the speed at which the Province changes direction and managing public expectations. The strategy provides a “Made in Tecumseh” approach to adopt services that will meet our residents needs while maintaining compliance with Provincial regulations.

Municipalities across the Province are taking various approaches under Stage 2 regarding reopening facilities: some are staying closed while others are operating for limited hours or reopening with regular hours.

Staff are recommending a phased approach to the Tecumseh Arena re-opening based on demand, financial considerations, safety and program coordination. Reopening to the public would commence effective August 10th. The recommendation is to move forward under Scenario 1 – one ice pad available in August and both pads available from September onward reflective of demand. Details of the reopening of Tecumseh Arena are included Attachment 1, Business Plan for Resumption of Services Tecumseh Arena.

Should Council give favourable consideration to Scenario 1, Administration will adjust plans to accommodate the Emergency Flood Information/Transfer Centre to the alternate location, which is at the Legion. Arrangements have been made with Legion representatives to use their facility in the event of a flood emergency.

Pending Council’s decision, staff will start the installation of ice on August 4th into Rink B to be ready for August 10 ice rentals.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer
Financial Services
Parks & Recreation Services
Arena User Groups

Financial Implications

The 2020 Arena Operating Budget as approved in December 2019 called for a net expenditure of \$571,000.

Following the closure of the arena in March of 2020, cost containment measures were put in place to minimize the impact of COVID-19. The cost containment measures have been significant, however cannot offset the complete loss of revenue for three quarters of the year. The projected year-end net expenditure under continued closure of the arena is estimated at \$811,000.

This report considers re-opening of services at the arena based on a business plan that includes possible scenarios assuming the Town is able to move from Stage 2 to Stage 3 prior to September. The two scenarios considered include:

Scenario 1: One ice pad available in August and both ice pads available from September onward, and,

Scenario 2: No ice pad available in August and both ice pads available from September onward.

The two possible opening scenarios considered above are not expected to produce significantly different results. Either of the opening scenarios is expected to reduce the current projected net expenditure by approximately \$115,000 compared to leaving the arena closed. This would result in a net expenditure of \$696,000 for the year rather than the net expenditure of \$571,000 in the approved budget.

A more fulsome financial update will be provided with the 2nd quarter variance which will be included in the agenda package for the August 11th Regular meeting of Council.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

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

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachment
Number**

**Attachment
Name**

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Resumption of Service Tecumseh Arena – Business Plan