



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: September 8, 2020

Report Number: PRS-2020-22

Subject: Tecumseh Arena Canteen Services

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the Tecumseh arena canteen service remain closed for the remainder of 2020, and the whole of 2021.

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.

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.

At the July 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council, the members considered the Stage 2 Reopening of Services - Tecumseh Arena in report PRS 2020-18 and passed Motion (RCM-233/20) which reads as follows:

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**

Scenario 1 strategy – one ice pad available in August and both pads available from September onward reflective of demand.

On August 10th, it was announced by the Province of Ontario that Windsor - Essex County would be moving to Stage 3 of the “Framework to Re-Open the Province” effective Wednesday August 12th, 2020 at 12.01 am. Moving to Stage 3 allowed for up to 50 individuals at one time in each Rink A and Rink B.

Comments

Adapting to the new and evolving normal, reflective of the effect COVID-19 has had on municipal services, specifically in the case of the Parks & Recreation Department, Administration has undertaken a review of the Tecumseh Arena operations and traditional services offered within the facility.

Changes will be required to ensure a safe environment for users, visitors and staff and may result in the reduction of some traditional services such as concession services.

New Provincial guidelines reflective of COVID-19, provide direction to municipalities and their user groups as to what services and programs can be offered within an indoor recreation facility such as the Tecumseh Arena. With restrictions on the number of individuals allowed at one time inside any indoor recreational facility, and the uncertainty of when those numbers may increase or decrease, the first service that was reviewed was the canteen/food service.

Traditionally, the demand for food service in a recreation facility is driven by programming and in most cases is offered during events that bring in large numbers of people, such as junior hockey games, minor hockey games, figure skating competitions, special events, and public skating.

All sport organizations have had to change their historical program offerings reflecting COVID-19 restrictions. Under Hockey Canada directions, minor hockey which is the Arena’s largest user group, is not allowed to play traditional games of 5 on 5, and is restricted to playing inside a league bubble of no more than 50 people.

The review of canteen services has considered the following:

- During the past two (2) years of normal operations, the canteen has operated at a deficit. As outlined in the following bullets, reduced revenues and increased costs are expected to increase the operational deficit.
- In 2020, and expected for 2021, the reduction in programming, limits on the number of people inside the arena, elimination of potential gathering points and the need to move people quickly in and out of the Arena has led to the conclusion that the clientele for canteen services is and will be greatly diminished as will revenues.

- Moreover, the physical distancing rules and the need to reduce contact with surfaces and shared items further complicates the ability to safely operate the canteen for the public and for staff and is expected to drive costs.

Traditionally, canteen operations open during the second week of September aligning with the return of minor hockey, figure skating and public skating programming, and close during the last week of March, which aligns with the end of these programs.

Administration is recommending that the Tecumseh Arena canteen services not be reopened for the fall 2020, as well as remaining closed for 2021 (January-December). Any food services offered during this time will be done through the facility vending machines, which will be sanitized regularly.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer
Financial Services
Parks & Recreation Services

Financial Implications

The 2020 canteen budget was approved with a projected operational deficit of \$1,735.

Due to COVID-19, canteen operations were closed on March 17th, 2020. As a result of the early closure, two weeks of regular ice programming, three local tournaments and one high school provincial hockey tournament were cancelled, which resulted in a decrease in revenue. Unfortunately, some of the inventory had already been purchased for these events and the suppliers were not allowing any return of product. This product was donated to charitable food services instead.

At the end of June, canteen operations showed an operational deficit of \$8,262, which is an increase of \$6,527 over approved budget.

Based on Council's favourable consideration of Administration's recommendation to keep canteen services closed, the year end operational deficit would remain at \$8,262.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
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- 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:

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
None	N/A