



## 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:** October 13, 2020

**Report Number:** PRS-2020-13

**Subject:** Cancellation of Christmas in Tecumseh Activities

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report PRS-2020-13 with respect to the cancellation of Christmas in Tecumseh Activities **be received**;

**And that** as a result of the ongoing restrictions to public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic that the 2020 Christmas in Tecumseh and Santa Parade event **be cancelled**.

### Background

Each year, the Tecumseh Parks and Recreation Department (Department) hosts Christmas in Tecumseh and Santa Parade (CIT), an annual holiday celebration that includes an evening of free family-friendly activities such as public skating, outdoor movie, marshmallow roasting, caroling, and Santa parade.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared globally on March 11, 2020 and the ensuing Provincial and local state of emergency declarations, the Department has reviewed the feasibility of offering events under evolving COVID-19 restrictions and guidance. As Council will recall, the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of summer events.

At the June 9, 2020 Regular Council Meeting of Council, the members passed motion (RCM-126/20) which reads as follows:

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 special events be cancelled: Summer Concert Series, Canada Day Celebration, Outdoor Movie Nights, End of Summer Celebration.

## **Comments**

CIT is a large, one-evening event that typically attracts hundreds of families to partake in a variety of holiday festivities offered throughout the Town Centre Park area and within the Tecumseh Recreation Complex and Arena. The Santa Parade, a highlight of the event, attracts spectators along the entire parade route as they enjoy colourful floats, marching bands and a wave from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

With the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions for gatherings, both indoors and outdoors, the Department has reviewed the feasibility of offering the annual holiday celebration, including opportunities to modify the program. However, due to several challenges including staffing and volunteer requirements, limiting attendance, and the ability to secure entertainment such as marching bands, it is recommended that the 2020 event be cancelled.

The Department will continue to explore opportunities to offer modified programming that will provide holiday entertainment while ensuring public health guidelines are followed.

## **Consultations**

Financial Services

## **Financial Implications**

As of the date of this report, no expenses have been assessed to the Christmas in Tecumseh (7720) budget. Any modified programming offered will be done well within the 2020 budget.

## 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 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:

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

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
None	None