

 <b>COBOURG</b>	<b>THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG</b>	
	<b>STAFF REPORT</b>	
TO:	Mayor John Henderson and Members of Council	
FROM:	Teresa Behan	
TITLE:	Deputy Director, Community Services Division	
DATE OF MEETING:	November 16, 2020	
TITLE / SUBJECT:	Rotary Harbourfront Park – Outdoor Ice Surface	
REPORT #		File #:

### 1.0 **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Town of Cobourg Strategic Plan (2019-2022) includes the following Strategic Actions:

- **People – Encourage Healthy Lifestyle across all age groups by promoting and raising awareness about public health and active transportation**
  - Invest in programs, services and infrastructure to make Cobourg more accessible; and
- **Programs – The Town provides efficient and effective corporate, community, business and recreational services for its residents, businesses and visitors**
  - Implement a comprehensive management plan for all of the Town's assets

### 2.0 **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

None

### 3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receive this report for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council provide direction to Staff by approving one of the following recommendations to be implemented for the 2020-2021 Outdoor Rink Season:

Option A: THAT Council authorize municipal staff to cancel the planned installation of the Outdoor Rink / Transit shelter opening at Rotary Harbourfront Park annually scheduled for mid- December due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

Option B: THAT Council authorize municipal staff to open the outdoor rink as soon as weather permits, that signs be posted for social distancing rules and that the transit shelter remain closed for the 2020-2021 season;

Option C: THAT Council authorize municipal staff to open the outdoor rink as soon as the weather permits and that the transit shelter also be opened for the duration of the outdoor rink being operated for the 2020-2021 season.

4.0 **ORIGIN**

Community Services Division

5.0 **BACKGROUND**

The Town of Cobourg’s Recreation and Culture Department has been operating through the COVID-19 pandemic with reduced staffing levels and a scaled back programming schedule since March 2020. The decision had been made to not operate the Fountain in Rotary Harbourfront Park, or transit shelter this summer.

Each winter the outdoor ice surface is installed in Rotary Harbourfront Park in December and is open until approximately March (largely dependent on weather conditions). It is a recreational opportunity for local residents and tourists to skate outside, free of charge, through the winter season. Though it is not staff supervised, the Parks department maintain the rink daily, with ice resurfacing and safety checks. By-Law Officers and Cobourg Police perform intermittent checks at the site to ensure users are being respectful of others, while also complying with amenity rules to ensure a healthy and safe experience for all users.

6.0 **ANALYSIS**

Staff have completed a municipal scan with respect to outdoor ice surfaces and was able to confirm that most municipalities will try to open their outdoor rinks weather permitting.

However many municipalities have not yet reached formal decisions yet regarding their outdoor rink and are still reviewing the use of these amenities for the 2020/2021 winter season.

7.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Options</b>	<b>Operating Cost Start-up and Hydro</b>	<b>Additional Staff</b>	<b>Additional Cost (Signs, Enhanced Cleaning Products etc)</b>	<b>Total Cost or Savings</b>
A - Do not open	(\$27,000)	None	None	(\$27,000)
B - Ice rink only	\$27,000	None	\$1,000	\$28,000
C - Ice rink and transit shelter open	\$30,000	\$20,240*	\$5,000	\$55,240

If Council chooses to pursue option A: not installing and operating the ice at this time, it will result in cost savings of \$ 27,000.00. Seasonally, the outdoor ice surface costs roughly \$10,000 to install and maintain for roughly 4 months (weather permitting) with utilities averaging \$17,000 per season.

Should Council decides option B; to open the outdoor ice surface but keep the transit shelter closed, there will be minimal cost increases to ensure that the appropriate COVID

signage is in place, and that benches are put in place for people to put on and take off their skates. The cost of opening is already included in the approved 2020 municipal budget.

If council decides on option C: to open the rink and the transit shelter, additional staff would have to be hired to monitor and provide enhanced COVID cleaning protocols for this this area. The outdoor rink / transit shelter operating hours are 6:00 am until 10:00 pm seven days a week. Staffing the transit shelter would require an additional 112 staffing hours a week resulting in an additional operating cost of approximately \$ 19,152.00 for twelve weeks.

8.0 **CONCLUSION**

That Cobourg Council decide on their preferred option for service delivery with respect to the outdoor rink, and direct staff to implement Council's decision for the 2020/2021 season.

9.0 **POLICIES AFFECTING THIS PROPOSAL**

N/A

10.0 **COMMUNICATION RESULTS**

A press release will be sent out from the Communications Department and promoted on the appropriate social media channels.

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Signing Official:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Deputy Director, Community Services	T. Behan	Electronic	November 4, 2020
Chief Administrative Officer	T. Vaughan		