

STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



Report to:	Mayor and Council Members	Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
Submitted by:	Teresa Behan, Deputy Director of Community Services	Meeting Type:	Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting Date:	February 16, 2021		
Report No.:	[Report Number]		
Submit comments to Council			

Subject/Title: Outdoor rink at Sinclair Park

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive this report for information purposes;

and FURTHER THAT Council revoke the motion of Council on January 11, with respect to opening an outdoor rink at Sinclair Park,

and FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to operate free public skating at the CCC from February 18, 2021 to March 20, 2021 for two hours each day and

FURTHER THAT Council redirect the \$ 5,000.00 from Sinclair Park to the CCC to offset the cost of providing free public skating.

1. 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. 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. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Not Applicable

3. PURPOSE

4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

Community Services Division

5. BACKGROUND

On January 11, 2021 Council passed the following motion

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Monday January 4th, 2021, Council considered a memo from the Deputy Director of Community Services, regarding an additional Outdoor Ice Rink option in the Town of Cobourg;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the construction of an outdoor rink at Sinclair Park after the conclusion of the Provincial lockdown and when weather conditions allow;

and FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to include signage advising adherence to public health guidelines;

and FURTHER THAT a booking system be used if deemed appropriate by Council upon the advice of the Emergency Control Group to manage numbers at the Sinclair rink with enforcement checks if necessary;

and FURTHER THAT a budget of \$5,000 be pre-approved for the Sinclair rink in the 2021 Operating Budget;

and FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to extend the opening hours as much as possible at the outdoor rink in Rotary Harbourfront Park to accommodate additional bookings for the duration of the Provincial lockdown.

The Provincial Government will be lifting the stay at home order on Tuesday February 16, 2021 and staff will be able to open the CCC following the provincial guidelines. The CCC will open to the public on February 17, 2021 at 8:00 am.

6. ANALYSIS

With the Provincial Lockdown being lifted on February 16, 2021 staff have the opportunity to open the CCC to the public. The re-opening of the CCC and maintaining the operations of the outdoor rink will require our full staff group. We do not currently have the staff resources to also manage an additional outdoor rink at Sinclair Park.

Staff are proposing to open the CCC, on February 16, to staff, February 17 to ice rentals and on February 18, start a free public skating program for two hours each day, seven days a week.

This program would operate the same as the outdoor rink, it would require pre-registration through booking online or by phone and each slot would be limited to 25 people on the ice and for a twenty-five minute slot. This process would ensure that staff are still managing screening procedures and contact tracing which is the responsibility of the municipality. To manage the safe exit and entrance procedures of all patrons, and to manage building occupancy numbers within the framework staff have designed time separations between each session. These buffer times will also allow for the enhanced cleaning protocols that are currently required.

The available time slots at the CCC are as follows:

Monday to Friday	Saturday and Sunday
3:00 pm to 3:25 pm	10:00 am to 10:25 am
3:35 pm to 4:10 pm	10:35 am to 11:10 am
4:20 pm to 4:45pm	11:20 am to 11:45 am

The ice surface at the CCC offers an enhanced user experience to an outdoor rink, in the following ways: it is fully accessible ensuring that all patrons regardless of physical ability can access this recreational opportunity. The additional infrastructure of rink boards and related amenities also make for a more user friendly experience, encouraging skaters of all abilities to partake in the activities. The ice surface is not weather dependent and as such patrons will be able to access the opportunity regardless of weather conditions, and always have a quality ice surface to enjoy.

Staff would continue to operate the existing outdoor rink until unable to do so, based on weather conditions. Traditionally the outdoor rink is not usually operational in March. Staff are recommending that we increase the number of patrons allowed on the ice surface to 20, in keeping with the requirement for social distancing measures.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

To operate two hours of free public skating at the CCC, the cost in lost ice rental is as follows:

Monday to Friday	44 hours of ice (non-prime)	\$ 4,180.00
Saturday and Sundays	18 hours of ice (minor sports rate)	\$ 2,817.00
	Total	\$ 6,997.00

This loss in revenue is assuming that all of the public skating hours would be rented.

8. CONCLUSION

That Cobourg Council directs staff to provide two hours of public skating each day starting on February 18, 2021 at no cost until March 20, 2021 and that the \$

5,000.00 placed in the 2021 budget for an outdoor rink at Sinclair Park be transferred to the CCC budget to offset the cost of operating free public skating.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	ccc opening.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 12, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer - Feb 12, 2021 - 4:35 PM