

**DATE:** March 15, 2021

**REPORT NO:** REC-02-2021

**SUBJECT:** **West Lincoln Community Centre & Recreation Services  
COVID-19 Update**

**CONTACT:** Wendy Beaty, Coordinator of Recreation Services  
Mike DiPaola, P.Eng. Director of Public Works and Recreation

**OVERVIEW:**

- The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on the West Lincoln Community Centre and community events over the past year and to provide an update on upcoming Recreation Services' programs and events based on the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That, Report REC-02-2021, re: West Lincoln Community Centre & Recreation Services COVID-19 Update, dated March 15, 2021, be received for information.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**Theme # 2:**

- Support for Business, Opportunities for Residents – Creating a positive image and a community where it is easy to do business.

**Theme # 4:**

- Local Attractions – Providing amenities, programs and services that bring the community together.

**Theme # 5:**

- Community Health and Safety – West Lincoln continues to be a safe community where all residents are supported to thrive throughout their lives.

**BACKGROUND:**

***Spring 2020 Closure***

On Friday March 13th 2020, the Township partially activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. At that time the Township

enacted a series of closures such as programs/events, camps, and facilities which included the West Lincoln Community Centre.

On June 12, 2020, the Township made the difficult decision to not offer the summer camp program.

### ***Re-opening 2020***

On June 26th, 2020, improvements to COVID-19 case counts and spread allowed for the Township to re-open the Splash Pad at the Community Centre under the guidelines from the Province and Niagara Region Public Health.

West Lincoln joined with all municipalities across the Niagara Region to present a virtual Canada Day event on July 1st, 2020.

On August 10th, 2020, the Walking Track at the Community Centre was re-opened with reduced hours and new restrictions for use and capacity.

The annual Harvest Routes event was presented to the community on October 2nd and 3rd, 2020, with an adjusted format and reduced programming.

The arena was re-opened on October 4th, 2020 with several new processes around cleaning, access and screening. Recreation Services was able to restart limited ice programs such as Men's and Ladies' Shinny, Preschool Skating and Adult Skating.

A reduced winter fitness program schedule was planned and set to begin January 18th, 2021, but did not materialize due to the province-wide shut down and "stay at home" order announced prior to the end of the 2020 calendar year and early new year respectively.

### ***Winter 2020 Closure***

Increases in COVID-19 cases across the province and regionally were seen throughout the Fall months of 2020 and on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Province announced that the Niagara Region would move into the Red Zone of the Response Framework. This meant further restrictions on facility use, the cancellation of programs and new limits on facility capacity.

Three days later, the Province went further and announced that there would be a province-wide shut-down as of December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for a 28-day period. The result of the shut-down meant the closure of the West Lincoln Community Centre and a hold on all programming.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Provincial Government announced enhanced measures in the Province wide shut-down via a "Stay at Home" order, in order to minimize mobility of the community. The intent of this order was only leave your household for the purposes of groceries, medical appointments, and essential work. The enhanced Public Health and workplace safety measures were in effect for all of Ontario and were in place until at least Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, it was announced that March Break for schools would be moved to April to curb travel and the spread of COVID-19.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Province announced that the Niagara Region would remain in the Grey Zone of the Provincial Framework for a period of 14 days.

### ***Re-Opening 2021***

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Provincial government announced that the Niagara Region would move to the Red-Control Zone of the Provincial Framework as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This would allow for limited facility usage and programming to restart. The West Lincoln Community Centre opened for restricted ice and walking track usage on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

### ***Family Easter Weekend Event***

With the cancellation of a traditional West Lincoln Family Day event, staff have planned a fun virtual and interactive opportunity which combines components from the Family Day event with an Easter theme. Recreation Services typically offers an Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday annually. Current restrictions will not allow for this type of event. This year, take home kits from Family Day have been updated with additional items for Easter and will be offered for curb-side pick up on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Additionally, staff have planned an Easter Scavenger Hunt virtually through the GooseChase app. Participants download the app and take part in the West Lincoln challenge for an opportunity to win prizes.

Information regarding this event (attached as Appendix A) will be posted on the Township's website and social media the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. The attached Appendix (Flyer) will also be distributed to West Lincoln households on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ***March Break Camp in April***

Recreation Services has responded to the change of date for March Break to April by rescheduling all virtual events that were being planned. Daily virtual activities have been planned for the new dates in April and a GooseChase scavenger hunt has been added to the program.

Information regarding this event (attached as Appendix B) will be posted on the Township's website and social media the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. The attached Appendix (Flyer) will also be distributed to West Lincoln households on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Arena***

West Niagara Minor Hockey Association and the West Lincoln Figure Skating Club returned to the ice at the Community Centre with programming on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Other user groups have chosen not to return under the Red-Control Zone of the Provincial framework. New rentals continue to be on hold.

### ***Programming and Upcoming Events***

Recreation Services is cautiously moving forward with preliminary plans for fitness programming in the spring and a summer camp program. Staff are aware that Provincial

restrictions and the Public Health vaccination plans which have identified the WLCC as a community vaccination site, may limit programming and will assess the viability of specific programming as details become available.

Summer events are also being assessed and alternative options are being explored. Staff have been meeting with Niagara Region peers to discuss possible joint ventures for events such as Canada Day. It is anticipated that West Lincoln-specific events such as Music in the Park and Movies in the Park will continue to be subject to COVID-19 restrictions. An update on the feasibility of these events in 2021 will be provided in the coming months.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

##### ***Family Easter Weekend Event***

There is no financial impact to the proposed 2021 budget for the Family Easter Weekend Event.

##### ***March Break Programming***

As per the information provided in Staff Report REC-01-2021, the revised March Break program in April will have expenditures of \$5,000.00 with zero revenue generated.

##### ***Arena***

Recreation Services and the Finance Department are working together to track lost revenue due to facility closures.

##### ***Programming and Upcoming Events***

The cancellation or modification of programming and events in 2021 may impact expenditures and revenue. Staff will provide updates on this situation as evaluations of programs and events are completed.

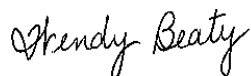
#### **INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:**

This Report was reviewed by the Director of Public Works & Recreation, Director of Finance, CAO, and the Township Clerk.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Staff will continue to evaluate and adjust recreation programs, events and services in response to provincial and regional restrictions and guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Prepared & Submitted by:**



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**Wendy Beaty**  
Coordinator of Recreation Services

#### **Approved by:**



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**Beverly Hendry**  
Chief Administrative Officer



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**Mike DiPaola, P.Eng**

Director of Public Works & Recreation

Appendix A – Family Easter Weekend Event Flyer

Appendix B – March Break Camp in April Flyer