



**COMMUNITY SERVICES – RECREATION & CULTURE**  
TOWN OF NEWMARKET  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

www.newmarket.ca  
info@newmarket.ca  
905.895.5193

October 8, 2015

**DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES  
INFORMATIONAL REPORT 2015 - 60**

TO: Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: Outdoor Skating Rinks Update

ORIGIN: Development and Infrastructure Services – Public Works Services

---

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may make a request through the Town Clerk that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of Whole Agenda for discussion.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Report is to update Council on the pilot projects of End of Night Pick up Hockey and Community Run Outdoor Rinks. This is an update to Report 2014-30 with respect to costs incurred, logistics, recommended improvements and accomplishments of the pilot projects.

**COMMENTS**

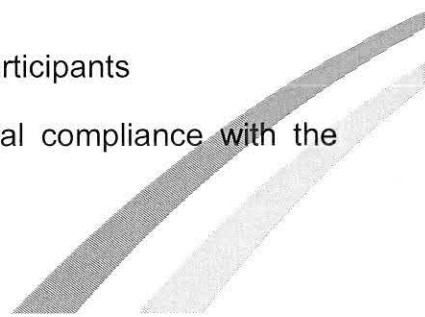
**Riverwalk Commons**

The Town of Newmarket currently operates one outdoor skating surface at Riverwalk Commons. This skating feature was open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. for leisure skating only. This ice surface is designed to operate as an unsupervised space, with staff regularly flooding the ice to maintain good ice quality. It is a widely accessed facility and community feedback indicated that residents of Newmarket value and appreciate the opportunity to enjoy this space over a wide range of times, at no cost.

Last winter, Council approved staff's recommendation that hockey be allowed from 10:00 p.m. to Midnight daily on this ice surface. Appropriate signage was created and displayed that outlined the following key principles:

- Hockey is permitted only during the time periods of 10:00 p.m. to Midnight
- Only sponge pucks or tennis balls are permitted (i.e., no hard pucks)
- Ice is not maintained after 10:00 p.m. and is not supervised, so participants play at their own risk
- Appropriate equipment is encouraged
- This will be offered on a trial basis pending appropriate usage by participants

Although there were still minor confrontations, staff experienced general compliance with the rules.



There were incidents of hard pucks hitting the glass doors of the Community Centre and the alarm going off; however this was an infrequent occurrence.

Unfortunately Parks staff had to continuously clean up left over beer bottles/cans from the late night users. This created additional work for staff at a cost of \$1,500 to the Town. Additional enforcement may help reduce the frequency of these incidents and York Regional Police have been notified of this issue.

When the lights were turned off at Riverwalk Commons, users often used their cars to light up the ice surface so that they could continue to play. Some others also brought portable lights and plugged into the public electrical sockets around the area.

Although there were some minor issues and costs associated with the late night shinny hockey pilot project at Riverwalk Commons, staff will continue to support the use of the ice surface for this particular recreational use as it is widely used by the community. Additional budgetary requirements will be included in the draft 2016 operating budget for Council approval for the additional cleanup costs incurred in this area.

#### Community Run Outdoor Rinks

Last Winter, Council initially approved up to two (2) Community Run Outdoor Rink pilot projects. These rinks were structured on a model of a volunteer community-based “Rink Team” which maintained and operated the outdoor rinks. The Town supplied the land, water and a financial subsidy. Three (3) rinks were eventually approved and operated; one at Ken Sturgeon Park, one at Lions Park and one at Whipper Billy Watson Park.

The volunteer groups supplied most of the materials, built the rinks, installed signage, maintained the ice surface, ordered portable washrooms, cleaned up the garbage around the area and took the rinks down.

Staff provided regular garbage pickup/spring clean-up, provided space for summer storage of material at the temporary fire training center, provided operating material storage at adjacent washroom buildings and installed a water line, where applicable, set the outdoor lighting and plowed snow in the parking lots.

#### Whipper Billy Watson Park

This rink required a one-time installation of a water line at a cost of \$5,500 for staff time, materials and equipment. There was also a total of \$2,500 of incurred costs for general and spring clean-up of the site.

Overall, this pilot project location worked out well as the area was lit at night and the rink was well used. It should be noted that the disposal of some rink material in the spring could have been improved as there was material left on site after the take down of the rink, and due to the use of this premier baseball field in the early spring, grass kill was a concern. The rink was deconstructed in time for baseball season and there were no issues with the grass; however, this will need to be assessed every year in late winter.

Staff will include the additional costs for time and equipment for maintenance of this area in the draft 2016 budget requests.

#### Ken Sturgeon Park

This rink required a one-time installation of a water line at a cost of \$5,000 for staff time, materials and equipment. There was also a total of \$700 of incurred costs for general and spring clean-up of the site.

Staff also started parking lot snow plowing service at this site as this was not previously included in the level of service provided.

Overall, this pilot project location worked out well and the rink was well used. It should also be noted that similar to the other locations, disposal of some rink material in the spring could have been improved as there was material left on site after the take down of the rink, which constituted a health and safety concern because of the type of material. Grass kill is a slight concern in this area as the rink is constructed over the grass; however, it is mainly utilized as a dry pond and general non-programmed use.

Staff will include the additional costs for time and equipment for maintenance of this area in the draft 2016 budget requests.

#### Lions Park

This rink required general and spring clean-up of the site at a cost of \$1,000 for staff time and equipment. Staff also re-plumbed the washroom to provide a better water line for flooding of the rink.

Overall, this pilot project location worked out well as the area was lit at night and the rink was well used. It should be noted that similar to the other locations the disposal of some rink material in the spring could have been improved as there was material left on site after the take down of the rink.

There is also now a new playing surface at Lions Park. A geotextile has been added to the tennis courts this year, so there will be a requirement for any rinks in the future to have at least one inch of ice buildup as a protective layer above the textile before equipment is to be allowed onto the ice.

Staff will include the additional costs for time and equipment for maintenance of this area in the draft 2016 budget requests.

#### Future Rink Development

These pilot projects are being recommended to address the requests of residents. Through the Recreation Playbook an extensive public consultation has been done as well as a facility peer review. Through this process a long term vision and strategy for provision of Outdoor Rinks will be developed.

## **CONSULTATION**

There has been no additional consultation with respect to this update Report. The volunteer groups will be contacted to continue the use of the sites with additional recommendations noted in this Report.

## **BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**

Well-balanced

- Striving for cultural harmony and ethnic diversity
- Events that help shape identity and contribute to community spirit

Well-equipped & managed

- Small town feel with city amenities
- Clear vision of the future and aligned corporate/business plans

Well-respected

- Being well thought of and valued for our judgment and insight
- Discovering innovative and creative solutions for future well-being
- Being a champion for co-operation and collaboration
- Being tradition-based and forward-looking

---

## **BUDGET IMPACT**

Budget impact is approximately \$6,500/year for all four pilot projects. Essentially there is staff time associated with coordination, clean up, plowing and cost of water and electricity/lighting to be considered. Now that the costs are reasonably known, this request for funds will come forward in the 2016 draft budget deliberations.

## **CONTACT**

For more information on this report contact Chris Kalimootoo, ckalimootoo@newmarket.ca or extension 2551.



---

Christopher Kalimootoo BA, P. Eng, MPA, PMP  
Director, Public Works Services



---

Peter Noehammer P. Eng.  
Commissioner, Development  
& Infrastructure Services