



# Municipality of Port Hope Staff Report

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## Report Title: Parks Recreation and Culture Event Activity Report

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**Report to:** Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

**Date of meeting:** May 3, 2022

**Report Author:**

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**Department responsible:**

Parks, Recreation & Culture

**Report Number:** :PRC-05-22

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### Recommendation:

Receive for information.

### Highlights:

- Reactivation of municipal and community events, programs and rentals are priority for Parks, Recreation and Culture in 2022.
- Support for event and program partners is required to enable the return of activities paused during covid.
- Events and programs contribute to municipal culture and community vibrancy and support the priorities identified in the Leisure Services Master Plan and the Cultural Plan.
- Events and programs will be one of the most forward-facing demonstrations of our commitment to community covid recovery.
- An Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant has been secured and will enable development of an Events Strategy and support for reactivation of events.

### Background:

Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) is committed to enhancing the life of Port Hope residents through innovative and inclusive experiences including programs and events. Through event supports, rentals of municipal facilities and community collaboration, PRC enables community groups and partners to provide meaningful experiences for residents and visitors focused on promoting physical activity, social interaction, connection to culture and community engagement.

Facility rentals and events compliment regular Parks, Recreation and Culture programming and engage the community and create positive social and economic impacts.

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Below is a list of upcoming events (May - August) and recent events and activities for awareness.

Upcoming Events and Activities:

- Arena ice comes out at Jack Burger Sports Complex (JBSC) on May 1 after an extended ice season and will return September 6. Ice allocation planning for the upcoming season begins in May.
- Parks open May 1 with user groups coming back for a full compliment of programs this season including many fundraising ball tournaments.
- Battle of Atlantic Cenotaph Service - May 1, Memorial Park.
- Blood donor clinics are booked for May and September with bookings going into 2023.
- [National Youth Week](#) - May 1-7.
- [Streets and Stories](#) (guided walking tours) - Saturdays in May, 3 routes.
- [Civic Awards Ceremony](#) - May 12, Capitol Theatre.
- [Cultivate Launch!](#) - May 21, Memorial Park.
- Elections Ontario will be holding advance polls at JBSC from May 24-28 and regular polls at Town Park Recreation Centre (TPRC), JBSC, and Canton Hub on June 2.
- HBIA Market Series – Thursdays, May 26 – Oct 13, Lent Lane.
- NookFest - May 28, June 25, July 16, August 13, September 10, 74 Queen Street Parking Lot.
- Walk for MS - May 29, Memorial Park.
- June is Parks and Recreation Month – various activities promoting access to recreation, physical activity and community connection planned across the municipality.
- June is Seniors Month – a variety of free workshops, programs, and events are planned both virtually and in-person.
- Port Hope High School Prom Drive Up Welcome - June 3, Cavan Street.
- [Ganaraska 250](#) - June 3-5, Town Agricultural Park.
- [Heroes Highway Ride](#) - June 4, Downtown Port Hope.
- [Port Hope Canada Day](#) - June 30 – July 1, Memorial Park.
- Free Summer Fitness Series - July and August.
- Youth Summer Events – July and August, includes programs and Youth Center drop in activities.
- Concert Bandshell Series – Thursdays, July and August, Memorial Park.
- Outdoor Movie Series - July 13, July 27, August 10, Memorial Park.
- August in Arts Month.
- [Port Hope Arts Festival](#) - August 13, Memorial Park.
- Lieutenant Governor visit - August 13, Memorial Park.

Recent Events and Reactivations:

- Easter Eggstravaganza returned on Saturday April 16 at TPRC from 1-4 p.m. with approximately 75 people in attendance.
- Northumberland Easter Egg Hunt event returned to Memorial Park on April 16.
- Float your Fanny returned after a two-year hiatus with excellent participation and community engagement.
- Swim for Independence was able to return to use of the pools after 2 years away due to covid restrictions with the ability to have a larger group led by one of our dryland fitness instructors.
- Pool parties and local groups have returned to use of the pool and school lessons are returning in May.
- Multiuse passes have returned, and patrons are very happy to be able to purchase multiuse discounted electronic cards.
- A variety of new gym drop-in programs have been added and well attended.

Other Relevant Information:

- Currently seeking new group to run refreshment gardens at Canada Day and sponsors for Arts Festival, Candlelight, Christmas, and March break activities.
- The Municipality of Port Hope has received an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Grant through the Resilient Communities program in the amount of \$68,600 to create supports, resources, and a comprehensive community events strategy to promote the return of important arts and culture festivals and events in our community. Grant activities will take place between June 6, 2022, and June 5, 2023, and will include staff support, development of an events strategy, purchase of equipment, and community training opportunities.
- For a complete look at all event activity within the Municipality, the online event calendars on the [www.visitporthope.ca](http://www.visitporthope.ca) and [www.porthope.ca](http://www.porthope.ca) websites, detail additional events hosted by our community stakeholders at their respective locations.

**Discussion:**

Navigating provincial Covid-19 guidelines has been important work, and through diligence and careful attention to detailed restrictions and requirements, PRC events, programs and rentals have been safely delivered with a phased reactivation strategy. Staff continue to monitor evolving guidelines and work through safe reactivation while balancing varying resident comfort levels with easing of restrictions.

Staff recruitment challenges are having impact on capacity for program, rentals, and events. Recruitment is ongoing, with active postings out for program, customer service and events staff.

The OTF Funding received will assist in development of a municipal Events Strategy. Development of this strategy will require cooperation and collaboration across departments and with community stakeholders and partners.

**Financial Considerations:**

Booking and event support from the Municipality is covered in the regular operating budget and will be augmented from June 2022 – May 2023 by Ontario Trillium Foundation funds received.

**Communication and Public Engagement:**

Programs and events are promoted on the municipal website and social media channels. Communication with local stakeholders and partners regarding event and program development is ongoing.

**Conclusion:**

The return and enhancement of activities and events in enhances cultural activities in the Port Hope community.

**Attachments:**

None.