



Municipality of Port Hope

Staff Report

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Report Title: Parks, Recreation and Culture Event Activity Report

Report to: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

Date of meeting: September 6, 2022

Report Author:

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Department responsible:

Parks, Recreation & Culture

Report Number: PRC-12-22

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Highlights:

- Program and event participation has been high, and the community has demonstrated a readiness to return to in-person programming and events.
- Reactivation of programs and services continues and is paced to align with staff recruitment. Demand for programs during fall registration, which opened Monday, August 22 was extremely high, and staff are working to accommodate residents placed on waitlists.
- We had a lively summer and saw the return of many long-standing events, as well as the creation of new experiences across the community event calendar.
- 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 and continue to be one of the most forward-facing demonstrations of our municipal culture.
- Staff have launched [Collaborating on Culture](#), a community engagement campaign to activate the Cultural Plan and propel priorities within the current plan.

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.

Below is a list of recent and upcoming events and programs (September to December); the list includes municipally hosted programs and third-party events on municipal property or facilitated through the Special Events Process.

Upcoming events and activities:

- [Market in the Lane](#), Thursday afternoons until October 16, Lent Lane
- Port Hope Farmers' Market, Saturdays (Town Hall parking lot) and Wednesdays (Gilmer's Parking lot) until October
- [Streets & Stories](#) Guided Walking Tours, Saturdays in September, downtown and King Street routes
- Boxtopia, September 3, Memorial Park
- Blood Donor Clinic on the September 5 statutory holiday at the Town Park Recreation Centre
- Ice schedule resumes September 6 and includes addition of Family Shiny to accommodate home school families
- [Run Salmon Run](#), September 8 - 10, Downtown Port Hope will include a collaboration between the HBIA and PRC to see a live chainsaw carving demonstration and creation of a new art piece to be displayed near the river
- Port Hope Panthers home game schedule is ready and starts September 10
- NookFEST, September 10, Lakeland Parking Lot
- [Port Hope Fair](#), September 15 – 18, Town Agricultural Park
- [Terry Fox Run](#), September 18, Town Hall back lawn
- [Great Lakes to Greenbelt Farm Fresh Ride](#) (Highland Hustle Cycle tour through Port Hope), September 18
- [Cultivate Festival](#), September 23 – 25, Haute Goat Farm
- Capitol Theatre Volunteer Appreciation, September 25, Memorial Park
- Cameco Community BBQ, September 28, Memorial Park
- Remembrance Day, November 11, Memorial Park and Canton Cenotaphs
- [Candlelight Festival](#), begins November 25, downtown Port Hope
- [Santa Claus Parade](#), November 26, downtown Port Hope

- [Culture Days](#) – September 23 to October 6. Culture Days is a national celebration of arts and culture for three glorious weeks of colour, creativity, and community. There are a variety of free workshops and activities. In partnership with Port Hope Public Library, a Community Campfire will be hosted on October 1 at the Port Hope Community Hub, with storytelling, live music, apple crisp demonstrations, cultural activations, and more
- Children's programming, hosted by PRC, is returning September 19 will a full complement of programs including Tiny Dancers, Fundamental Sports, Kidnasium, Playorama, and themed birthday parties

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- Fall Fitness Classes start September 19 and recruitment of instructors is ongoing
 - New drop-in schedules start September 19 and include new timeslots to accommodate popular programs
 - PA Day Camp and Holiday Camp will be offered
 - Halloween activities are being planned to include Trick or Treat Passes to promote physical activity and encourage visits to our recreation centres, and a Halloween Spooktacular on October 29
 - Themed Youth Dances scheduled for Friday October 28 (Halloween) and December (Winter Wonderland - date TBA)
 - Acrylic Painting is being offered again for the fall
 - Synchro skating has returned for some early season ice
 - Upcoming tournaments for West Northumberland Girls Hockey Association (October 28 - 29), Silver Stick 1 (November 25 - 26) and Silver Stick 2 (December 2 - 3)
 - Figure skating club will have a mini show December 11

Recent events and activities:

- Summer Day Camp saw 370 registered campers, return to traditional programming, and popular specialty camps including Junior Firefighters, Junior Lifeguards and Counsellors in Training. Registration was maximized using available staff resources. Recruitment of staff continued to be a challenge
- Canada Day celebrations and Arts Festival returned with high community participation and impact
- Numerous free activity options including the Free Summer Fitness Series, a Youth Workshop Series (including team building, tie dye, movie and games night, and a road hockey tournament) and shuffleboard, pickleball and basketball on the arena floor were offered

Other ongoing updates:

- The Town Park Expansion Project is underway with construction progressing well
- The Waterfront and Riverwalk Master Plan Draft Vision is coming into shape and a public meeting will be hosted later this year
- The [Rotary Centennial Riverview Park](#) fundraising campaign is underway and donations are being received online and at several municipal locations
- Applications were submitted for Senior's Active Living Centre Funding (pending), Senior's Active Living Fair Funding (confirmed) and Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Fund (pending) for development of outdoor pickleball courts
- Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Funding received earlier this year is supporting development of a municipal events strategy and supporting return and enhancement of events
- Sponsor recruitment is currently underway for Christmas and March Break activities

- Staff are developing an enhanced community resource which will be called a “Recreation Guide” which will replace the Leisure Guide in effort to promote the department but also maximize the Municipal website. Watch for a release this fall.

For a complete look at all activity within the Municipality, the online event calendars on the www.visitporthope.ca and www.porthope.ca websites, detail additional events hosted by our community stakeholders at their respective locations.

Discussion:

Community desire for programs, services, and events has been high through the spring and summer. Staff recruitment challenges across the recreation sector are having an impact on capacity for program, rentals, and events. Recruitment is ongoing, with active postings out for program, customer service, fitness instructors, lifeguards, and swim instructors. Staff continue to explore creative solutions and partnerships for program delivery.

Financial Considerations:

There are no financial impacts relating to this report.

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:

Programs, services, and events provide important opportunities for residents to engage and connect with their community and enhance Port Hope’s culture.

Attachments:

None.