



City of Kingston
Information Report to the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report Number MAAC-19-005

To: Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Peter Huigenbos, Acting Commissioner, Community Services

Resource Staff: Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

Date of Meeting: April 4, 2019

Subject: Program and Special Event Update Report

Executive Summary:

This report summarizes activities within the municipality related to accessibility in the areas of recreation programming and special events. Specifically, this report provides an update on 2018 activities and initiatives implemented by the recreation programming and special events divisions within the Recreation & Leisure Services Department.

Recommendation:

This report is for information purposes only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Peter Huigenbos, Acting Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lanie Hurdle, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Gary Dyke, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

The City's Recreation & Leisure Services Department facilitates recreation programming and special events across the City in a variety of parks and facilities. Provided below are a list of 2018 updates as they relate to accessibility.

Recreation Programs - 2018 Updates and Ongoing Initiatives:

- Staff Training
 - Management staff completed 'The Working Mind Manager program' where participants learned skills to help reduce stigma and negative attitudes surrounding mental health in the workplace, offer assistance in seeking out resources and a strong support system, and provide the tools and skills to help prevent stress and promote good mental health. The 'Working Mind' program will be rolled out to all municipal staff in 2019.
- Summer Camp Programs:
 - 19 one-on-one/one-to-three supported children in summer camps. Three children attended camp with Community Living Supports.
 - 20 children identified with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
 - 14 children identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
 - 42 children identified with other medical conditions or medications needed.
 - Provided basic American Sign Language (ASL) training to summer camp staff and ASL support to camp participants as needed.
 - Posted summer student Integration ASL position.
- Leisure Connections Program (adults with varying abilities):
 - 69 Leisure Connections memberships were purchased.
 - Annual baseball team numbers up again this year; 29 players total.
 - Moved program to Rotary Park for increased accessibility.
 - Parent coordinated donation through Canadian Tire for T-ball stand, lighter bats and gloves.
- Aquatics:
 - Aqua Arthritis programs offered twice a week September through June.
 - Therapeutic Swims offered five days a week, 10-10:55 am. Added Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6-8:55 am and Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-8:55 am.
 - Continue to provide private and low ratio swim lessons.
 - Added a hook on pool deck to support individuals with guide/support dogs.
 - Replaced four aquatic wheel chairs: two at Artillery Park Aquatic Centre and two at the Outdoor Aqua Park.

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- Active Programs: Therapeutic Yogalates, Sittercise, Strength Training for Older Adults, increased open gymnasium drop-in times enhancing access for persons of all ages and abilities for individual or self-guided play.
- Gymnasium birthday parties, facilitated since April 2016, with inclusion student staff to ensure positive inclusive activities.
- Events:
 - Fitness Frenzy Event, September 17th - 23rd: hosted a week of free try-it classes at City recreation centres for all ages and abilities.
 - Kingston Gets Active Month (April/September) events: coordinated a variety of free recreation program opportunities to residents in partnership with other recreation service providers.
- Therapy/Guide Dogs:
 - One child attended camp with a therapy dog.
 - Three clients regularly attending Artillery Park Aquatic Centre pool with their service/therapy dogs.
- Community Support Groups:
 - Continuously enhancing working relationships: Community Living, Immigration Kingston Services and the Autism Society.
 - Seniors Association: 6 new partnered programs offered for a total of 14 in 2018.
 - VON Falls Prevention Program: hosted three, 10-12 week sessions.
 - Chronic Pain Clinic: continued partnership with Chronic Pain Clinic at Hotel Dieu Hospital to host 5 orientation sessions at Artillery Park Aquatic Centre; total of nine sessions since the program began in 2016.
- Rideau Heights Community Centre and Library:
 - Opened April 21, 2018, featuring accessible entrances, counters, operator doors, parking, washrooms, showers and change rooms, and a community teaching kitchen facility with accessible height counters and appliances. An interpreter was also provided for the Grand Opening ceremony.
 - Partnering agencies provide free or low cost programming and accessible programming options (Sit 'n' Dance, Cooking Connections (for mental health), preschool programs, etc.).
- Student Integration Staff: available to work one-on-one or with several individuals with special needs and integrate them into programs or camps; accessed twice in 2018 to support children in weekly swim lessons.
- Volunteers/Placements:
 - Support provided for individuals to access the pool.
 - Continuing to provide opportunities for Community Living Support Volunteers.

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- Therapeutic Recreation Placement student from St. Lawrence College was hosted in the spring of 2018.
- Hosted 4 student internships through the Queen's University PACT 333 course (*Practicum in Physical Activity for Persons with Disabilities*).
- Presentations: delivered 3 presentations featuring low cost/free recreation programs, volunteer opportunities and municipal subsidy programs to the Supportive Approaches to Innovative Learning (SAIL) group with the Housing & Social Services Department.

Special Events - 2018 Updates and Ongoing Initiatives:

The City's Special Events Office facilitates a number of annual and one-off community events each year and also works with event organizers to assist in the successful hosting of events in municipal parks and facilities under the guidance of the Special Events Policy. In 2018, the City's Special Events Office hosted 12 City-led events, attracting in excess of 40,000 people.

Below is an update of accessibility initiatives from 2018:

- The Special Events Office continues to utilize the Accessible Guide to Events when planning municipal events and continues to work with external event organizers to require accessibility considerations are part of the event approval process. Staff are updating this and other related documents as part of the Special Event Policy update currently underway.
- ASL interpreter services and assistive hearing devices offered at the City's Grand Opening for the Rideau Heights Community Centre and Library, Breakwater Park Grand Opening and Gord Edgar Downie Pier Dedication, Remembrance Day service and Snow Much Fun events.
- Accessible washrooms provided at all municipal events.
- Increased signage at municipal events.
- Food Vendors: must provide Accessible Customer Service Policy as part of the application and approval process.
- Parking: accessible parking areas were identified and provided for all major City run events, with locations communicated through the event calendar listing and event plans.
- Seating: an area for accessible seating on an accessible, ramped stage riser continues to be incorporated into the Kingston Sheep Dog Trials Festival at Grass Creek Park, which includes areas for shade. Also, an accessible seating area was offered in front of the main stage at Snow Much Fun.

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- Cooling areas were incorporated at events which include shade tents, mist tent and Utilities Kingston Water Buggy.
- Shuttle bus service offered through Kingston Transit at the Victoria Day event at Lake Ontario Park and Breakwater Park Grand Opening.
- Temporary accessible pathway at the Kingston Sheep Dog Trials Festival.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Jaclyn Grimmon, Manager, Recreation Programs

Lynda Breen, Supervisor, Recreation Programs

Nancy Ruel, Supervisor, Special Events and Marketing

Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable