



City of Kingston
Information Report to Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report Number MAAC-22-003

To: Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects

Resource Staff: Lacrocia Turner, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

Date of Meeting: March 3, 2022

Subject: Program and Special Event Update Report

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

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 2020 and 2021 activities and initiatives implemented by the recreation programming and special events teams 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, Commissioner,
Business, Environment &
Projects**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works	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. Throughout 2020 and 2021, Recreation & Leisure Services was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs and services were not able to operate as they had in previous years. The programming that was provided was impacted by capacity limits and vaccination requirements.

Provided below is an update on the initiatives and programs in 2020 and 2021 related to accessibility:

Recreation Programs - Updates and Ongoing Initiatives:

- Staff training:
 - Helping People with Mental Health Challenges Access Public Services - training where participants learned skills to help reduce stigma and negative attitudes surrounding mental health was completed by all staff.
- Aquatics:
 - Therapeutic Swims offered five days a week, 6 am, 7:30 am and 9:30 am Monday - Friday at reduced capacity.
 - Continued to provide private and low ratio swim lessons.
 - Aquatic wheelchairs available for use: two at Artillery Park Aquatic Centre and two at the Outdoor Aqua Park.
- Programs and services offered during the pandemic:
 - Re-opening of both the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour and Confederation Basin marinas during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. In 2021 both marinas opened to full capacity.
 - Resumption of fitness centres, fitness classes and public skating programming, adult sports and recreation programming such as pickleball and badminton at reduced capacity.
 - Providing staff supervision of outdoor community rinks.
 - Outdoor fitness classes were offered in Springer Market Square.
 - Healthy at Home in 2020 - An online series of fitness videos with captioning included, shared to the City of Kingston's YouTube channel and across all social media platforms to assist residents working out at home during the pandemic.

Special Events - 2020 & 2021 Updates and Ongoing Initiatives:

The City's Special Events Office facilitates several annual and one-off community events each year and 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.

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While the majority of events did not move forward a small number of events in 2020 and 2021 did proceed in the last quarter. The Special Events office is planning for a wide range of events in 2022.

Below is an update of accessibility initiatives from 2020 and 2021:

- 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.
- ASL interpreter services and assistive hearing devices offered at all City of Kingston events.
- In 2020, the Remembrance Day Ceremony was hosted indoors, live-streamed and kept online for public viewing. Lower thirds and captioning were provided for those with hearing difficulties.
- In 2021, the Remembrance Day Ceremony was held outdoors again and taped for later viewings on TV for the public. An ASL interpreter and assistive hearing devices were available onsite.
- Accessible washrooms provided at all municipal events.
- Increased signage at municipal events.
- 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 covered by a tent continues to be available at the Remembrance Day Service which was held outdoors again in 2021.
- Cable Protectors: at both the 2020 and 2021 Holiday Markets, cable mats were used not only to protect cables and wires, but also to provide easy wheelchair and walker accessibility around the venue.
- Adequate Lighting: at both the 2020 and 2021 Holiday Markets, adequate lighting was provided to make items easier for vendors and shoppers to identify and interact with.
- Accessible Pathways: all events include pathways that are wide enough to accommodate those with mobility devices or service animals going both ways, have curb cuts to allow for easier access, and have a height clearance free of branches or signs that may not otherwise be detected.

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- Shuttle service is offered by a Committee Member to any of those with an active role and/or are involved with the planning of the Remembrance Day Ceremony.
- Escorts are also available to help wreath layers who may require assistance walking down the pathways.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Accessibility Considerations:

None

Financial Considerations:

None

Contacts:

Lacricia Turner, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services 613-546-4291 extension 1815

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Amy Gibson, Manager, Recreation Services

Ryan Evoy, Acting Manager, Recreation Facilities

Jon Hayter, Supervisor, Special Events & Marketing

Exhibits Attached:

None