



City of Kingston
Information Report to Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report Number MAAC-23-005

To: Chair and Members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer

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

Date of Meeting: March 2, 2023

Subject: Program and Special Events Update

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 2022 activities and initiatives implemented by the Recreation Services and Special Events teams within the Recreation & Leisure Services Department.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

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
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects	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 recreation facilities. Throughout the 2022 year all programs and services in Recreation & Leisure Services were very robust and brought about high levels of attendance.

Provided below is an update on the initiatives and programs in 2022 related to accessibility:

Recreation Programs - Updates and Ongoing Initiatives:

- Staff training:
 - "Supporting People with Mental Health Challenges Access Public Services" training was provided to forward facing staff members. Staff enhanced their learning to understand stigma and negative attitudes towards individuals who are living with mental health challenges.
- Aquatics:
 - Therapeutic Swims are offered five days a week and have a high utilisation.
 - Aquatic wheelchairs available for use: two (2) at Artillery Park Aquatic Centre and two (2) at the Culligan Water Park.
- Recreation Programs and Services:
 - Portsmouth Olympic Harbour (POH) and Confederation Basin Marinas operated at full capacity. Accessible docks are available at Confederation Basin and POH.
 - All fitness centres, drop-in fitness classes, including skating and aquatics are operating at pre pandemic levels.
 - New accessible door openers were installed at Cataraqui Arena.

Special Events 2022 - Updates and Ongoing Initiatives:

The City's Special Events Office facilitates several annual and one-off community events each year and support event organizers to assist in the successful hosting of events in municipal parks and facilities under the guidance of the Special Events Policy.

Below is an update of accessibility initiatives from 2022:

- 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 ensure accessibility considerations are part of the event approval process.
- ASL interpreter services and/or assistive hearing devices offered at most City of Kingston events.
- Accessible washrooms provided at all municipal events.
- Increased signage at municipal events.

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- **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:** Accessible seating/viewing areas made available at all City of Kingston events where applicable (i.e. stage viewing at Spring into Summer, trial viewing at Kingston Sheep Dog Trials).
- **Cable Protectors:** Cable mats were used to protect cables wires, and to ensure easy wheelchair and walker accessibility around the venues.
- **Adequate Lighting:** Adequate lighting was provided to make items easier for vendors and shoppers to identify and interact with at all Night markets and events.
- **Accessible Doors:** All City events held at venues that offer automatic doors for easy access.
- **Event Promotion:** City webpage, posters, and general promotion of events follow AODA guidelines.
- **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.
- **Transportation:** Free transit with accessible City buses offered to events in 2022 and shuttle service offered by a Committee Member to individuals 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.
- **Collaboration** with the EDI Committee and thoughtful planning for all activities to ensure every attendee has a way to participate and be included in the events.
- **Introduced areas** at events that are more "low-key", allowing for an area where attendees can retreat to, to unwind and relax. A separate space is provided from the high-level activity, noise, etc. (i.e. colouring area at K-Town Countdown, empty lawn area for picnicking at Spring into Summer).
- **Ice bumper cars** at K-Town Countdown to support individuals with accessibility restraints to allow for participation in activities.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Accessibility Considerations:

None

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Financial Considerations:

None

Contacts:

Amy Gibson, Manager, Recreation Services, 613-546-4291 extension 1805

Amy Elgersma, Manager, Recreation Facilities, 613-546-4291 extension 1351

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Amanda McDonald, Supervisor, Recreation & Community Development

Emily Matpan, Assistant Supervisor, Special Events

Exhibits Attached:

None