

**Township of South Stormont**  
KEY INFORMATION REPORT  
Parks and Recreation Department



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**To:** Council  
**From:** Kevin Amelotte – Director of Parks and Recreation  
**Date of Meeting:** January 27, 2021  
**Subject:** Recreation Facilities Update

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**Background:**

All indoor recreation facilities were closed on December 26 due to the Provincewide shutdown, closures have since been extended through a Stay-At-Home Order until at least February 11. These closures have directly impacted the ability to rent the Long Sault Arena, South Stormont Community Hall, and meeting rooms at Stations 1, 3, and 4.

Staff had a meeting with the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) on January 7 regarding the use of the Lancer Community Centre. These discussions are on-going as both sides are working to provide the Township access to the facility for the purpose of community programming once the lockdown order is lifted by the Province.

Under current Provincial Lockdown Orders, the 7 community outdoor rinks in South Stormont can continue operations. As in any year, these facilities rely heavily on cooperation with weather and support of our volunteers. Updated pandemic signage has been posted at all outdoor rink locations with rules approved by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) and capacity limits have been established for each rink based on their current size. The rink houses (St. Andrews West and Newington) are closed for this season as directed by the EOHU. Recreation Facility Operators and staff continue to support volunteers with general maintenance and providing supplies and support as requested.

**Discussion:**

Staff participated in a virtual SD&G Recreation Networking Group meeting on January 19 to discuss a variety of issues affecting local programming and facility operations. Other rural arenas who typically close their facilities for ice rentals at the end of March have started to discuss the options of shutting down their refrigeration plants for the rest of the season, this would avoid operational expenses of maintaining ice with no ability to have rentals. At this time no local municipality had yet made a final decision and most are indicating that decision will not be made until February.

On an annual basis, unlike most other arenas in the area, the Long Sault Arena operates for ice rentals until the first week of May. There is still a large demand from our minor hockey, figure skating, adult and youth rentals to return if

possible, from February to April. The plant is currently running as efficiently as possible in order to maintain the ice with hopes of re-opening following the lockdown. It is the opinion of staff that this will provide enough rental weeks to justify maintaining the ice until that time. If an extension of the lockdown occurs or current restriction levels for the arena do not allow for regular rentals, staff will need to weigh options and prepare recommendations for the regular Council meeting on February 17.

Staff is preparing to open all four indoor hall spaces when restrictions are lifted. Programming would be the main purpose of these facilities in February and March. Community and private events that are currently booked and require larger indoor capacity numbers will need to be evaluated closer to those rental dates.

*Prepared by:  
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