

Township of South Stormont
KEY INFORMATION REPORT
Parks and Recreation Department



To: Council
From: Kevin Amelotte, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date of Meeting: December 15, 2021
Subject: Recreation Program Update

Background:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) suspended Community Use of Schools which closed access to all after-hours school access, including the Lancer Centre. The Township was able to work with the UCDSB to regain access in Spring 2021 which was then again suspended for summer as all UCDSB sites close for July/August.

As the pandemic continued to morph, regulations remained complex and frequently changing which led to some challenges re-opening the Lancer Centre but with persistence and commitment to safety, staff were able to reach an agreement with the UCDSB on October 1st to re-open the Lancer Centre for Township programming. Programming re-commenced on Monday, November 1st.

Discussion:

Since regaining access to the Lancer Centre, the Parks and Recreation Department has been able to offer indoor walking three days a week, men's basketball and three pickleball sessions, all of which reached maximum enrollment. The two youth basketball programs have also launched. Enrollment is low but is rebuilding after two years away. This will be promoted through the Seaway News and social media ahead of our Winter sessions starting in January.

A survey was circulated to gauge participants satisfaction with 4 subjects: the program, volunteers, facility, and safety/COVID-19 precautions. With well over half of program participants responding, 94-98% of participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with each of the 4 subjects polled. The qualitative data also showed that participants were very satisfied with little suggestion for improvements aside from requesting a fourth pickleball time to meet demand.

Staff have considered the input from the surveys and can move forward with participants wants and needs in mind.

Prepared by:
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