

Township of South Stormont
KEY INFORMATION REPORT
Parks and Recreation Department



To: Council
From: Kevin Amelotte, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date of Meeting: January 12, 2022
Subject: Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities Update

Background:

On Tuesday, December 28, 2021, Township staff made the decision to close indoor recreation facilities until Sunday, January 2, 2022, based on the community spread of COVID-19 and increasing local cases. This re-opening date was to be reevaluated on Friday, December 31, 2021, when more information and direction was available from Public Health.

On Friday, December 31, 2021, staff made the decision to extend the facility closure and suspended recreation programs until at least Monday, January 10, 2022 as the COVID-19 situation showed no signs of improvement.

On Monday, January 3, 2022, the Provincial Government announced the modified "O. Reg. 363/20 Rules for Areas in Step 2" that took effect on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. This modified regulation required the closure of indoor meeting and event spaces as well as facilities providing indoor sports and recreational fitness activities until at least Thursday, January 27, 2022. Staff have since extended the closure of the Long Sault Arena, Long Sault Community Hall and all other public meeting or event spaces. All recreation programs were also suspended accordingly.

According to O. Reg. 363/20, outdoor recreational facilities are permitted to be open. The Township's seven (7) outdoor rinks will continue to be available pending suitable weather, volunteer availability and public health guidance. Signage will be posted for physical distancing and the two (2) rink houses located at St. Andrews West and Newton rinks will be closed to the public.

Discussion:

All renters and participants have been notified of the suspended rentals and programs. Clients who have already paid for their facility rental have been offered the option of a full refund or a credit applied to their account to be used for future rentals. Participants that registered and paid for recreation programs will be given prorated refunds based on the number of sessions cancelled. These refunds will be completed once it is more certain when programs may resume.

Staff have been assessing local trends and working closely with Public Health throughout the pandemic. Staff will continue to monitor local trends, Provincial Regulations and Public Health Guidance so they can provide proactive and flexible responses as required.

Prepared by:
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