



Subject: Community Update on City Facilities and Programs

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-108

Meeting Date: July 12, 2021

Recommendation:

The Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-108 be received for information and serve as an update to Council and the community.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council and the community with an update on the current operation levels at City facilities and the status of City programs while dealing with the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background:

This update is provided by the Economic Development and Tourism Services Division, within the Office of the CAO.

Discussion:

Vale Health and Wellness Centre

The Vale Health & Wellness Centre currently remains closed with plans to reopen incrementally with limited programming. Indoor recreation facilities are permitted to operate in step 3 of the Provincial Government's "Road Map to Reopen Framework." Hockey schools and camps are set to begin late July on Rink 1.

The YMCA has resumed outdoor programs for the public and is also planning a full summer camp lineup. Residents can view the outdoor fitness class schedule and outdoor child and youth programs on the YMCA website.

Minor soccer, minor baseball, and adult slo-pitch are all set to begin their seasons in Step 2. Additionally, outdoor tennis and pickleball courts are currently open for public use.

Beaches

Both Centennial-Cedar Bay Beach and Nickel Beach locations continue to be a popular destination for beachgoers since opening this year. The PORTicipate pass for residents has been very popular with over 3,000 passes registered to locals. To date, there have been just over 1,300 unique visits by locals at public beaches by use of the PORTicipate pass. The limited daily spots for non-Port Colborne residents have been popular with approximately 2,000 day passes sold to non-residents to date, including sell-out dates every weekend at Nickel Beach since opening to the public.

Marina

On May 22, 2021 the Ontario Government allowed marinas to open for recreational use but with proper COVID-19 procedures in place. As of today, the marina has welcomed over 500 boaters back this season. The City has sold over 250 Seasonal Boat Ramp passes. As of June 4, 2021, the marina office and fuel dock increased the operating hours to 7 days a week, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Marine Supply Store is open 7 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Farmers Market

The Port Colborne Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) is now operating the Port Colborne's Farmers' Market. This is a new and exciting partnership for the City. The Farmers' Market is open every Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Market Square.

Canal Days

The Canal Days Advisory Committee and Council have decided to cancel Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival for 2021. This decision was made in order to safeguard the health and safety of the community, volunteers, festival partners, artists, vendors, visitors, and staff.

Community Events

City event offerings in Port Colborne are currently limited to virtual offerings. So far in 2021 the City has offered a virtual Polar Plunge, Virtual Top Hat Ceremony, and a Virtual Easter event to residents. Currently, there is a virtual event taking place called 'Explore Port Colborne'. More information on the event is available on the City's website.

Event staff are currently putting a plan in place to gradually return to in-person events in Port Colborne as the City progresses through the Provincial Government's reopening framework.

Parks and Trails

There are no closures to report with regards to parks and trails, however, City staff would like to remind users that social and physical distancing must take place at all locations.

Museum

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum indoor facility is currently closed due to COVID-19. However, the Museum still has opportunities available for participation.

The Museum Heritage Village, picnic tables and benches are open from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily for self guided visits. The Sherk heritage kitchen garden is thriving. Every week, starting on July 1, 2021, the museum will post a video to their YouTube channel featuring the changing heritage garden and interpretation of period artifacts. Each week the Museum will premiere a new video focusing on different elements of heritage gardening.

The Museum is offering a Digging for Roots project that participants can take part in from home. The project is supported by the Niagara Region through the Niagara Investment in Culture grant. The project will see interested Port Colborne residents painting flowerpots with images that represent their idea of the City's diverse heritage. The finished flowerpots, complete with beautiful flowers selected by the Port Garden Club, will be on display at the Museum's Marine Park on July 31 and August 1, in a public event which will also feature performances by members of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra. Anyone who is interested in participating can contact dario.smagata-bryan@portcolborne.ca to reserve their flower pot and supplies.

BASS (book a safe service) will resume after Step 3 of the Province's reopening framework. All research inquiries are undertaken by archive staff and business is provided on a curbside only basis for Step 2.

Library

The Port Colborne Public Library Operations will include the following effective July 5, 2021:

Curbside pick-up will continue to be available with extended hours as follows:

Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wed., Fri., Sat.: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In-person browsing by capacity will be available starting in Step 2.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wed., Sat.: 10:00 am. to 4:00 p.m.

Public computers will be available on Fridays by appointment starting in Step 2:

Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

During Step 2 and Step 3, there will be no in-person programs or access to meeting rooms.

The virtual library is available 24/7 with access to online resources including free courses, downloadable audiobooks, eBooks, digital magazines and streaming video. 24/7 access to book drop. In-person programming is not expected to be available during the summer.

Take-and-Make Crafts will continue to be available every week during the summer for families. Virtual programming is planned for all ages and advertised in the Library's Newsletter and on the website. Teen Community Service Hours for high school students earned by writing book reviews continues and are posted online.

Book Recommendations Written by Kids for Kids continues and are posted online. Summer Reading Club and activities includes StoryWalk Saturdays at the library. Readers' advisory and reference services available by phone, email and in-person. LiNC reciprocal borrowing is available with books and library materials available for Port Colborne Library patrons with their library cards.

Print services will resume in-person during Step 2. Patrons can contact the library for more details.

Recreation Programs

As Ontario moves into Step 2, outdoor recreation restrictions are reduced. In addition to the many parks, trails, beaches, and green spaces available to PORTicipate at, the City has reopened outdoor Zumba fitness classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Classes operate under recommended COVID precautions and guidelines from the Province of Ontario for outdoor fitness classes.

Visitor Centre

The Port Colborne Visitor Centre is currently closed. As the Niagara Region progresses through the provincial framework, the City will consider options for a safe re-opening.

Roselawn Centre

The Roselawn Centre is currently closed. As the Niagara Region progresses through the provincial framework, the City will consider options for a safe re-opening.

Sherkston Community Centre

The Sherkston Community Centre is currently closed. As the Niagara Region progresses through the provincial framework, the City will consider options for a safe re-opening.

Bethel Community Centre

The Bethel Community Centre is currently closed. As the Niagara Region progresses through the provincial framework, the City will consider options for a safe re-opening.

Conclusion:

This report outlines the current and future operating levels for various City facilities and programs under the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.