



Subject: Recreation Department Update

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2021-233

Meeting Date: September 13, 2021

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2021-233 be received for information.

Purpose:

To update Council on the status and timelines of further reopening plans for the VHWC.

Background:

Entering step 3 of Reopening Ontario, the Vale Health and Wellness Centre (VHWC) commenced limited programming on July 20, 2021. One ice pad and the walking track were opened to the public. Numerous hockey schools and camps operated over the summer, and the YMCA was able to offer youth summer camps. Additionally, minor soccer and baseball, as well as adult slo-pitch were all able to offer league games and tournaments at the TA Lannan Sports Complex fields.

The last scheduled vaccination clinic at the VHWC was held on August 31, 2021. The Niagara Region will now transition the Port Colborne clinic to the Visitor Centre at 76 Main St W. This move has allowed the YMCA to proceed with plans to reopen the branch to members with full access to programs and amenities.

Discussion:

Vale Health and Wellness (VHWC)

With the recent announcement from the Province regarding vaccination certificates, the VHWC, including the YMCA will follow any and all requirements regarding vaccination certificates. The YMCA will be asking for proof of vaccination at the time of signing up for membership. Out of an abundance of caution, and to implement a consistent approach in response to the Provincial requirements, the City of Port Colborne will utilize security staff at the rink entrance to screen patrons and to ensure all of those entering the facility are vaccinated. The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) has mandated that all participants (players, staff, and coaches) must be vaccinated to play, and will administer those requirements on their end. YMCA members and patrons attending the VHWC will be asked to use the Ontario government's vaccine verification tool as the means for demonstrating proof of vaccination.

The YMCA will reopen to the public beginning September 15, 2021 with a new pricing model. There will now be flexible options for family, student, individual or older adult memberships. Options include:

- Fitness Only (Fitness Floor, Open Gym, Virtual Programs)
- Fitness, Group & Recreation (Fitness Floor, Open Gym, Virtual Programs, Group Fitness Class, Drop-in Sport & Recreation, Fitness and Goal Setting)
- Aquatic Programming (Aquafit, Lane Swimming, Recreational Swimming)
- All-Inclusive (all the above, including Muti-Branch Access)

The YMCA Financial Assistance program will continue to be offered serving those individuals and families who have the greatest need in the community. The YMCA will first open with a gradual approach including limited hours and look to expand programming options and hours of operation when appropriate.

YMCA Hours of Operation:

- Monday to Thursday - 6:30am - 8:30pm,
- Friday – 6:30am - 6:30pm,
- Saturday – 7:00am - 2:00pm,
- Sunday – closed.

Port Colborne Minor Hockey and Girls Wave Hockey are planning for their 2021/22 season, with games beginning in late September/early October. Rink 2 will reopen for rentals beginning September 10, 2021. Both ice pads will be operational, ready to welcome back user groups. On-ice public programs, including public skating, will resume on the same date as the YMCA – September 15, 2021.

VHWC Hours of Operation:

- 7 days a week – 6:00am – 11:00pm.

#PORTicipate Pass

The #PORTicipate pass program to date has allowed Port Colborne residents free access to Nickel and Cedar Bay beaches. Staff are looking at evolving the #PORTicipate pass and have partnered with the YMCA to expand the incentives residents can obtain through the #PORTicipate pass. Residents can now go public skating and try the YMCA for free. Beginning in October, the YMCA will provide a free day pass for anyone that shows their #PORTicipate pass (the YMCA will track the number of participants in a family, and passes will be a one-time use). The City will offer the following public skates free to those that show their #PORTicipate pass at arrival: October 2 and 3, November 6 and 7, and December 4 and 5. More information will be shared prior to the start of this program.

Beaches

The seven (7) day operation at Nickel Beach is now closed for the season. The beach will remain opened on weekends (weather permitting), 10:00am - 6:00pm – passes will be available on the City website. Walk-on gate access will remain open for passive use. Cedar Bay – Centennial Beach is now also closed for the season, and no longer staffed or gated as a result. Park amenities will remain open until Thanksgiving, and walk-on beach access will remain open for passive use.

Sugarloaf Marina

The marina is now on reduced hours until the Thanksgiving weekend. The hours have changed to Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 5:00pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30am – 4:30pm. After Thanksgiving, the marina will only be opened Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:00pm and closed on weekends.

The marina had 510 seasonal dock customers this year, marking the highest ever total. Although most boaters book their haul out date later in September and into October, staff have already begun hauling out for the off-season. October 15, 2021 is the end of the boating season, as staff shut power and water off to the docks. Security will stop patrolling the docks on this date. Staff will continue to fuel vessels if required in the interim.

Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications. The VHWC will resume day-to-day operations, previously budgeted for.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Service and Simplicity - Quality and Innovative Delivery of Customer Services
 - Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
 - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
 - People: Supporting and Investing in Human Capital
 - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
-

Conclusion:

The YMCA and local community and sport groups are eager to return. Staff will continue to follow guidelines from the Province, Niagara Region Public Health, and the City's Emergency Control Group. Staff seeks Council's endorsement to proceed with reopening to offer safe programming and recreation to the residents of Port Colborne and surrounding area.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Theal
Manager of Recreation
905-835-2901 ext. 535
Bryan.theal@portcolborne.ca

Report Approval:

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