

Report to Council

Report Title: Walkerton Centennial Park Pool Diving Board

Prepared By: Lisa Fagan, Recreation Programming Supervisor and Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: February 11, 2025

Report Number: REC2025-03 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2025-03- Walkerton Centennial Park Pool Diving Board, prepared by Lisa Fagan, Recreation Programming Supervisor and Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves staff proceeding with inclusion of the diving board in the 2025 budget through sponsorship for 50 percent funding of the total cost, and 50 percent funding through the tax-based Capital Budget.

Report:

Background:

The Walkerton Centennial Park Community Pool has been a vital resource for the community, offering recreational, fitness, and swim instruction opportunities to residents since 1963.

In July 2019, the Pinchin Building Assessment Report identified public safety concerns related to the use of the high diving board. It recommended the removal of both older diving boards and suggested upgrades to the diving platforms to meet modern pool safety standards.

In response to these concerns, during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the former Director of Community Services, Mark Coleman, submitted a Capital Project Request of \$35,000 for the removal of the high diving board and its replacement with a new feature, such as a low diving board. On August 25, 2020, a Tender Results Report (REC2020-14) was presented to council, which approved the removal of the diving boards but did not allocate funds for a replacement feature.

The removal of both diving boards has created a gap in the pool's amenities, affecting its usability for various groups, including schools, recreational swimmers, swim lessons, summer camps, and community events. Since the boards' removal, staff have received numerous complaints from residents and users inquiring about when the feature will be replaced.

Analysis:

Council's approval to remove the previous diving board was accompanied by staff recommendations to replace it with a new pool feature, such as a low diving board or a climbing wall. Replacing the old diving board with a new one that meets safety regulations is a crucial first step in the necessary upgrades for the pool.

Ontario regulations for public pool diving boards, along with Lifesaving Society standards, require the installation of equipment that meets specific requirements and is of commercial grade. To ensure compliance, staff consulted with neighboring municipalities that operate indoor and/or outdoor pools. These consultations led to the recommendation of two Ontario-based companies that supply regulatory, commercial-grade diving boards. The estimated cost for the new board, including installation, is \$34,883.66.

Investing in a public diving board not only enhances the appeal of Centennial Park Pool, but it also demonstrates our ongoing commitment to Brockton residents by continuing to invest in this essential facility and its amenities. Swimming is a valuable activity that supports both physical and mental well-being, and it is an inclusive, accessible option for our community. By securing sponsorship for half of the overall cost, a service group or community members will feel fulfilled in supporting this critical community need while also raising awareness of their organization's purpose.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Staff will seek sponsorship to raise 50 percent of the cost from community group donations with the remaining 50 percent amounting to \$17,441.83 from 2025 capital budget tax-based funding.

Reviewed By



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lisa Fagan

Lisa Fagan, Recreation Programming Supervisor

Colleen Gillis

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

Sonya Watson

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer