

## Report to Council

**Report Title:** Downtown Temporary Parkette  
**Prepared By:** Sonya Watson, CAO and Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services  
**Department:** Community Services  
**Date:** June 9, 2020  
**Report Number:** CAO2020-08 **File Number:** C11AD

### Attachments:

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### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number CAO2020-08 – Downtown Temporary Parkette, prepared by Sonya Watson, CAO and Mark Coleman, Director of Operations and in so doing authorizes staff proceeding with a temporary opening of the vacant lot at 312 Durham Street until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### Report:

#### Background:

As Council is aware the Municipality purchased the vacant lot beside Walker's Landing at 312 Durham Street.

The long-term intent for purchase of the property is for a downtown parkette that would allow direct access from the parking lot behind to the main street. In addition, this area could be used for a downtown washroom facility, and urban park style design that would allow for a gathering space and space for small events that support downtown business.

Due to the Emergency Order related to the Closure of Places of Non-Essential Businesses Ontario Regulation 82/20 many downtown businesses need immediate support. Many restaurants have limited ability to service residents and can only provide take-out, drive-through or delivery service to residents. Further social distancing restrictions will be in place for an extended period leaving their ability to service customers within their patio or restaurant space limited and challenging. Additionally, although many local retailers with curbside access have been able to open to the public with social distancing protocols in place as directed by Public Health allowing access to washrooms to support the downtown shopping experience anywhere in Walkerton is a problem. Retailers and restaurants must ensure employee safety and opening washrooms to the public is not encouraged at this time. Further, handwashing stations support health measures and assist in measures to protect our residents and visitors from COVID-19.

For these reasons we are proposing to open the vacant lot downtown as a temporary seating area for residents and visitors to wash their hands, enjoy take out from a local business or use necessary facilities as required.

### **Analysis:**

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator (CDC) has connected with many local restaurants to gauge interest prior to proceeding. They are supported of this measure as a temporary solution for the 2020 season. As a result, staff propose the following as outlined below to create a COVID friendly downtown shopping experience in Walkerton and support local restaurants with added space to direct patrons to.

- Clean up of the lot will continue by the community services staff
- An accessible pathway and levelled area with limestone dust will be established
- This area will be large enough for up to 6 picnic tables placed in a socially distanced manner
- A handwashing station and a porta potty will be available for downtown shoppers
- Signage will be placed noting safety protocols and a time limit so multiple users can benefit.
- Communications with downtown business will occur in conjunction with the BIA regarding the opening
- Communications to all residents will occur noting this temporary opening and that plans for the permanent park will be initiated in the future with community input.
- Open the vacant lot to patrons
- Staff will establish a set schedule for maintenance and garbage pick up
- Staff will monitor for any concerns and act accordingly

It is expected this space could be ready by the first week in July.

Spruce the Bruce Funding has recently been announced for the creation of patios that support physical distancing and encourage patronage in a safe environment in the downtown of your community. The CDC will be working with local business interested in patio improvements. Monies may be available from Spruce the Bruce to support some aspect of this temporary patio and or collaborative marketing for this initiative. Staff will be investigating this further but we recommend Council support moving this forward to ensure a timely response and availability this summer.

### **Sustainability Checklist:**

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

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy?       | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity?     | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity?           | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity?                 | Yes |

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

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

This temporary opening would cost approximately \$3,000 including staff time and equipment to prepare the site. Furniture (benches, picnic tables and waste/recycling station) is available within the community services department.

The portable toilets and handwashing station would cost \$155 per month. Monies for this will come from the Community Services and General Government operating budget.

This opening would support our community recovery efforts and long-term viability of our area businesses.

**Reviewed By:**



**Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer**

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**



**Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer**



**Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services**