

Report to Council

Report Title: Skating Oval Usage Statistics

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: April 27, 2021

Report Number: REC2021-06 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2021-06 – Skating Oval Usage Statistics, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

From January 29 to February 26, 2021 the Brockton Parks and Recreation Department established and operated a 350m outdoor ice-skating oval at Lobies Park for public skating purposes to support physical activity and mental health during the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. A COVID Safety and Operating Plan was put in place to control attendance and schedule usage via advance bookings. Up to 15 skaters per 45 minute time slot could book. The skating oval was operated 10:00am to 7:00pm daily Monday through Sunday. The oval was booked solid from 4pm each day and the entire day on weekends. During this period there were about 5 days of closure due to inclement weather (snow, wind or warm temperatures). The skating oval closed for the season on February 26th due to the early onset of spring weather conditions (daily temperatures above the freezing) resulting in deteriorating ice conditions and loss of ice.

Analysis:

Some 2,623+ skaters (adults, youth, seniors, families and schools groups) used the skating oval. Staff received positive feedback from many for the initiative and the quality of the skating trail. Many comments were also received hoping that skating oval would continue to be offered in the future.

Most users heard about the initiative via the Municipality's social media, information bulletins and website channels and through word of mouth by residents.

See the following table of where the 1,237 bookings came from:

Postal Code	Community	Attendance	Postal Code	Community	Attendance
N0G 2V0	Walkerton	656	N0G 1W0	Formosa	8
N4N	Hanover	170	N0G 1R0	Durham	8
N0G 2J0	Mildmay	154	N0G 2H0	Lucknow	7
N0G 1J0	Cargill	38	N0G 1V0	Fordwich	7
N0G 1S0	Elmwood	29	N0G 1C0	Ayton	7
N0G 2S0	Teeswater	28	N0G 1K0	Chepstow	5
N0G 2W0	Wingham	20	N0G 1M0	Clifford	4
N0G 1L0	Chesley	19	N0G 1A0	Arthur	4
N0G 2R0	Ripley	18	N0H 2C1	Tiverton	2
N0G 2M0	Neustadt	17	N0G 2X0	Wroxeter	2
N0G 2T0	Tiverton	15	N0G 1E0	Flesherton	2
N0G 2N0	Paisley	15	N0H 2N0	Tara	1
			N0G 2P0	Palmerston	1

This was a very positive initiative for the Municipality.

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? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

This winter recreation initiative was sponsored financially by a \$15,000.00 donation from Bruce Power. The funding was primarily used to provide for a new winterized gatehouse/information kiosk for Lobies Park Campground for staff to work out of in controlling access to and use of the skating oval. The balance of funding was used for signage, supplies, slights and set-up of ice flooding equipment.

Pending direction to operate the skating oval in future winter seasons, the charging of a nominal fee for public skating could be implemented to help cover operating costs along with any corporate sponsorship or funding

from a local business. The continuation of this initiative will be presented in a staff report this fall seeking pre-budget approval by Council as required to continue with the oval in early 2022.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer