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**Subject:** 55+ Skate Program and Public Skate Program Extensions

**Report to:** Thorold City Council

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## Recommendations

1. That the extension of the 55+ Skate and Public Skate Programs at the Walker Sports and Abilities Centre (Canada Games Park) **BE APPROVED** until the end of April, and
2. That funding in the amount of \$3,320 and \$1,835 respectively, **BE ALLOCATED** from the General Budget as an adjustment.

## Key Facts

- Each year the City of Thorold offers Community Skating Programs between the months of October and March at the Thorold Community Arena for the public to enjoy.
- Staff received direction from City Council at its meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to arrange a continuation of the 55+ Skate Program beyond the regular dates at the Canada Games Park facility based on ice time availability at that location.
- Under the terms of the Consortium Agreement the reservation (and cost) of ice time for each consortium partner only applies during the period of September to March.
- If the City of Thorold wishes to extend its program(s), it will be required to pay full cost for the ice time rental.
- Council approval is required to approve funding to support the extension of the program costs.

## Budgetary Status

Funding for the extension of the program(s) requires an adjustment allocation from the General Budget.

## Analysis

Each year the City offers Community Skating Programs at the Doherty Arena including;

- 55+ Skate
- Public Skating
- Stick N Puck
- Tiny Tots
- Adult Shinny

The programming for the spring session will conclude on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the ice at Doherty Arena will be removed for the summer. Likewise, the ice time availability at the Canada Games Park will be reduced to one (1) ice pad for the balance of the month of April to accommodate the community's needs for year-end tryouts, tournaments, playoffs, camps and other training programs.

The extension of ice availability at Canada Games Park falls outside of the time and cost allocation requirements reserved for the consortium partners allowing the Operator to rent ice time on a first-come, first-serve basis. That is to say, for the month of April the City of Thorold will not be billed (directly) for the unused monthly ice time costs as it would during the months of September to March.

The intent of Council's motion was to look at optimizing the ice time utilization assuming that the City of Thorold would be assuming this cost anyway.

Staff have confirmed with the Operator that ice time is available for the 55+ Skate Program extension from 11:00am-1:00pm (on Tuesdays and Thursdays). Taking a more inclusive approach, Council may also want to consider an extension of the Public Skate program from 1:00pm-3:00pm (Saturdays and Sundays except Easter Weekend).

The City costs to extend these programs are:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Ice-Rental Fees</b>	<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>Less Est. Gate Receipts</b>	<b>Total</b>
55+ Skate (9 skates)	\$2,520	\$1,025	(\$225)	\$3,320
Public Skating (4 skates)	\$1,600	\$685	(\$450)	\$1,835

- *Note: HST not included*

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

Alternatives includes consideration of extending just the 55+ Skate OR just the Public Skate program. Staff are recommending both at this time. A third alternative might be to include costs for program extensions in the 2024 Operating Budget.

## **Relationship to Strategic Plan**

The recommendation is consistent with Council's Strategic Priority;

- Vibrant, Inclusive Neighbourhoods
- Responsible Community Growth and Infrastructure Planning

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

None.

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**Prepared by:**  
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Public Works and Community Services

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**Recommended by:**  
Geoff Holman  
Director  
Public Works and Community Services

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**Approved and Submitted by:**  
Manoj Dilwaria  
Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared in consultation with Stephanie Jarvis, and reviewed by Dave Baldoni, Acting Manager of Community Services*

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1          Skate Schedule