



**SUBJECT: Winter Holiday Opportunities 2020/2021**

**TO: Mayor and Members of Council**

**FROM: Recreation Services Department**

Report Number: RS-12-20

Wards Affected: all

File Numbers: 915-01

Date to Committee: November 23, 2020

Date to Council: November 23, 2020

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**Recommendation:**

Direct the Director of Recreation Services to implement Option C for the 2020/2021 winter holiday season as outlined in report RS-12-20; and

Direct the Director of Recreation Services to implement a household rental program in arenas, pools and gyms to encourage people to stay active with members from their households.

**PURPOSE:**

- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

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**Background and Discussion:**

On November 12, 2020 at the Corporate Services Strategy, Risk and Accountability Committee the following staff direction was issued (CM-33-20) (SD-25-20)

Direct the Director of Recreation Services to report back at the November 23, 2020 City Council meeting on the total cost of operating 17 free skates and 6 free sticks and pucks, for council consideration, and seek a potential alternative sponsor or sponsors for these skates.

Since the committee meeting the Province of Ontario announced that Halton Region, including City of Burlington entered the control/red level of the [COVID-19 response framework: keeping Ontario safe and open](#). This announcement impacts the proposed

Holiday Skate Program as well the use of all recreation facilities by limiting activity spaces to 10 participants with no games or scrimmages. This has had a significant impact on recreational skating as well as user groups. As a result, a number of groups are cancelling facility rental times because of the new provincial limitations. With the additional facility availability staff would like to propose a, "Household Rental Program," to enable residents to have an opportunity to support their physical and mental wellness.

## **Strategy/process**

### **Holiday Skates:**

Staff have taken several action steps since Committee on November 12, 2020.

- Staff have reached out to Tim Horton's to see if they have any interest in sponsoring the modified holiday skate program this year before entertaining another sponsor. We have had some initial discussions with Tim Horton's and staff will provide a verbal update at Council on Monday.
- Staff have completed a financial analysis of offering the skates for free. Refer to the financial matters for the details. Council should note that in the red zone only 10 skaters are allowed on an indoor ice rink at any given time.
- Staff have also reviewed the arena schedules to see how many skates that can be offered.
- Given the limited number of skaters on the ice, staff have also looked at offering a modified service level by reducing the need to skate patrol on the ice for ten people. The skates will be supervised by arena operations staff and customer service staff.

### **Household Rentals:**

- With the recent changes to 10 people per indoor room; gyms, ice pads, and meeting rooms and 50 people per pool and the encouragement by Public Health to only limit connections with people in the household, staff would like to propose a Household Rental program for residents.
- The program would use available ice, pool and gym time for households to come in to play and recreate for their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Household would pay the youth non-prime or youth rate depending on the facility for use of the facility.
- Staff are looking at one-hour rentals for gyms and pools and half hour rental for ice pads.

- Staff have seen this program in other municipalities the program has been popular and well received by residents.

### **Options Considered**

As discussed at Committee there are several options that Council can consider if they would like to support free holiday skating.

Please note that the number of participants is reflective of a 10-person capacity per ice pad, in accordance with the Red zone.

The dollars reflected in the chart highlight the additional investment required to run these programs. Through previous reports on service resumption Council has approved the re-designed operations of arenas which captured arena fixed operating costs for the plant, full-time staff, additional part time staff to perform facility disinfection and being a greeter to ensure the COVID screening has been completed.

<b>Options</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Further Investment required</b>	<b>Hours of Programming</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
<b>A</b>	17 Public Skates and 6 Sticks and Pucks for free (the program outlined in report CM-33-20)	\$1,700	32	230
<b>B</b>	Offer 45 free skates for 1.5 hours in length	\$3,500	67.5	450
<b>C</b>	Offer 65 free skates for 1 hour in length	\$4,100	65	650

In addition to the options above staff would like to offer the following user pay programs which is consistent with past holiday programming.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Further Investment required</b>	<b>Hours of Programming</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Sticks and Pucks	\$0	7	70
Public Skates for 18 years and older	\$100	9	60

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### **Financial Matters:**

### **Total Financial Impact**

The total financial impact of option C with the paid holiday skate program is \$4,100 between the 2020 and 2021 operating budgets.

There are no additional financial impacts for the Household Rental Program.

### **Source of Funding**

Staff will reflect the overexpenditure in the operating budgets and report through budget projections accordingly.

### **Other Resource Impacts**

N/A

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### **Climate Implications**

Recreation facilities do have an impact on the climate where there are people using the facility or not. Staff continue to look for ways to offset the carbon footprint. Most recently the City has acquired an electric ice resurfacer which is an exciting step forward. Recreation staff continually work with staff from Capital Works to look for ways to reduce the operating carbon footprint in all recreation facilities.

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### **Engagement Matters:**

Staff did meet with colleagues in other municipalities regarding the Household Rental Program to ask about process, community use, etc.

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### **Conclusion:**

The holiday 2020/2021 season is going to be a challenge for many residents. Offering free skate opportunities to the community as well as a household rental program will provide residents an outlet to play and recreate for physical and mental wellness while being compliant with the provincial orders related to COVID-19.

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Respectfully submitted,

Denise Beard

Manager of Community Development

905-330-4118

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.