



# TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

# REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities  
**DATE:** 08/08/2017  
**SUBJECT:** Recreation and Facilities 08-08-2017 Department Update  
**ATTACHMENTS:**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receives the Activity Report of the Director of Recreation and Facilities, dated August 8, 2017, for information purposes.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Director of Recreation and Facilities provides a monthly report of department activities and ongoing projects to keep Council informed.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Richard W. LeVan Airport**

Huron County Economic Development Department is coordinating an airport study for both the Wingham and Goderich Airports. A focus group was hosted by the consultant, Explorer Solutions, at the NHWCC on July 19, 2017. The consultant has also held a number of one on one meetings with local business leaders and airport stakeholders. They hosted a meeting on Friday July 21 to review the results of the focus groups with the stakeholders of the report. The final report is expected to be circulated on November 6, 2017.

On July 31, 2017 at approximately 2:00pm, it was reported to the Wingham Airport Operator that a pilot of a Gyroplane had arrived at the Wingham Hospital with injuries sustained in a crash at the Wingham Airport. North Huron staff reported the incident to London Flight Centre and the National Transportation Safety Board as per protocol. The National Transportation Safety Board released the site by 3:30pm and informed the Wingham Airport that no on-site investigation would be required. Staff are working with the pilot and the farmer that leases the land at the airport, to remove the damaged aircraft that crashed just south of runway 13.

### **Blyth Campground – Festival of Wizardry**

Representatives of Transfigured Town Inc. attended the Blyth BIA meeting held July 31, 2017, as a delegation to share information with the local businesses, on how they can be involved and benefit from the upcoming Festival planned for Blyth on October 14 and 15, 2017.

### **New Recreation Software – Legend**

Staff continue to work with the service providers at Legend to prepare for the launch of the new software scheduled for Thursday September 7, 2017. As part of the upgrades to the software, the Complex access control system is being upgraded to include controlled access to the arena, and also additional security cameras. When the Legend software becomes operational, controlled access will be by using bar code cards and/or cell phone bar code images. The biometric finger scanners will no longer be used.

### Aquatic Centre Renovation

The Aquatic Centre Renovation is underway as scheduled. The pool water was drained over the weekend of July 29&30. The team from Acapulco Pools arrived early Monday July 31, 2017 to begin the work on the renovation. The liner has been mostly removed and initial analysis indicates that the concrete under the liner is in good condition. After draining the pool and inspecting the liner, it was apparent that the liner seams were beginning to fail, and that Council made a pragmatic decision to proceed with this project now as it is apparent the liner had little life left remaining in it. Council will continue to be updated on the project progress.

### Blyth Greenway Trail

The bridge on the Blyth Greenway Trail had one of the rail ties break due to age, and fall to the ground below. On July 10, the bridge was closed to all traffic by North Huron Staff. The bridge will remain closed until the Township received a report from the structural engineer at BM Ross. The G to G trail group has been contacted in hopes that they may be able to provide future funding for any repairs, however no funds are currently available. The Snowmobile Club requires this bridge as part of their trail system, and staff are continuing to reach out to this club for collaboration. Once the engineer report is received, staff will update council with a report.

### Marketing

With the change in software and the aquatic centre closed until October 10, 2017, the Recreation and Leisure Guide will be released later than usual. The release date will be September 14, 2017.

A marketing blitz is planned in late August and September to introduce the new software and encourage users to register their on-line account.

### North Huron Museum

Work by Allan Avis Architects has been initiated to work through the building feasibility study.

### Blyth Campground

The Threshers Log Cabin is under construction to add the new Veranda. It is anticipated to be completed and cleaned up by August 11, 2106.

The campground and the hall/kitchen is host to the Adullum Cooking Camp, where youth are participating in a camping experience on-site, and cooking classes during the day. On August 5 the Campground is being used by Cowbell Inc. for additional parking spaces for their grand opening. The Campground and Community Centre are hosting the NSDCA (Square Dance) group August 4-7.

### Blyth Arena Lighting

The new LED arena lights are installed. The control for the dimmer is still to be installed.

### IPM (International Plowing Match)

Three staff are attending the training hosted by Huron County on August 14. They will bring this information back to the rest of the staff that are working at the North Huron barn.

## Recreation Programs

- **Day Camps** in Wingham have been well attended with strong numbers except for the two new sports camps (tennis and supersonic sports camp) which did not have enough registrants to run. The one week of camps in Blyth was cancelled due to lack of registrants. The two sessions of Surf and Turf specialty camp were very popular and the Basketball Camp in Wingham had 19 participants.
- **Fitness** programs and utilization numbers are higher than traditional for June and July. Total visits in June and July in 2016 were 2681 and in 2017 were 3206 which is a 20% increase. . The Fitness Centre has offered some community outreach programs: Blyth Yoga, Community Boot Camp, Stroller Fitness, and a Pound Class Fundraiser in Wingham with the Fire Department to fundraise for fireworks.
- **Wingham Arena** hosted a very successful Lacrosse tournament for Midget and Intermediate age groups on July 29-30. The ice plant will be turned on for August 23, with the first ice rental on September 5.
- **Aquatic Centre** had a very busy schedule in July, putting 100 children through swimming lessons, squeezing what is normally done over the entire summer into the 4 weeks of July. They also offered a Bronze Cross/Bronze Medallion course in July with 13 participants.
- **K of C** facility is hosting the annual Mike McGlynn Memorial Event on Saturday August 12 at the Complex.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

## FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Next department update report tis Tuesday September 5, 2017

## RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our community is Healthy and Safe

Our community is attractive and welcoming to new businesses and residents.

Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.



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Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities



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Larry McGregor,  
Interim CAO/Director of Public Works