



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: 06/11/2017
SUBJECT: Victim Services Huron County Request for Reduced Ice Rate
ATTACHMENTS: Letter from Victim Services Huron County October 4 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby reduce the ice rate for the Victim Services Huron County fundraising event from the Prime Time Rate of \$140.05/hour (+tx) to \$128.07 (+tx) which is the ice rate charted for Prime Time Youth Rentals in North Huron;

AND FURTHER THAT the difference in the rental rate be North Huron's donation to the event in support of Victim Services Huron County, as per the North Huron Fee Waiving Policy.

AND FURTHER THAT the Prime Time Youth rate be the designated discounted community rate for similar requests in the future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Township of North Huron has established a Fee Waiving Policy for community events and activities in North Huron. A request for a reduced ice rate was sent to Council from Victim Services Huron County to host an exhibition fundraiser hockey game at the Blyth and District Community Centre. At the October 16 Council meeting, staff were directed to bring a report back to Council as there was no fee in the North Huron Rates and Fees By-Law that was defined as the "community rate" for discounted use of ice for community fundraisers.

DISCUSSION

The Township of North Huron has established a Fee Waiving Policy for community events and activities in North Huron. In the majority of circumstances this reduced community rate is specified in the North Huron Rates and Fees By-law, and is equivalent to a 30% discount for hall and meeting room rentals. For sports field rentals, rates and fees are established based on different criteria such as time of day, and type of user, and there is no defined "community" rate defined in the by-law.

Youth Prime Time rate is charged to groups that provide sport to youth, regardless of skill level. Anyone who registers is given the opportunity to play. This definition could be interpreted as the community rate, and is therefore the rate being recommended by the Director of Recreation and Facilities for this event. This recommended rate is \$128.07 (+ tx) per hour.

Victim Services Huron County requested that the Non- Prime Time rate be charged for their event which is \$87.40 (+ tx) per hour. This rate is charged for ice used prior to 5:00pm M-F. The event ice time requested is for Saturday March 24, 2017 which is defined as Prime Time.

It would be unfair to discount the ice further, when other community groups are charged this rate in March for Saturday ice.

There is another further discount for Youth Prime Blocked Ice, however this rate is only eligible to groups that repeat their ice booking each week of the ice season from October 1 to February 28 or 29. It is only eligible to regular local ice users to encourage them to block ice for the season making ice management efficient. This rate is \$113.72(+tx) per hour. This group does not fit this definition.

Events like the one Victim Services Huron County is hosting at the Blyth Community Centre, are beneficial to the host because they can fundraise for their organization, they also bring the community together for fun and entertainment, and celebrate our first responders. It is presumed that this event would likely host a close to capacity crowd and require mid-period ice resurfacing. Staffing for this event would be double what would normally be required for Saturday activities due to the increased crowd, so the cost to the municipality is also greater. While the benefits are great to the community, there is added costs for this ice usage which makes further discounts difficult to justify.

Ice usage diminishes in March, and bi-annually the ice between Blyth and Brussels facilities comes out at March Break, while the other arena holds ice to the end of March. In 2018 it is Blyth's turn to hold ice until the end of March. Ice is often available toward the end of March as many hockey and broomball groups have completed their season, but ice is left in until the end of March to accommodate the few teams that are still active. Scheduling this event in March will be possible, and other ice users can be worked around this event.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The regular Prime Time ice for 2 hours is \$280.10 (+tx)

The Youth Prime Time ice for 2 hours is \$256.14 (+tx)

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Whatever rate is selected by council for this event, it can be included in future rates and fees by-laws for future requests like this one.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Our community is healthy and safe.



Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities



Dwayne Evans, CAO