



## 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:** 05/02/2018  
**SUBJECT:** Wingham Ice-In Police Adjustment for Fall 2018  
**ATTACHMENTS:** North Huron Ice In and Out Policy

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby approve the request to extend the ice season by 7 days at the North Huron Westcast Community Complex arena for the 2018 ice season start up, by changing the start date from Tuesday September 4, 2018 to Monday August 27, 2018 with the following provisions:

- That all three committed ice users that have made pre-season bookings to confirm their ice use and pay in advance for their ice by June 1, 2018
- That no ice reserved by these three groups may be cancelled after June 1, 2018
- That the total revenue for ice booked by June 1, 2018 totals at least \$7,300 (before tax)
- Once this ice is confirmed and meets the minimum \$7,300 revenue, the rest of available ice will be advertised to other ice users, under the conditions of normal ice rental operations
- All ice prior to labour day is sold as Prime Time ice rates. Ice sold on Labour Day would be at the Holiday Ice rate and rental conditions.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Township of North Huron has an Ice In and Out policy which is attached to this report. There is a request to extend the ice season earlier in Wingham. This report summarizes the request and conditions by which the ice season may be extended for Council's consideration

### **DISCUSSION**

According to the North Huron policy, the demand for ice in the spring and summer is not dependent upon availability of rental time. The issue is whether the facilities are open and operating ice. The issue becomes an economic one, that is, whether sufficient demand and revenue warrants a facility to be in operation. The decision to extend the standard regular ice season is at the discretion of the Township of North Huron.

The regular ice season at the arena at the North Huron Westcast Community Complex is for ice to be ready for rentals the Tuesday after Labour Day. This was established with the policy in 2012. The rationale is that there is sufficient demand for September ice at the Wingham Arena to justify this ice-in date.

Typically minor sports programs will begin their ice use once the school season begins. Prior to Labour Day, the Wingham Ironmen do require ice, but not enough to offset the cost of operations. They use a different arena until ice is available at the Wingham Arena.

It typically takes 10-14 days to install the ice so that it is ready for public use. If the ice were to be ready for August 27, 2018, the ice plant will be started between August 13-15, 2018. Starting the ice plant when weather is typically very hot and humid puts additional run hours on the system that is not typical in a month like November. However, the Wingham Arena is relatively new with technology that can sustain ice in the warmer months. There is still additional stress on the system to operate in August. The additional week of ice operations does increase the overall cost of operations. Once the ice plant is started, it is safe practice to have the building staffed with a Recreation Operator at all times that the building is open to the public. This requires additional staff hours starting the day the ice plant is started, not the date the ice is available for rent.

Corey Hater, owner and operator of Hater Hockey has proposed to the Township that he will operate a hockey school the week of August 27-31, 2018. He has also contacted the Wingham Ironmen and Saugeen Maitland Hockey Association who have made commitments for enough ice to cover the \$7,300 revenue required. With Council's approval, staff will secure those ice bookings now, with a deadline of June 1, 2018 to provide payment on those rentals, with a no refund policy after June 1, 2018. Once the Township has secured the required \$7,300 revenue, the remaining ice will be made available for other rentals.

The economic benefits of operating the ice early are that the community will have increased visits from families with children attending the camp, and from the planned pre-season Ironmen games. There are also potential spin offs for pool rentals by the camp.

The challenge is operating the arena at the same time as parks work is being performed by the staff that are shared by parks and arena operations. The Wingham Facilities Manager has confirmed that both duties can be achieved. It is anticipated that minimal ice will be booked over the Labour Day weekend, the majority of bookings will take place during the M-F week.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

To offset the additional expenses for utilities and staffing, based on budget figures from 2015-2017, staff have calculated that an additional \$7,300 in revenue is required to offset the staffing and utility costs associated with the additional week of summer operations.

The estimated hydro cost is \$3,300. The additional staffing cost is estimated at \$3,000. The additional \$1,000 required in revenue is to offset the cost of equipment wear and tear, water and gas heating of the water tank for flood water, Olympia operations and fuel.

The challenge with providing an accurate estimate on the hydro cost is that the building is not separately metered for each area, but estimates were calculated using known hydro numbers in previous years during August and September. The heat and humidity during these specific days in 2018 will also be an uncontrollable factor.

Proposed ice use August 27 to September 2, 2018

Ice User	# hours	Rate	Total
Hater Hockey School	30	\$131.53	\$3,945.90
Wingham Ironment	10	\$143.83	\$1,438.30
Saugeen Maitland	15	\$143.83	\$2,157.45
Total	55		<b>\$7,541.65</b>

*These rates do not include tax.*

*Ice rates are all charged at prime time in August, there is no time of day discount. There is a youth program discount for the Hockey School because it provides a program that meets the youth discount rate definition.*

### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

This proposal is for the 2018 ice in date, and there is no recommendation by staff to adjust the policy at this time.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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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Dwayne Evans, CAO