



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 5, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Proposed Extension of Outdoor Swimming Pool Hours (CES16050) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Chris Herstek (905) 546-2424 ext. 4689 Julie Matson (905) 546-2424 ext. 5168 David Van Elswyk (905) 546-2424 ext. 6726
SUBMITTED BY:	Jack Brown Director, Recreation Community & Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

On July 8, 2016, Council approved the following motion:

Operating Hours of City of Hamilton Outdoor Swimming Pools

“WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton’s outdoor swimming pools currently close for public swimming between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.; and,

WHEREAS, pools are a necessity or near-necessity for many families and Individuals in hot weather;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff report back on the Coronation pool usage during this hour for the 2016 season for consideration of increasing an hour to the rest of the City outdoor pools in future years and referred to the 2017 budget process if warranted”.

On September 7, 2016, the General Issues Committee directed staff to:

“That staff be directed to report back to the Board of Health with options of extending the operating hours of the outdoor swimming pools and providing free admission to all public swims during the summer season”.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Information:

Coronation Pool Hours

The City of Hamilton operates 10 outdoor pools located throughout the City as listed in Appendix A to Report CES16050. In order to maximize participation at the outdoor pools the operating season is currently a 10 week season to align with the elementary school calendars of both school boards.

The current hours of operation for the ten outdoor pools are weekdays from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., closed from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for staff breaks and pool maintenance. On weekends and holidays outdoor pools are open from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a few program exceptions as noted in Appendix A to Report CES16050.

Outdoor pools are mainly programmed and utilized for public swimming; with two sites namely Victoria Park Outdoor Pool and Ancaster Lions Outdoor Pool offering learn to swim programs. Historically, three of the outdoor pools are free of charge namely Chedoke, Birge and Rosedale. These locations operate free of charge as part of the Affordable Access to Recreation Strategy. Public swimming hours are offered during peak times of the day, generally afternoons and early evenings, as lighting permits, to maximize public access.

During a heat alert day in early July, a Ward 1 resident requested through the Councillor's Office that Coronation Outdoor Pool remain open from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., an hour usually closed to accommodate staff breaks and pool maintenance.

On July 8, 2016, staff were directed to pilot the opening of Coronation Outdoor Pool during the 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. timeslot out of concern for available programming during heat events. Throughout the summer staff monitored the attendance at Coronation Outdoor Pool and reported consistent participation at an average of 25% capacity and/or 30 participants during that timeframe.

Further, on September 7, 2016, staff were directed to report back with options for extending the operating hours at all outdoor pools and offering free admission.

Alternatives for Extending Pool Hours and Free Admission

Staff reviewed the following scenarios with regard to extending pool hours and the costs associated with such:

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Enhancement	Increase in Service	Staffing Impact	Revenue Impact (Decrease)	Total Budget Impact
Maintain current operating hours but offer free admission Monday-Friday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Weekends 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Increased community access	\$12,188 0.40 FTE	(\$58,500)	\$70,688
Extend pilot program hours to all outdoor pools by providing one additional hour each day from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and free admission	Increase of 450 hours and community access	\$78,550 1.94 FTE	(\$58,500)	\$137,050
Increase hours of operation at outdoor pools to 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day and free admission	Increase of 1,858 hours and community access	\$305,927 5.50 FTE	(\$58,500)	\$364,427
Extend operating season by one week. Increase hours of operation at outdoor pools to 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day and free admission	Increase of 2,418 hours and community access	\$358,059 6.68 FTE	(\$58,500)	\$437,559*

*Includes \$21,000 in utilities.

Heat Events

A City of Hamilton Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) triggers free entry at all public swim programs beginning at Stage 2. Over the past few years there has been an increasing trend in the number of heat events. Excessive heat in the summer of 2016 triggered 28 Heat Alerts which resulted in Council's concern for citizens' health and desire to provide extended access to outdoor pools.

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A City of Hamilton Stage 1 Heat Advisory is triggered when temperatures are forecast for 31°C or more with a 40°C humidex or more. The first heat advisories for the past six years in the City are as follows:

Year	Total Alert #	First Alert Date	Attendance
2016	28	May 30	63,339
2015	17	June 19	59,746
2014	3	July 14	46,880
2013	9	July 1	41,603
2012	10	July 17	50,926
2011	14	June 18	46,871

Public Health Services, Environmental Health Division, was consulted as it relates to the Community Heat Response Plan. They advised that providing opportunities for the general public to cool off in city outdoor pools may offer some relief to citizens. Removing the barrier of admission at outdoor pools during heat related events helps many of our marginalized residents to cool off quickly and easily. It should be noted, however, that extending time in the sun may be counter-productive to the cooling effects a short swim may provide, as bathers may not truly feel the effects of the sun until they are showing symptoms of a heat related illness. Caution is given in this area and staff should be monitoring bathers' safety as well as incorporating swim rotations so that time, particularly at outdoor pools, is limited and more people have the opportunity to utilize the pools should line ups occur.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A to Report CES16050: City of Hamilton Outdoor Pool – Hours of Operation