



## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	November 19, 2020
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	2020 Arena Opening Plan (HSC20031(b)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Steve Sevor (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4645
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

### INFORMATION

Following reports in August 2020 (Report HSC20031) and October 2020 (Report HSC20031(a)), Recreation staff have finalized the reopening plan for City operated ice arenas. The phased opening of ice arenas was the result of the ever-changing status of the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the uncertainty of how the restrictions would impact the registration figures for the local sport groups as well as the programming that each organization is permitted to offer.

As such the following arenas are now open, operational and have accommodated the programming needs of the ice users for the balance of the ice season:

- Bill Friday (Lawfield) Arena
- Carlisle Arena
- Chedoke Twin Pad Arena
- Dave Andreychuk Arena
- Glanbrook Arena
- Harry Howell Twin Pad Arena

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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.

- Inch Park Arena
- J.L. Grightmire Arena
- Mohawk 4Ice Centre
- Morgan Firestone Arena
- Mountain Skating Centre
- Pat Quinn (Parkdale) Arena
- Rosedale Arena
- Spring Valley Arena
- Valley Park Arena
- Westoby (Olympic) Arena

Limited public programming (public skate, seniors skate, parent and tot skate, shinny) will be programmed in November at Harry Howell Twin Pad Arena, Mountain Skating Centre, and Valley Park Arena. Ad-hoc rentals including adult groups are currently under review and may be commencing in the near future. As the programming needs for all ice users have been satisfied, ice will not be installed in any further arenas for the remainder of the ice season.

Consequently, recreation staff recognize the challenges that youth sport organizations have faced in accessing facility space for indoor training. The primary facilities for sports such as volleyball and basketball are gymnasiums. The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board do not have immediate plans to open their facilities for community rentals. Most private schools or institutions have communicated the same position for their gymnasiums. The inability for volleyball and basketball groups to secure training facilities has severely impacted their ability to provide development for a wide range of youth. As the City has been able to cautiously open arenas for ice users, there is an opportunity to provide the same support to the numerous volleyball and basketball organizations within arenas that will not have ice installed.

Preliminary discussions with affiliated youth volleyball and basketball organizations have resulted in overwhelming support and commitment to utilize these facilities. There are no additional staffing requirements needed to provide this opportunity to the affiliated volleyball and basketball organizations.

Recreation staff have identified the following locations to be made accessible for training effective November 2020 until May 2021:

- Beverly Arena – to support volleyball organizations
- Coronation Arena and Saltfleet Arena – to support basketball organizations

With the assistance of the user groups, specialized flooring and equipment can be installed in these arenas to transform them into appropriate gym space. User fees are

already established for arena floor rentals and would be consistent to traditional uses of arenas. Rental revenue can be realized to offset the cost of operating the arenas.

It should be noted that the cost to operate an arena as a gym space would be significantly less than it would be to operate when ice is installed. Return to play guidelines are already established and organizations will comply with provincial guidelines for sport organizations as well as local Public Health Unit directives.

The following facilities would be not be operational for ice or any activity until May 2021:

- Eastwood Arena
- Stoney Creek Arena

Existing staff resources may be able to support a commitment of hours for any of the remaining arenas, provided that operating another facility made fiscal sense and if it met the appropriate programming needs of a sport.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES**

None