


# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	August 10, 2022
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	2022 Mid-Term Report on Community Bookings at Tim Hortons Field (PW18075(a)) (Ward 3)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 3
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Rob Gatto (905) 546-2424, Ext. 5448
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Rom D'Angelo Director, Energy, Fleet and Facilities Management Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION:

The purpose of this Information Report (PW18075(a)) is to provide City Council with a 2022 Mid-Term report on 'community use' at Tim Hortons Field.

Utilization of the stadium is measured on two categories of use, (1) Field of Play usage and (2) Room & Space Bookings. Appendix "A" to Report PW18075(a) provides a 5-year history as well as the current mid-year summary of 'community use' at the stadium.

## INFORMATION:

Over the past two (2) years, stadiums worldwide have had to review every aspect of their operations in response to the global pandemic, subsequently changing fan-base expectations and community uses. With the impacts of COVID-19 being far from over, the City continues to examine way to increase 'community use' by developing a recovery plan in collaboration with the stadium's anchor tenant, the Ticats/Forge Organization, and other strategic partners.

From March 2020 to March 2022, Tim Hortons Field and all City of Hamilton's Recreational Facilities were periodically closed to the public to prevent potential exposure and spread of the coronavirus.

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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.

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In 2020 the Canadian Football League (CFL) season was cancelled, and the Canadian Premier League played offsite in Prince Edward Island.

In 2021 both the Canadian Football League and Canadian Premier League had condensed seasons, with the Hamilton Forge commencing play in August and the Hamilton Tiger Cats in September at Tim Hortons Field. Community use during this period was practically non-existent.

After two (2) years of being in a global pandemic, with several lockdowns and social distancing requirements observed, some people were eager to reconnect in person, while others remained hesitant about attending major or community events at the stadium. With that in mind, the City's stadium operations team needed to re-engage the community, educate them about safety measures that were adopted and those that remain in place.

Tim Hortons Field continues to be showcased as a premier stadium, hosting international, national, and high-profile local community events such as; World Cup qualifying soccer matches, Champions League CONCACAF soccer matches, the NHL Winter Heritage hockey game, Nitro Circus, and most recently the Arkells concert, that played in front of 26,000 fans. A welcome addition in 2022 is Hamilton's Mohawk College Mountaineers, calling Tim Hortons Field their home pitch to host both women's and men's soccer games.

**Field of Play Bookings (2022):**

At Tim Hortons Field, the field of play is typically available for bookings from April to November, available 7 day/week from 7:00 a.m. -11:00 p.m. Available further hours are based on 'non-prime' and 'prime' time slots. Prime time hours are defined as Monday-Friday 5:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. and weekends 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. During the winter months, the field of play is typically closed due to colder weather conditions.

January to March of 2022 saw an exceptional outcome with the stadium hosting four (4) successful winter events:

1. FIFA World Cup Qualifier - January 30, 2022  
Canada vs USA;
2. CONCACAF Champions League Finals – February 16, 2022  
Cruz Azul vs Hamilton Forge FC;
3. NHL Heritage Outdoor Classic – March 13, 2022  
Toronto Maple Leafs vs Buffalo Sabres; and
4. OHL Regular Season Outdoor Showcase Game – March 14, 2022  
Oshawa Generals vs Hamilton Bulldogs.

With the Province lifting most health restrictions this past spring we are experiencing a moderate increase with field of play bookings from the community user groups in comparison to the past 2-years. January to June there have been 141 community bookings, a total of 324 hours. Professional sporting events and major events, such as concerts, are not calculated as part of community bookings, these activities will be captured as part of the year-end stadium review.

#### Room and Space Bookings (2022):

Tim Hortons Field offers several interior spaces for small meetings and conferences, trade shows and private lounge set ups, this space is ideal for, rehearsals, dinners, and presentations. In addition, there are interior spaces that are conducive to recreational purposes as well. In total there are 11 interior rooms at various sizes that may be configured to serve smaller functions, meetings or large events in the club suites which converts from five (5) smaller rooms to one (1) large banquet room.

With most, if not all the pandemic health restrictions lifted in the spring of 2022, the stadium is seeing a gradual increase in room bookings from the public and community groups. January to June, there have been six (6) rooms booked, for a total of 20 hours. Note, total room bookings exclude the Hamilton Forge and the Hamilton Tiger Cats organizations.

#### Post Pandemic Recover:

The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the 'community use' at Tim Hortons Field, in the past two (2) years, some would say practically non-existent.

Working towards a recovery plan is underway which requires a long-term strategy that allows for collaboration between a wide range of partners, including the stadium's anchor tenants, the Hamilton Ticats and the Hamilton Forge Organization, and their support in engaging and promoting community use. Other strategic partners include; the two (2) major School Boards in Hamilton, College & Universities, various community sporting organizations, neighbourhood associations, non-profit and profit organizations, which collectively will make a tangible difference on how the stadium is used.

City staff will report back to City Council during the stadium's year-end review, scheduled for January/February 2023.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PW18075(a) – Year over Year Community Use of Tim Hortons Field