



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: February 26, 2018

Subject: Report CSRS18-002
Recreation Subsidy Overview

Purpose

A report to provide an overview of the various programs available that offer Sport and Recreation Subsidy opportunities to City residents.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSRS18-002 dated February 26, 2018, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That Report CSRS18-002 be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implication

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of report CSRS18-002.

Background

Council requested Staff to prepare an information report summarizing the various subsidy programs in place that provide Sport and Recreation Subsidy to the residents of the City.

Municipal Recreation Fee Subsidy Program

The City of Peterborough offers two types of recreational fee subsidies to assist qualifying families residing in the City of Peterborough, as follows:

- a) An annual maximum of \$200 per child (up to 18 years of age) toward the registration costs of recreational programs, sports activities, and camps. Council has approved an allocation of \$48,000 in the 2018 Recreation Administration operating budget to support this program. Those interested can apply for the subsidy by contacting the Subsidy Administrator, at 705-742-7777 ext 1827.

This program supported 1,649 recreation opportunities in 2017.

- b) The Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre (PSWC) offers a 50% subsidized membership for eligible individuals and families. Council has approved a \$35,000 allocation in the 2018 PSWC operating budget to support this program. Those interested in applying for a PSWC membership or program subsidy, can do so by contacting the Membership Services Coordinator at 705-742-0050 ext 2203.

This program supported 126 recreation opportunities in 2017.

In the event families access both subsidies listed above, the maximum issued between the two subsidies cannot exceed the \$200 per child per year.

The Municipal Recreation Subsidy Program is available to low income families not in receipt of Social Assistance. Social Assistance recipients can access the Discretionary Benefits program through Social Services.

Social Services - Discretionary Benefits

Through the Ontario Works Discretionary Benefit Program, the Social Services Division provides a subsidy for recreational and social activities for dependent children, whose families are in receipt of Social Assistance. The funds can be used broadly toward registration, equipment/supplies, and other incidentals, such as transportation. Verification of the expenses required to participate are submitted directly to the Social Services Case Manager. The maximum subsidy available is \$200 per child, per calendar year. Council has approved an allocation of \$170,000 in the 2018 budget to support this program, while the County approved allocation is \$35,000.

This program supported in excess of 1,300 recreation opportunities in 2017.

No charge for Practice Time on Natural Turf Fields

The City has a long standing practice of not charging organized sport groups to use natural turf sport fields for practice time, as a measure to improve access to affordable recreation.

External Subsidy Opportunities

A brochure listing the municipal subsidies identified above, along with several other subsidy opportunities available through external organizations is attached as Appendix "A". This information is promoted electronically and in hard copy by the City and all eight townships throughout Peterborough County. Those in need can access these other subsidies in addition to funds available through the municipality.

The City's Recreation Division Staff completed applications on behalf of the Canadian Tire Jump Start program, until 2016. At that time Jumpstart transitioned to an online application system. While City Staff continue to be a resource to help guide residents who require assistance applying online for Jumpstart, the majority of applications are now completed online independently by the applicant. The YMCA plays a similar role to support Jump Start applicants residing in the County of Peterborough.

The YMCA offers a Financial Assistance program to subsidize YMCA memberships for individuals and families. The level of subsidy is determined through an application process, administered by the local YMCA.

In keeping with the terms of the 2011 Athletics Centre funding agreement with the City, the Trent Athletics Centre provides the Share Camp Fund, a subsidy program for families that require financial assistance to send their children to Trent's Excalibur Sports Camps. In addition, Trent Athletics provides complementary Athletic Centre memberships to any Special Olympics Peterborough athlete and their coach, who have been named to their National or International Team (in the year leading up to a National or World Games to support them in their training efforts).

Submitted by,

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Attachments:
Appendix A - Sport & Recreation Subsidy Support Brochure