

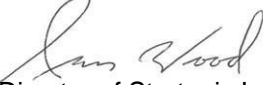
Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	October 20, 2020			Report Date	October 16, 2020				
Decision Requested		Yes	X	No	Priority		High		Low
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Report Title
COVID 19 RESPONSE UPDATE


Resolution	Relationship to the Strategic Plan/Health Impact Assessment
For Information Only	<p>This report is informed by all of the Strategic Objectives outlined in the City of Greater Sudbury Strategic Plan 2019-2027, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management and Service Excellence • Business Attraction, Development and Retention • Climate Change • Economic Capacity and Investment Readiness • Housing • Create a Healthier Community • Strengthen Community Vibrancy
Resolution Continued	Background Attached


Report Summary
<p>This report is the eleventh Council Update on the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency and builds on the information provided in the previous reports on the April 7, May 5, May 19, June 9, June 23, July 7, August 12, September 8, September 22 and October 6 Council Agendas.</p>

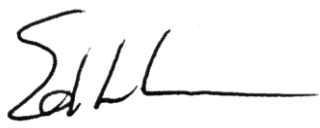
Financial Implications
<p>There are no financial implications for this report.</p>

Report Prepared By
<p>Ian Wood  Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, Communications and Citizen Services</p>

Division Review
<p>NA</p>

Recommended by the Department
<p>Ian Wood  Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, Communications and Citizen Services</p>

Financial Implications
<p> Steve Facey Manager of Financial Planning and Budgeting</p>

Recommended by the C.A.O.
<p> Ed Archer Chief Administrative Officer</p>

A: INTRODUCTION

Although a second wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic has become evident in several Ontario regions, Northern Ontario in general, and Greater Sudbury in particular, has so far avoided a significant spike in confirmed cases. Continued vigilance and adherence to the guidance of public health is required to maintain this situation, particularly as the weather changes and people will spend more time indoors.

As described in the previous reports cited below, with only minor exceptions all CGS services are being delivered and the vast majority are being provided at a level consistent with past practice.

This update report describes plans for seasonal outdoor recreation facilities including Adanac and Lively ski hills, outdoor rinks and the Ramsey Lake Skate Path and Queens Athletic Field Skating Oval. Based on experiences this summer and evidence from other parts of the province, residents continue to turn to outdoor recreation amenities as COVID-19 related restrictions prevent travel and other forms of leisure and entertainment.

Subject to direction from Council, staff anticipate outdoor facilities will open adaptations to ensure adherence to public health directives on the use of indoor spaces and increased cleaning. Staff anticipate demand and usage will be higher this season and scheduling will be adapted based on usage. All facilities will be operated within existing budget and resource levels.

This report also provides an update on the status of resurgence planning for potential second wave scenarios that, as described previously, is being developed by an inter-agency group working under the guidance of the Community Control Group (CCG).

B: FALL AND WINTER PANDEMIC RESURGENCE PLANNING

The CCG (comprised of senior representatives from HSN, PHSD, GSPS and the City of Greater Sudbury) are working to revise its set of shared objectives to guide its ongoing pandemic response. The objectives under consideration are:

1. Supporting Hospital and Long Term Care Capacity and Primary Care Providers
2. Community Strategies for Health, Wellness and Equity
3. Human Resources Support
4. Maintaining Critical CGS, HSN, PHSD and GSPS Services
5. Supply Chain and PPE
6. Economy Preservation/Recovery
7. Public Order/Safety

The CCG will use these objectives to help it shape actions and decisions that respond to data and our experience over the next six months. Using scenario planning methodology, the group collected plans for each service area within the four organizations using scenarios developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization.

The scenarios used for planning will be familiar to those watching national and provincial resurgence planning updates and the group is using them to provide a local plan for Greater Sudbury. The scenarios being considered are:

1. "Peaks and Valleys" - a scenario which anticipates a series of successive waves through the fall and winter with clusters of Covid-19 cases (for example, in congregate care settings, workplaces or schools)
2. "Fall peak" - a scenario which is characterized by a large wave in the fall or winter followed by successive waves. This scenario has been considered using a moderate community spread scenario and a widespread community spread scenario
3. "Slow burn" - ongoing transmission with no significant pattern, one or more cases imported or locally acquired.

The group is finalizing detailed action plans. Some actions will be taken immediately to prepare for the more advanced community spread scenarios. The plan will also offers a series of "signposts", which the CCG will monitor. Since the earliest days of this virus response, the CCG has been able to rely on a dashboard presenting real-time operational data to help it assess risk and understand current circumstances. Signposts are leading indicators like positive case counts, daily testing numbers and hospital admission thresholds that could signal other actions that may be required to continue delivery of public services, assist the most vulnerable (for example those in Long Term Care and congregate care settings) and contain further spread of the virus in the community.

Council can anticipate additional communications about this plan in the coming weeks. This will include further analysis of the revised shared objectives and their ramifications for City services and work plans in future COVID-19 updates.

C: DETAILED PLANS FOR SKI HILL OPERATIONS

Safe Operations with COVID-19

Staff continue to consult with Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD), to finalize details for the upcoming season but the following information is being used for planning purposes. The Province stated that recreational activities such as ski and snow recreation are not subject to gathering limits listed for sport and recreation facilities. Other sections of Ontario Regulation 364/20 may apply for indoor spaces, etc. For example, as a facility open to the public, the number of individuals permitted in any chalet or support building will be limited to ensure physical distancing of two meters can be achieved.

The Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA) strongly recommends that operators implement a required face covering policy for guests while at facilities. This includes the wearing of face coverings while both indoor and outdoor spaces including lift lines, lifts and gathering places.

OSRA has also confirmed that there are no specific capacity limits for ski lifts (i.e. 4 persons on a quad chair etc.), provided all guests and staff are wearing face coverings while lining up and riding the lifts in their cohorts.

Washrooms, change areas, and similar amenities made available to the public must be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition. Staff will be limiting access to indoor spaces and creating outdoor warming areas for guests.

Any equipment that is rented to, provided to or provided for the use of members of the public must be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition. Disinfection units will be obtained to ensure proper disinfection of Adanac Ski Hill rental equipment.

Reopening Timelines and Requirements

To safely open, Adanac Ski Hill requires a sufficient amount of both man-made and natural snow on the ski runs and ski lift loading and unloading areas. Snowmaking uses tower mounted snow guns powered by a central air compressor and water pumps that blow snow directly on the hill. The ability to make snow requires consistent temperatures of -10 C or below for a minimum of 24 hours with a relative humidity of 20% to 30%. Opening dates are historically between mid-December to mid-January, depending on these factors.

To safely open, Lively Ski Hill requires a sufficient amount of both man-made and natural snow on the ski runs and ski lift loading and unloading areas. Snowmaking uses two on the ground snow guns with built-in air compressors and fans that require colder temperatures. The ability to make snow requires consistent temperatures of -15 C or below for a minimum of 48 hours with a relative humidity of 20% or less. January openings are not unheard of at Lively Ski Hill, and tend to fluctuate between December 27 to January 17.

Between now and opening dates, all annual maintenance and servicing on elevating devices, snow making equipment, groomers and other related equipment will be completed in anticipation of the season starting.

Resource Implications

To support operations at Adanac and Lively Ski Hills, the following staff will be recalled/hired, beginning this week. The positions are either limited or seasonal positions:

- Up to 6 Ski Hill Utility Persons (limited positions)
- Up to 35 Ski Lift Attendants (part time seasonal positions)
- One Ski Hill Program Supervisor (seasonal position)
- One Ski Patrol Leader (part time seasonal position)
- Up to 40 Instructors for ski and snowboard lessons (part time seasonal positions)
- Up to 20 Program and Service staff for ticket and rental operations (part time seasonal positions)

Service Level Considerations

City operated Ski hills are a unique and discretionary service offered by the City of Greater Sudbury. As per OSRA, there are at least 6 other ski areas run by municipalities in Ontario.

In a recent meeting with the Adanac Ski Club, representatives stated that they are expecting an increase in membership for the upcoming season.

Adanac Ski Hill traditionally opens Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays daytime (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) to accommodate school visits. Should local school boards not allow field trips in the new year, staff will look reduce operating hours accordingly.

Cost and Revenue Implications

It is anticipated that additional cleaning and disinfection can be completed within existing staffing levels. There are incremental costs, projected to be \$5,500, associated with additional PPE for staff and cleaning products that will be funded from existing, approved funds. Pricing for ionizing equipment to disinfect rental gear is being obtained. Staff will be exploring rental arrangements should acquisition of equipment be cost prohibitive.

D: DETAILED PLANS FOR OUTDOOR RINKS AND SKATING FACILITIES

Safe Operations with COVID-19

Staff continue to consult with Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD), to finalize details for the upcoming season but the following information is being used for planning purposes. It is understood that there are no capacity limits associated with use of outdoor rinks and other outdoor skating areas (paths and skating ovals). Individuals will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing, stay within social bubbles and use of face coverings will be encouraged.

Capacity restrictions will be in place for field houses and other similar buildings supporting outdoor skating locations. Washrooms, change areas, and similar amenities available to the public must be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition. Field houses and support facilities would only be accessed during supervised hours to ensure there are controls on facility capacities and proper disinfection is completed.

Reopening Timelines and Requirements

Outdoor rinks are highly dependent on community volunteers who build and maintain ice throughout the season. Historic practice requires neighbourhood associations to develop a sufficient ice base for outdoor skating. Upon establishing sufficient ice, Outdoor Rink Staff are deployed to the location to provide supervision, cleaning of field houses and buildings and assist volunteers with ice maintenance.

The corporation currently provides operational support to the existing outdoor rink program by providing part time staff (approximately 25-hours per week for eight to ten weeks) to assist volunteers in maintaining the sites. An annual grant allocation of approximately \$1,500 is also provided to each of the local Neighbourhood Associations to support small projects. All outdoor rinks rely on winter weather conditions to open as they are natural ice pads with no refrigeration equipment. Typically the majority of outdoor rinks are open for the Christmas holiday period, pending weather conditions and volunteer support.

The preparation of the Ramsey Lake Skate Path is completed by a contractor on an annual basis. In order for work to begin on the Ramsey Lake Skate Path, ice must be a minimum thickness of 12 to 15 inches depending on the type and weight of equipment being used. Test holes are measured starting in January to determine the thickness of the ice. Depending on temperature and weather conditions, it takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks to prepare the skate path. Preparations include plowing, sweeping, shaving and flooding the ice surface. Once ice is 18 to 24 inches thick, the skate path is deemed safe for opening. The skate path has historically opened anywhere from mid January to early February, and closes in March when conditions are no longer safe or favourable. Staff are exploring creating outdoor warming areas

due to limited space available for changing. Trailers that are traditionally used for change areas will not be deployed this season.

Preparation of the Queens Athletic Field Skating Oval is completed by full time Parks Services operators with the use of ice resurfacers. Preparations take place in early December and the ice is typically safe for community use for the Christmas holiday period (pending weather conditions).

Parks Services has conducted required building inspections throughout the year and any required repairs and disinfection required prior to reopening will be completed using existing staff resources.

Resource Implications

To support operations for outdoor rink, Ramsey Lake Skate Path and Queen Skating Oval operations, the recall/hiring of up to 80 Outdoor Rink Staff (seasonal part time positions) will begin this week. Individuals are responsible for site supervision, facility cleaning and disinfecting and support volunteers in the maintenance of ice surfaces at outdoor rinks. Outdoor Rink Staff are seasonal, part time staff, with no guarantee with respect to the amount of weeks or hours employees would work during a given season.

Given the reliance on community volunteers to support outdoor rink operations, Health & Safety has been engaged to assist with the development of protocols to provide guidance with respect to volunteer activities.

Service Level Considerations

The Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (POSLMP) established a 1.0 km service radius, with only two areas of overlap (Cedar Park and Ridgecrest Playgrounds; Don Lita and Lebel Playgrounds). The POSLMP suggests the City should continue maintaining existing outdoor rinks to the degree possible.

Cost and Revenue Implications

Necessary supervision and disinfecting of facilities to be completed within annual staffing resource levels.

Incremental costs associated with additional PPE for staff and cleaning products are to be covered through existing operational budgets.

E. NEXT STEPS

CGS staff will continue to support the Community Control Group and actively plan for possible second wave scenarios and potential responses.

Council will receive an update at the meeting of November 10, 2020.

F: REFERENCES

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council April 7, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30201.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council May 5, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30180.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council May 19, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30315.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council June 9, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30461.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council June 23, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30590.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council July 7, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30679.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council August 12, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=30876.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council September 8, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=31178.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council September 22, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=31260.pdf>

COVID-19 Update, Report to Council October 6, 2020 –
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=31372.pdf>