

Staff Report

To: Mayor Bazinet and Members of Council
Report From: Kyle Williams, Operations and Community Services Manager
Meeting Date: February 24, 2025
Subject: Community Event Facilitation at Town of Goderich Owned Spaces

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receive this report for information;

And That the Town of Goderich assist with promoting the availability of renting the Sky Harbour Room and Gymnasium at the Maitland Recreation Centre (MRC) through the Town's social media platforms and website;

And that Council does not proceed with insulated floorboards on the MRC ice surface.

Report Summary:

The Town of Goderich is committed to enhancing the utility and accessibility of our public spaces for the benefit of our community. In alignment with this commitment, we are exploring opportunities to facilitate community events at all Town-owned venues, specifically at the Maitland Recreation Centre. The goal is to identify viable options for hosting events in spaces that cater to both small and large gatherings, encouraging community engagement and participation.

Facilities Available for Event Hosting:

1. **Sky Harbour Room** (62.5ft x 20ft)
 - **Availability:** Currently, Monday – Friday, 12 - 5PM, and Weekends, 12 PM until close. These hours will change with more availability in the summer months.
 - **Rental Rates:** \$30.00 per hour or \$216.00 for a full day, plus HST
 - **Suitability:** Ideal for smaller events such as workshops, meetings, or private gatherings. Eligible for acquiring a liquor license.
2. **Gymnasium** (92ft x 56ft)
 - **Availability:** Currently Weekends: 12PM until close. These hours will change with more availability in the summer months.
 - **Rental Rates:** \$150.00 per hour or \$550.00 for a full day, plus HST
 - **Suitability:** Suitable for medium to large-sized events including sports gatherings, youth activities, and community shows. Not eligible for acquiring a liquor license.

For events requiring alternative scheduling beyond the stated hours, requests can be reviewed and potentially accommodated through special arrangements with the YMCA.

Background and Analysis:

With the future of Memorial Arena currently under discussion, Town of Goderich staff are actively exploring alternative Town-owned facilities to ensure the continued accommodation of community events.

One potential option under consideration is to utilize the rink level, which would necessitate the installation of insulated floorboards to cover the ice. The initial cost for these materials ranges from \$294,897.00 to \$432,000.00, plus HST. Additionally, the process to cover and uncover the ice requires the resources of 12 staff members and approximately 3 hours of work with the assistance of a forklift.

We recognize the importance of community events to our Town and are committed to finding feasible and cost-effective solutions. The Town of Goderich will help promote these spaces through the Town's social media platforms and websites.

Linkage:

- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #2: Welcoming and Caring Community
- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #3: Strong Local Economy
- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #4: Good Government

Financial Impacts and/or Source of Funding:

By utilizing these spaces, the Town anticipates additional rental revenue to the YMCA. Thereby, decreasing the overall net YMCA operating support.

If the Town were to proceed with the insulated floorboards at rink level, it would require an initial investment ranging between \$294,897.00 and \$432,000.00, plus HST.

Consulted With:

Sean Thomas, Director of Operations, Infrastructure and Community Services
Mike Vander Werf, General Manager, Goderich Huron YMCA

Approved By:

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk