

Staff Report

To: Mayor Bazinet and Members of Council
Report From: Andrew Bouck, Tourism Events and Marketing Coordinator
Meeting Date: April 13, 2026
Subject: April Special Events Report
Attachment(s): 1) TO-2026 04 Knock Off The Rust – Council Letter
2) TO-2026 04 Operation Mercury – Council Letter
3) TO-2026 04 IODE 125 Anniversary – Council Letter
4) TO-2026 04 Canada Day Children’s Festival – Council Letter
5) TO-2026 04 Canada Day Parade - Site Map

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receives this report for information;

And That Council designates the Tanner Steffler Foundation Knock Off the Rust Slo-Pitch Tournament as an event of municipal significance;

And Further That Council approve designating Wednesday, June 17, 2026, as IODE Maple Leaf Chapter Day;

And Further That Council approve the raising of the IODE flag at Town Hall on Wednesday, June 17, 2026;

And Further That Council approve the use of amplified sound for the Goderich Canada Day Fireworks Celebration, the Goderich Children’s Festival, and the Goderich Canada Day Parade;

And Further That Council affirms Exemption 1 listed in Schedule B of By-Law 63 of 2017, to temporarily house a variety of domestic animals on municipal properties for a petting zoo for the duration of the event for the Goderich Children’s Festival;

And Further That Council approves the temporary stop-up of traffic for the Canada Day Parade.

Report Summary:

Tanner Steffler Foundation Knock Off the Rust Slo-Pitch Tournament – Bannister Park and John O’Keefe Baseball Diamonds, May 1 – 3, 2026

The annual Knock off the Rust slo-pitch tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 1, from 5 PM – 12 AM, Saturday, May 2, 7:30 AM – 12 AM, and Sunday, May 3, 8 AM – 6 PM. The organizer would like to licence and serve alcohol during the tournament and will be requesting a Special Occasion Permit upon approval from Council. The organizer would like to:

- Request designation of the event as an Event of Municipal Significance

22 Until None Operation Mercury VI – Courthouse Square, Saturday, June 6, 10 AM – 12 PM

Operation Mercury March for Veteran/First Responder mental health and suicide awareness will be held globally June 6, 2026. Entering its 6th year, the walk will start at Courthouse Square at 10 AM with participants walking down to Rotary Cove along the John C. Grace Memorial Boardwalk and back. The organizer would like to offer an open invitation to all members of Council to participate.

IODE Maple Leaf Chapter 125 Anniversary Celebration – Goderich Knights of Columbus Hall, Wednesday, June 17, starting at 12 PM

The Maple Leaf Chapter of the IODE will be celebrating 125 years of volunteer service, community support, and meaningful contributions to the Town of Goderich. As this anniversary holds great historical significance with the Town of Goderich, the organizers will be seeking permission from Council to:

- Declare Wednesday, June 17, 2026, “IODE Maple Leaf Chapter Day” and;
- Raise the IODE flag at Town Hall on Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Goderich Canada Day Fireworks Celebration – Goderich Waterfront, Tuesday, June 30, Starting at dusk

Join us to catch the annual Canada Day Fireworks Display. The show starts at dusk, and the barge is graciously provided by Jim Peever and the team at the Goderich Marina. For another year, the spectacle will launch from a barge on our striking waterfront, promising a breathtaking view for locals and visitors alike. The 2026 show will last 15-20 minutes. This event requests:

- Permission to make use of amplified sound

Goderich Children’s Festival – Lions Harbour Park, Wednesday, July 1, 10 AM – 2 PM

Starting at 10 AM and running until 2 PM, the Goderich Children’s Festival will kick off the Canada Day festivities at Lion’s Harbour Park. This year’s festival will include live entertainment, inflatables, yard games, a petting zoo, crafts, sensory activities, and more. We will be inviting various community partners to attend the festival, with hopes of providing further activities along with helpful information for parents and kids alike. Pedestrian fencing will be used to provide a safety barrier between the Park House parking lot to the south, and the bluff to the North. This event requests:

- Permission to make use of amplified sound
- Affirm Exemption 1 listed in Schedule B of By-Law 63 of 2017, to temporarily house a variety of domestic animals on municipal properties for a petting zoo for the duration of the event

Goderich Canada Day Parade – Courthouse Square, Wednesday, July 1, 2 – 4 PM

Once again on July 1, 2026, Goderich will host the Canada Day Parade at Courthouse Square, starting at 2 PM. This condensed version due to the ongoing construction will begin on West Street and conclude on South Street. To ensure the safety of participants and spectators,

Courthouse Square will be closed to vehicle traffic during the event. Elgin Avenue West from South Street to Wellington Street, and Wellington Street from Elgin Avenue West to West Street will be used for staging and marshalling. This event requests:

- Permission to make use of amplified sound
- Permission to temporarily stop up traffic on Elgin Avenue West from South Street to Wellington Street, South Street from Courthouse Square to Elgin Avenue West, Wellington Street from Elgin Avenue West to West Street, West Street from Wellington Street to Courthouse Square, and the entirety of Courthouse Square

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan (Choose all that apply):

- No. 1 Safe and Reliable Infrastructure
- No. 2 Welcoming and Caring Community
- No. 3 Strong Local Economy
- No. 4 Good Government
- No. 5 Environmental Stewardship

Linkage to Asset Management Plan:

This staff report is related to the following within the Town's Asset Management Program (Choose one):

And directly impacts (Choose all that apply):

- Road Network
- Water Network
- Sanitary Network
- Storm Network
- Fleet
- Facilities
- Land Improvements
- Machinery and Equipment

- State of Good Repair/Replacement
- Municipal Levels of Service
- Risk Management
- Growth Impacts
- Financial Strategy

Financial Impacts and/or Source of Funding:

Two Goderich Tourism Events – Canada Day, Children's Festival

Is this cost budgeted for? Yes: No:

Budget: \$49,115

Approved By:

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer

Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk