



# STAFF REPORT

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** James Allen, Recreation Facilities Manager  
**Meeting Date:** July 22, 2025  
**Report Number:** 2025-124  
**Subject:** Recreation Programming Update

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## Recommendation

**THAT** Council receives the report Recreation Programming Update for information.

## Executive Summary

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of both new and existing recreational programs which have been offered in 2024 and 2025.

### Key Findings

In 2024 and 2025 the recreation department has supported the Fireside Club programs and offered several new and existing recreation programs including:

- After school sports and shinny,
- Youth drop-in ball hockey and basketball
- Adult drop-in Pickleball, Cornhole, Shinny and Soccer
- Learn to play Pickleball lessons
- Skating programs: Parent and Tot, Adult, Public skating and Youth Stick and Puck

### Financial Implications

None

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## Report

### Background

On May 28, 2024 Council received Report [New Recreation Employee](#), and authorized staff to commence recruitment for one new Recreation Programmer and Facility Operator whose duties would include both recreation programming and facility maintenance. In late July 2024, following a competitive recruitment process, the new Recreation Programmer/Facility Operator commenced employment with the Town. The hiring of this new position has enabled the Town to manage existing recreation programs and to develop new recreation offerings for youth, adults and seniors.

At the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting Council requested a summary of the Town's recreation programs.

### Discussion

#### Recreation Programming Update – Year in Review and Current Highlights

In August 2024, the Town launched new recreational programs during the busy summer camp season including:

- **Drop-in Youth Ball Hockey** on Monday evenings (5:30–7:30 p.m.)
- **Drop-in Pickleball** on Wednesday evenings (6:30–9:00 p.m.)

As summer came to an end, the arena ice was installed for the winter season, and the indoor floor sports programming paused to accommodate ice-based activities.

In September, with the start of the new school year transition to fall outdoors began with offering **Drop-in Basketball** on the newly constructed basketball court. This after-school program provided basketballs and saw excellent engagement. Kids enjoyed the opportunity to play with friends immediately after school without the need to bring their own equipment, and the court was well utilized both during program hours and beyond.

In mid-October, with the ice season in full swing, several popular skating programs were offered including:

- **Youth After-School Shinny**
- **Parent & Tot Skate**
- **Adult Skate**
- **Public Skating**
- **Adult Shinny**

In 2025, these programs will return, and we are excited to add a new Stick & Puck Skills Time. This program will be catered to young children who are not yet ready for the unsupervised

shinny sessions but want to begin learning hockey fundamentals. We are currently seeking the public's input to assist with the most suitable day and time for this addition.

We are also exploring a collaboration with the Lions Club to potentially expand the *Little Lions Learn to Skate* program, with additional support from Town staff.

This past winter, we piloted a Drop-in Cornhole program. While it initially attracted interest and steady attendance, participation tapered off after 4–6 weeks. We plan to reintroduce the program this fall, potentially with a revised schedule and fee structure to improve accessibility and participation.

In the Spring and summer of 2025, the following programs were reintroduced:

- **Youth Drop-in Ball Hockey** (Mondays)
- **Drop-in Pickleball** (Wednesdays)

A new Tuesday After-School Drop-in Sports program (3:00–5:00 p.m.), offering youth the flexibility to play ball hockey, pickleball, or a game of their choosing was offered. This open-format time has been well received as a casual, social outlet for kids to stay active after school.

In addition, we have introduced Pickleball Practice/Training Sessions every other Thursday from 5:00–6:30 p.m. These slower-paced, skill-focused sessions have been well attended, particularly by newer players who appreciate the relaxed environment.

In response to public interest, we trialed Drop-in Adult Soccer. Unfortunately, turnout has been low, and the future of this program will depend on community interest moving forward.

Summer Camps are in full swing which keeps our facilities vibrant and busy daily.

In the late-summer, early fall, we will be exploring offering a Seniors Pickleball Drop-in program and senior specific information sessions on a number of topics for a nominal attendance fee. These new offerings are in addition to ongoing support for the Fireside Senior Club's regular weekly bingo and euchre programs and their social events including the Christmas Lunch.

All new and existing programs include promotion on the Town's Community Events Calendar, social media and the electronic signs.

### **Financial Impact**

None

**Consultations**

Kirsten Evans, Facility Operator/Programmer

**Attachments**

None

**This report was submitted by**

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