



## **STAFF REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE      Report No: CS 2023-17**

**September 20, 2023**

From: Anne Leduc – Director of Community Services

RE: Community Services Workplan Q3 2023

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### **Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Committee of the Whole receives Staff Report CS-2023-17 for information purposes.

### **Background / Analysis:**

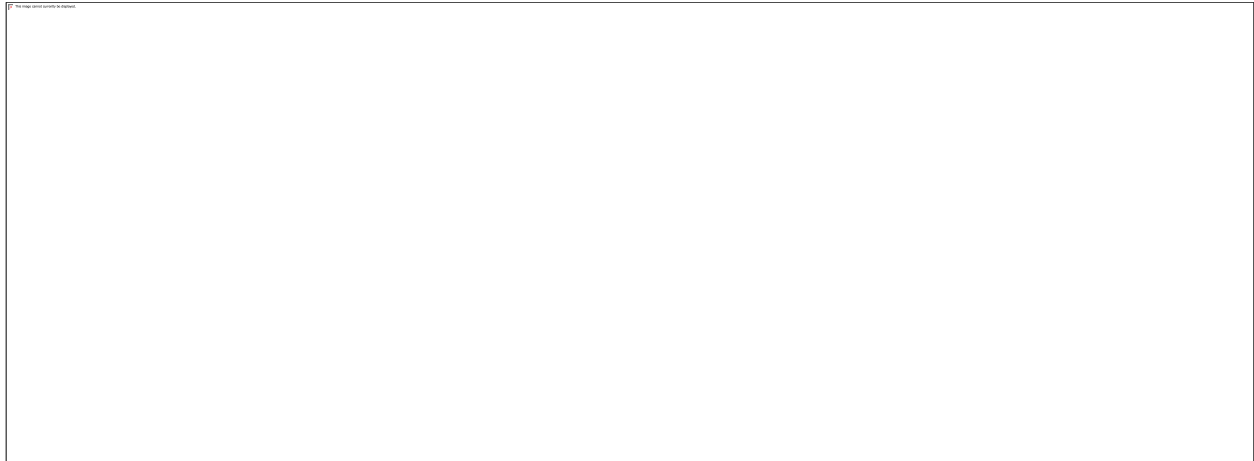
The table enclosed at the end of this report shows the progress on the various projects undertaken by the Community Services Department.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**2024 Budget** – Staff met with the Director of Finance on September 16<sup>th</sup> on the Capital portion of the 2024 Budget. Prior to this, Recreation staff met to discuss each facility's needs and work on the best approach to meet these needs. Recognizing that there are several important projects to be undertaken over the next 5 years, staff have worked diligently to prioritize them accordingly.

### **2024 Community Grants**

- The intake was launched on September 13<sup>th</sup> and is open until October 31, 2023. The information was posted on the Township's website and to its Facebook page. An email with this information was sent to past recipients, and our community partners and organizations. In the event there are funds remaining, applications can be accepted during a second intake that will close on February 29, 2024.
- An example of a successful grant application and partnership is the newly installed "Senate" mural on the "Christine's Restaurant" building on the south wall on Mill Square. This project was piloted by the Glengarry Artist's Collective. The trees in the square will be trimmed in the Fall at the same time as we continue to do the branch/tree clean up from the spring ice storm at Island Park.



**Accessibility Plan** – The Township of North Glengarry’s Accessibility Plan was reviewed by the SDG Accessibility Committee and approved by the Township’s Council. The Compliance Report for 2023 was filled with AODA on September 14, 2023.

**Economic Development Action Plan** – The survey was launched at the end of August and we have received a steady stream of responses. Residents are encouraged to access the survey through the Hot Button on the website’s Homepage or contact the municipality to receive a paper copy.

**Grants:**

- Reporting has been filed for the following grants:
  - Final Report Summer Experience Program (Tourism Coordinator)
  - Final Report Celebrate Canada funding for Canada Day activities
  - Interim Report with FedDev for Alexandria Skatepark
  - Final Report Ontario Trillium Foundation for HVAC in Maxville
  - Final Report Community, Culture and Recreation ICIP for Glengarry Sports Palace

**Health and Safety Meetings** – The Recreation Staff met in early August to go over each facility’s Health and Safety Inspection Reports and to discuss any issue that may arise in the workplace. Minutes are taken and posted to the Health and Safety board in each facility. Recreation Staff has also joined with the Public Works department to host quarterly staff meetings.

**Ice season start-up**

- First Ice rental date for the 2023/2024 season in Maxville was Friday, September 15, 2023 (ice installation started September 5, 2023)
- First Ice rental date for the 2023/2024 season in Alexandria was Friday, August 25, 2023 (ice installation started on August 15, 2023)

Overall, the ice installation went smoothly considering that the department is short staffed.

**Parks and Recreation Action Plan** – The process is well underway with the launch of the survey which was available until June 30, 2023. We have received 143 responses. Comments regarding improvements that the community would like to see include (in alphabetical order):

- A street festival! With live music, vendors, and food
- Activités d'intégration des immigrants
- ATV/horse trails
- Baseball Tournaments
- BBQ, family gatherings
- Bike days
- Community Fair
- Community Swimming Pool
- Crafts and quilting
- Curling Tournaments
- Dances
- Family fun days, crafting/arts workshops, STEM activities etc.
- Family oriented activities for younger children
- Fitness Training
- Gardening/Hobby Farm
- Group outdoor activities (similar to Cornwall outdoor club)
- Hockey Tournaments
- Karate Classes
- Kayak meet ups
- Learn to skate program
- Live music events, shows & festivals
- May Main Street event (as done in Vankleek Hill)
- Museums activities, art exhibition
- Outdoor Fairs (similar to Williamstown)
- Races
- Retreats - wellness, yoga, painting, meditation
- Senior Hockey (more)
- Senior outdoor activities
- Senior trips
- Small halls music
- Soccer Training Clinics Fitness Training
- Sports fundraiser or tournaments
- Themed events
- Volleyball Tournaments

Staff expects to finalize the report in early October and bring it to Council for review and to the Community for final comments.

**Refrigerated water fountains and bottle fillers** – The Alexandria Lions Club and Community Living Glengarry/CommUNITY RUN have sponsored the purchase of two refrigerated water fountain and bottle filler units. The units will be fixed to the outside wall of the Sandfield Centre (south wall of building) and on the outside wall of the Glengarry Sports Palace (southwest corner). The units can be used from Springtime till the Fall. The Township is extremely grateful for these contributions that greatly benefit our community.



### Staffing

- There have been changes to the Recreation Department's structure. Mr. Nicholas Hansen has been named to the position of Facilities Lead Hand. Our expectation is that this position will help coordinate efficiencies.
- The department is short one Seasonal Full-time Equipment Operator (October – March). We were unsuccessful in recruiting internally therefore the position was posted externally. One individual applied and staff will be training them on the different facets of the position including driving the ice resurfacer. This position is based out of Maxville.

### EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**4 x 4 Hockey** – The Township offered a 4 x 4 session for U9/U11 and U13/U15 youth. The session ran from August 25<sup>th</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup> with 34 youth participating in this program.

**Ball Hockey for Youth** – Held in Maxville & District Sports Complex and at the Glengarry Sports Palace in June and July. As usual, registration was higher in Maxville for this activity.

**Boys & Girls Club** – Activities have started. B&GC follows the UCDSB 2023/2024 school year calendar and the program, using the Garry Shepherd and the Tim Hortons Dome facilities will run until the end of the school year.

**Broadsword Tournament** – This event was held in Island Park between July 31<sup>st</sup> until August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A tent was installed at the west end of the Park at the top of the hill with 150 individuals participating in the training and tournament itself with additional spectators. The organization has already met with Recreation staff to confirm next summer's event which will be held between July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Business and Community Awards Event** – This event is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Michel Depratto Community Hall at the Glengarry Sports Palace. The event format will be a wine and cheese format with music accompanying the remittal of the awards.

This year's recipients are:

Sophie Ranger	Citizen of the Year
Maxville & District Lions Club	Community Service Group
Alexandria & District Lions Club	Community Service Group
Fauxmagerie Zengarry	Business of the Year
Sunwheel Farm	Excellence in Agriculture
Zacharie Quesnel	Youth of the Year
Rosemary Chatterson	Senior of the Year
Mary McPherson	Dedication & Leadership
Maxville Fair Committee	Lifetime Achievement
Scotia Bank (Alexandria)	Legacy Award

**Canada Day** – Township staff have received confirmation that the Alexandria & District Lions Club will once again be hosting Canada Day in Alexandria on Monday, July 1, 2024. This event will include a parade and fireworks will be booked for 10 pm. Apple Hill and Maxville usually host their events on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We don't have a date as yet for Glen Robertson.

**CO-ED & Womens' Volleyball** – This activity was held at the beach volleyball court in Island Park during July and August. This program will run again next year.

**Festival of Lights** – Planning is underway for the Festival of Lights. The Township will be partnering again this year with the Alexandria Lions Club. The Santa Claus parade will take place on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and fireworks will be launched at 8 pm that same evening in Island Park.

**Geese Mitigation** –The final report was forwarded to the Ministry at the end of May.

**Glengarry Soccer League** – Registration for the indoor season is now open.

**Meet me on Main Street** – Two events were held this summer - the first in King George Park in Maxville and the second in Mill Square / Ottawa Street in Alexandria. Considering that this was the first iteration of this activity, staff considers it to be a success. With Council's approval, plans will move forward to repeat the events in Maxville and Alexandria and in at least one hamlet. More to come!

**Running Program** –Registration is open for the Fall session which will start on October 18 and end on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Camp** – The Boys and Girls Club once again offered a Summer Camp in Alexandria at the Sandfield Centre. The camp was fully subscribed. The Youth Unlimited group used the Maxville & District Sports Complex for a period of one week in July.

**Yoga Programming** – The Fall Yoga session started on September 12<sup>th</sup>. So far, 42 individuals have registered for the class.

## **FACILITIES**

### **Glengarry Sports Palace**

- Health and Safety inspections were performed for August 2023.
- Hosted the Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame in August.
- Staff performed regular summer activities such as:
  - Grass cutting and trimming
  - Field lining
  - Set-up for activities in the Michel Depratto Community Hall
  - Maintenance on the HVAC systems
  - Staff backfilled vacant shifts at the Maxville & District Sports Complex during the Maxville Fair, Agility Nationals and the Glengarry Highland Games.
- The ice was installed between August 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.



- The lobby doors leading to the ice surface now sport a new wrap featuring Lions Club logo as well as the Genuine logo.



### Island Park

- Health and Safety inspections were done for August 2023.
- The last details regarding the installation of the partitions were completed in August.
- The siding was replaced on the Sandfield Centre and will be completed prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- One of the splash pad's water features was not functional at start-up and pipe located in the cement pad is going to require attention in the spring. The splash pad was still operational without this feature but a funding request will be included in the 2024 Capital Budget to break a portion of the cement pad, replace the pipe that is leaking, cement and reinstall the water feature. New brass caps (direction water features) will be ordered as these have deteriorated over time. The splash pad is over 15 years old.
- The removal of noxious weeds at Mill Pond was done prior to Canada Day as allowed under the permit from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- Excavation has started for the Alexandria Skatepark project. Gilles Levac Excavation will be layering and compacting gravel in preparation for the forms that will arrive on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The cement pour is planned over the following weeks. The Alexandria Skatepark Committee asked for a modification to be made to the plan to ensure better access to the park. The change is made within the \$11,000 buffer. Fundraising has started to pick up with \$2,000 received from the Alexandria Legion and donations through the GoFundMe site.





### Maxville & District Sports Complex

- Health and Safety inspections were done for August 2023.
- Grass maintenance is ongoing.
- The chairs arrived for the Community Hall.
- The asphalt pad was done in August after the Highland Games. Staff and Councillor Gary Martin met on location with Glengarry Excavation for the installation of the Basketball Goals. Weather permitting, the lining of the Basketball Court and Pickleball Courts will have been done on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.



### Tim Hortons Dome

- Health and Safety inspections were done for August 2023.
- Staff is monitoring a crack in the tennis court. Funds will be requested in the 2024 Capital Budget to investigate the area where the asphalt is damaged, perform the repair and repaint the surface.
- The annual inspection for the fire suppression system was performed. We received a non-conforming report regarding the flow rate for the system. We have requested a quote from Viking to correct this issue.



- The new accessible sliding door was installed at the Dome. We are waiting on some trim work but the door is functional.



### Other facilities / assets

- HGMH Pool
  - The Township has hired two lifeguards for evenings and weekends. This will at least allow the Township to offer public swimming.
  - We were able to connect with an aquafit instructor who is available to teach during weekdays only. At this time, we have not been successful in hiring a lifeguard that is available during the weekdays. The search for candidates extended to the National Lifesaving Society and sharing the job posting with other municipalities that hire summer staff. We also shared the information with lifeguards that work at year-round facilities in the event that one of their members might be interested in moving to our area. Ads were posted on Facebook and in the newspaper. We will continue our search for a lifeguard to be able to extend our offering to weekdays.

### OTHER

#### Community Improvement Plan / Regional Incentives Program

- Staff is continuing to promote the CIP and RIP with qualifying North Glengarry property owners and process any applications/closing requests that are received.

**Meetings / Training (virtual or otherwise) – Staff has participated in the:**

- Emergency Management 200 Course
- Habitat for Humanity groundbreaking
- Date My County Grand Reveal
- ACC Futures AGM
- Ontario East Municipal Conference
- And several other activities

**Other Economic Development Activities**

- The Business Connections Breakfast will be co-hosted by the Township of North Glengarry and the Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre on September 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 am.

**Communications through website, Social Media and traditional media**

**Press Releases / Videos / Ads**

- Several videos / pictures have been released on Facebook regarding local activities and businesses
- Launch of Alexandria Skate Park excavation.
- Communications regarding road closures or repairs have been posted to Facebook.

**COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES**

**Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee**

- Reviewed a potential CIP application
- Discussed a potential location for a Blue Plaque
- Minutes from previous meetings are shared with Council as part of the Consent Agenda.

**Community Development Committee**

- Partnerships with HGMH for pool and potential daycare
- Delegations to AMO
- Members for Alexandria and Maxville Development Groups
- Redistribution of electoral boundaries

**Municipal Recreation Association Meeting**

- The next meeting will be held in October to discuss 2023 capital projects, redistributions of funds or allocations to reserves, 2024 Budgets, and 2023/2024 activities.

**Maxville Advisory Committee Meeting**

- The group will meet at the end of September / beginning of October.

**Alternatives:**

None

**Financial Implications:**

None

**Attachments & Relevant Legislation:**

- Community Services Q3 Workplan

**Others Consulted:**

Kimberley Goyette – Director of Community Services

Natalie Charette – Economic Development and Communications Officer

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Reviewed and approved by:

Sarah Huskinson, CAO/Clerk