

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Meeting Date: October 15, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-109
Subject: Summer Recreation Programs 2025 Wrap-up

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-109 respecting Summer Recreation Programs 2025 Wrap-up, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The City partners with instructors to offer weekly camps for youth aged 6-13 and provides affordable recreation opportunities.
- Available options for younger age groups continue to be the most popular. Staff continue striving to provide opportunities for the younger demographic, maximize affordability, and encourage children and youth to be active and healthy.
- The City’s website and software are utilized for online registration.
- A survey was offered to all participants. Attendees were complimentary of all programs and instructors.
- Staff continue to work with the instructors to make improvements to the City’s summer program offerings.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[CS-23-008](#) – Summer Recreation Programs 2023 Wrap-up

[CS-24-099](#) – Summer Recreation Programs 2024 Wrap-up

Background:

The City traditionally offered youth specialty programs at its city-owned facilities, providing affordable and inclusive recreation opportunities. The programs focused on skill development that support participation in sports and consist of hockey skills and power skating programs run once per week over an 8-week summertime period, as well as soccer camp. The City also offered public swimming at the Harrison Park outdoor accessible pool (through an arrangement with the Family Y).

In 2023, the City recognized a need for increased camp options for children and youth during the summer months. Following the consideration and approval of Report CS-23-008, staff developed and introduced four additional week-long camps, in addition to the two one-week soccer camps including:

- One week of lacrosse camp at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre (JMRRRC);
- One week of hockey camp at the JMRRRC; and
- Two separate one-week Sports Camps at Harrison Park.

Through additional feedback, a need for swim lessons at the Harrison Park outdoor pool was also requested in addition to the swimming offered by the Family Y. Public Swims and lessons were offered for a second year in 2025.

These camps were offered to youth ages 6-13 years and were very well received.

At the completion of summer programs each year, Staff conducts a survey with families to obtain feedback for ways to improve the camps and programs. Staff also meet with all instructors at the end of each season to review opportunities for improvement and brainstorm ideas to enhance the summer camp experience for the upcoming year.

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of the proposed summer camps for 2026.

Analysis:

Hockey Skills and Power Skating

- Ran over an 8-week period (June-August).
- Marketed using email, the City's website and social media.
- Participant cost for the 8-week program was \$185.00.
- Registration was completed online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter, or via email.
- The City pays the full ice rental fee for the ice time used.
- This is an affordable option to build skills to support participation in sports for children and youth.
- Prior to program start, there was again a significant number of individuals on the waitlist. Staff accommodated as many participants as possible by adjusting the age groups to ensure an even number in each group; however, some participants could not be accommodated.

The following age groupings were offered:

Power Skating:

- U15 to U17 – 4 pm – 5 pm (ages 14-16)
- U8 to U9 – 5 pm – 6 pm (ages 7-8)
- U10 to U12 – 6 pm – 7 pm (ages 9-11)
- U13 to U14 – 7 pm – 8 pm (ages 12-13)

Hockey Skills:

- U10 to U11 – 4 pm – 5 pm (ages 9-10)
- U12 to U13 – 5 pm – 6 pm (ages 11-12)
- U14 to U16 – 6 pm – 7 pm (ages 13-15)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Spaces Filled</u>	<u>Spaces Available</u>
Power Skating	U8 to U9	18 (+5 on waitlist)	18
	U10 to U12	18 (+1 on waitlist)	18
	U13 to U14	17	18
	U15 to U17	13	18
Hockey Skills	U10 to U11	20	22
	U12 to U13	18	22
	U14 to U16	18	22

Financials

POWERSKATING

REVENUE

EXPENSES

June 10 – July 29 (Tuesdays)

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Registrations (66)

\$12,210.00

Ice Rental

\$7,147.20

Instructor Fee (Mitch Wright)

\$3,200.00

Insurance

\$432.00

Total

\$12,210.00

\$10,779.20

CITY NET REVENUE

\$1,430.80

HOCKEY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

REVENUE

EXPENSES

June 11 – July 30 (Wednesdays)

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Registrations (58)

\$10,360.00

Ice Rental

\$5,360.40

Instructor Fee (Brad Tiley)

\$2,400.00

Insurance

\$500.00

Total

\$10,360.00

\$8,260.40

CITY NET REVENUE

\$2,099.60

A total net revenue of \$3,530.40 was achieved by the hockey skills and power skating 8-week programs. There continues to be a high level of interest in these programs. As noted, the City pays the full costs for the ice rental.

The purpose of these programs is to fill a void in affordable options for on-ice programming, build skills, and support participation in sports and activities.

Based on registration this year, Staff believe there is further opportunity to structure the programs to target and include an even younger demographic.

As well, looking ahead to 2026 programs, Staff will continue to review the schedules of other sports (such as soccer and lacrosse) to avoid scheduling conflicts for potential participants.

Soccer Camp

Historically, the City has offered Soccer camp in partnership with Owen Sound Minor Soccer, who work to promote the camp. This is the fifth year Oliver Clark has been contracted by the City to deliver the camp. Mr. Clark has developed an excellent reputation and has continued to grow the camp, inviting local soccer enthusiasts and members of Owen Sound Minor Soccer to assist with the program's delivery.

The agreement between the Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association, Oliver Clark and the City includes the following highlights:

- Partner with the Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association in a revenue-sharing model;
- Have high-quality programs with excellent instruction;
- 2 separate camps – one four-day and one five-day;
- Marketing was completed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, social media, website, and email;
- Participants could register for the regular program, half-day or advanced in each of the two one-week programs. Fees vary for the various programs;
- Half-day and full-day participation were an option, but half-day was mandatory for participants aged 4; and
- Registration was done at City Hall through the SOS Counter, via email, and on the City's website through Xplore Recreation.

Registration Numbers

Registration numbers for the two one-week sessions were 152 participants, up from 144 participants in 2024, 147 participants in 2023, 125 participants in 2022 and 108 participants in 2021.

Financials

SOCCER CAMPS	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Week 1 – Jun-30-Jul-4		
Registrations (74)	\$13,675.00	
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,953.14
Swimming Rentals		\$750.00
Week II – Aug 4-8		
Registrations (78)	\$13,820.00	
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,953.14
Swimming Rentals		\$750.00
Owen Sound Minor Soccer Share		\$4,220.09
Instructor Fee (Oliver Clark)		\$14,770.30
Insurance		\$500.00
Total	<u>\$27,495.00</u>	<u>\$24,896.67</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$2,598.33</u>	

The revenue sharing with the Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association provides an incentive to promote the camp to their participants and support skill development in their sport. Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association reinvests its share of the revenue (\$4,220.09) into programs and capital work at the Kiwanis Soccer Complex.

Hockey Camp

- One-week camp in August (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.);
- Marketed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, email, the city's website, and social media;
- Participant cost for the 5-day program was \$330.00;
- Registration was done online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter or via email;
- The City pays the full rental fees for ice time;
- This is an affordable option to fill a void in youth camps during the summer months;
- Registration was done using two age groups – 6-9 and 10-12 years old. Registration was positive, and Staff are confident this will continue to grow with more families aware of the opportunity.
 - Ages 6-9 – 25/25 spots filled (+5 on a waitlist)
 - Ages 10-12 – 26/25 spots filled (+2 on a waitlist)

Staff have met with the instructor to discuss the results of the feedback survey and explore areas of improvement. Some of these areas include:

- Increasing numbers to allow more youth to participate;
- A more robust check-in and check-out process each day with more detailed tracking;
- Adding swim times; and
- Altering the ice times to allow better flow with daily activities.

Financials

HOCKEY CAMP	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
August 11-15		
Registrations (51)	\$15,840.00	
Swimming Rentals		\$0.00
Instructor Fee (Mitch Wright)		\$7,554.60
Insurance		\$0.00
Facility Rentals		\$5,047.71
	<u>\$15,840.00</u>	<u>\$12,602.31</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$3,237.69</u>	

Lacrosse Camp

- One-week camp in July to coincide with lacrosse season (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.);
- Marketed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, email, the city's website, and social media;
- Participant cost for the 5-day program was \$310.00;
- Registration was done online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter, or via email;
- The city pays the full rental fees for floor time;
- This is an affordable option to fill a void in youth camps during the summer months; and
- Registration was done using two age groups – 6 to 9 and 10 to 12 years old. Registration was positive for the first year and Staff are confident this will continue to grow with growing awareness of the opportunity.
 - Ages 6-9 – 31/30 spots filled
 - Ages 10-12 – 21/30 sports filled

Staff have met with the instructor to discuss the results of the feedback survey and explore areas of improvement. Some of these areas include:

- A more robust check-in and check-out process each day with more detailed tracking; and
- Altering the swim times to better flow with daily activities.

Financials

LACROSSE CAMP	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
July 7-11		
Registrations (52)	\$15,810.00	
Swimming Rentals		\$750.00
Instructor Fee (Adam Jones)		\$8,572.17
Insurance		\$372.60
Facility Rentals		\$2,441.45
Total	<u>\$15,810.00</u>	<u>\$12,136.22</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$3,673.78</u>	

Harrison Park Sports Camp

- Two One-week camps – July 14-18 and August 18-22 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.);
- Marketed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, email, the city’s website and social media;
- Participant cost for each 5-day program was \$235.00;
- Registration was done online through the City’s website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter or via email;
- The city pays the full rental fees for facility use;
- This is an affordable option to fill a void in youth camps during the summer months; and
- Registration almost doubled from previous year which illustrates the need for summer youth camps in our community.
 - Week 1 – 56 registered
 - Week 2 – 50 registered

Staff have met with the instructor to discuss the results of the feedback survey and explore areas of improvement. Some of these areas include:

- A more robust check-in and check-out process each day with more detailed tracking;
- Exploring methods of communication specific to daily locations changes due to weather;

- Having participants bring sports equipment from home; and
- Exploring locations for indoor activities as a result of inclement weather.

Financials

HARRISON PARK SPORTS CAMP	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Week 1 – Jul-14-18		
Registrations (56)	\$13,160.00	
Instructor Fee (Oliver Clark)		\$7,696.76
Insurance		\$0.00
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,516.87
Swimming Rentals		\$647.76
Week II – Aug 18-22		
Registrations (50)	\$11,045.00	
Instructor Fee (Oliver Clark)		\$6,213.10
Insurance		\$0.00
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,516.87
Swimming Rentals		\$652.27
Total	<u>\$24,205.00</u>	<u>\$18,243.63</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$5,961.37</u>	

Survey Feedback – Summer Camps and Programs

Many families have multiple children attending several camps and programs with the City. Based on feedback from past years, a modification to the survey was completed so that feedback was not requested multiple times from the same family.

A very high percentage of respondents were satisfied with the City’s camps, instructors, activities, registration process, and location of programming, with many indicating they plan to register their child again next summer.

Some suggestions included longer hours to allow for later pickup, more swimming options, improved communication, expanding numbers to allow more people to register and a more robust drop-off and pick-up routine.

Staff will work with the instructors and their volunteers to implement these suggestions where possible.

HARRISON PARK SWIMMING

The City continued its partnership with the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce in 2025 to deliver open public swimming at the outdoor pool through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The City was responsible for pool mechanical, chemical balancing, and facility operations.

Based on an Agreement between the City and Family Y, the Y offers certified swimming instruction year-round at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre. In 2024, based on feedback from families, the Y began scheduling additional swimming lessons at the Harrison Park Outdoor Pool to accommodate a larger number of youths in learning the important life skill of swimming. Outdoor swimming lessons for youth at the Harrison Park Pool continued in 2025.

Programming Offered

Paid Public Swimming

- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Monday to Friday); 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Saturday from June 27 to August 31.
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (Monday to Friday); 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Saturday from June 27 to August 31.

Free Sponsored Swimming

- 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Sunday) from June 29 to August 27.
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (Wednesdays) from July 2 to August 27.
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (Thursday) from July 3 to August 28.

Participation Numbers

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
School Groups	0	114	N/A	0	0	132	267	192
Private Rentals		630	N/A	180	654	455	224	278
Campground Users	1535	3108	N/A	2409	2585	2851	2623	1909
Public Swimming	2852	5157	N/A	4562	2763	1919	2221	3,123
Free Swimming	585	1636	N/A	977	1464	1617	1635	1705

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total	4,972	10,645	N/A	8,128	7,466	6,974	6,970	7,207

The City received \$3,955 in sponsorship from Miller Waste Systems and E.C. King Contracting for all the free swims on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Individual sponsors supported the Wednesday evening swims. A total of \$2,169.60 was received from 6 sponsors, including: Walker Family Financial, CUPE 1189, Scenic City Lions Club, Woodley Care Services, M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre and Proactive Physio Plus.

\$17,000 is transferred from the Campground operating budget to the pool operating budget to offset the cost of free swimming provided to campers.

Under the Agreement with YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce, the City paid the YMCA \$52,264.00 for the delivery of all swim-related use and programming at the pool. This includes lifeguards, a supervisor, and all required training.

Financials

HARRISON PARK SWIMMING	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Miller Group Sponsorship	\$3,955.00	
Additional Sponsorship	\$2,169.60	
Campground Contribution	\$17,000.00	
Admission & Passes Revenue	\$12,576.42	
YMCA Partnership Agreement		\$52,264.00
Supplies		\$1,500.00
Total	<u>\$35,701.02</u>	<u>\$53,764.00</u>
CITY COST		<u>-\$18,062.98</u>

There is a net cost of \$18,062.98 to support the delivery of the Harrison Park outdoor swimming program. This is included in the City's annual operating budget.

Four swim passes were provided at no cost to the North Grey Union Public Library for loan to the public. Library staff provided the following information:

- The four pool passes were checked out thirty-eight times.
- This is a significant increase from 2024.
- Twenty-six individuals borrowed a pool pass; twenty-three different households borrowed a pool pass.
- During the hottest days, all passes were in use.
- The library has requested to receive four (4) passes again next summer.

Two swim passes were also provided to Keystone and Bruce Grey Child and Family Services; however, no information has been received to date on the use by these participants.

Program Comments

The Harrison Park Pool consistently receives positive feedback from members of the public who visit the pool each summer. Several positive comments were received regarding pool upgrades again this year. Community support and sponsorship assistance for free programs will continue to be leveraged to offset operating expenses.

Financial Implications:

The summer camp programs offered by the City are intended in part to assist in providing affordable recreation opportunities for children utilizing City facilities and are operating very close to expected budgets for 2025.

The six (6) summer camps offered by the City generated \$14,429.18 in facility rental revenue and an additional \$15,471.17 in program revenue for the City in 2025.

The fees for next years camps and programs have been approved through annual updates to the Fees and Charges By-law with moderate increases.

Communication Strategy:

As noted in the report – various marketing strategies were used to encourage participation.

Consultation:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Nicole Olmsted, Community Services Administrative Assistant
Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Mitch Wright, Power Skating & Hockey Camp Instructor
Brad Tiley, Hockey Skills Instructor
Oliver Clark, Soccer & Harrison Park Sports Camp Instructor
Adam Jones, Lacrosse Camp Instructor
Brandon Downing, Manager of Health, Fitness and Aquatics – YMCA

Attachments:

None

Recommended by:

Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Eckhard Pastrok, Manager of Parks & Open Space

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator, at aoleary@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 Ext. 1255.