



Agenda
Community Services Committee

December 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

The public can attend meetings in person. Meetings will also be livestreamed on the City's Council and Committee webpage. If there are technical issues with the livestream that can't be fixed within 15 minutes, the meeting will continue, and a recording will be available later, on the webpage or by contacting the City Clerk. People who can't attend the meeting in person for Public Forum, should send their comments to the Recording Secretary one business day before the meeting. These comments will be shared with members and included in the updated agenda.

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Minutes

Community Services Committee

November 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marion Koepke
Vice Chair Travis Dodd
Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Morgan Kemick
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Lance Thurston

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Suneet Kukreja

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a delay due to technical difficulties, Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities and Learning Sessions

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on October 15, 2025

CS-251119-001

Moved by Member Bousfield-Bastedo

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Deputation from Dwight Bryant and Peter Debrone of Owen Sound Lacrosse Re: Artificial Turf at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre

Dwight Bryant and Peter Debrone provided a presentation on the Owen Sound Northstars lacrosse program, highlighting the potential benefits of having a turf surface at the Bayshore and the opportunities it could present for the community.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bryant noted that the turf would take approximately 4 people 6 hours to install and could be removed for concerts and other events if needed.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Debrone noted that the underside of the turf is rubber and could be used during the season where the ice is out of the facility, which is for around 4 months of the year.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Debrone noted that once acquired, the proposal would be to donate the turf to the City. The City Manager added that future repair, replacement and other needs of the asset would be considered in an agreement with the club respecting the turf.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Debrone noted that the predicted life expectancy of the turf is about 25 years, as it will only be used 4 months of the year. He added that this turf would primarily be used for box lacrosse, as use for other sectors may require relining of the turf.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that storage of the turf would also be outlined as part of a partnership agreement. Mr. Debrone added that the cost of a storage container is included in the proposed price.

CS-251119-002

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of the deputation from Owen Sound Lacrosse provided on November 19, 2025, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include the proposed costs for the lacrosse turf at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in the December 2025 Capital Budget update."

Carried.

5.b Deputation from Tasha Schmidt Re: Tree Opportunities

Tasha Schmidt provided a deputation respecting boulevard tree planting in the City, highlighting the tree planting request form and the importance of property owners and residents in keeping the City's tree canopy healthy. She provided ideas for possible initiatives, including a "hug-a-tree month" initiative and the possibility of changing the boulevard tree program that currently requires residents to request a tree, to a program where the City determines where a tree needs to be planted as a proactive measure.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the City is currently only planting trees in boulevards where there are requests from the owner. She added that 369 trees were planted by staff this year, an additional 160 were planted with the Youth Climate Action group, and that the boulevard tree planting program was advertised on social media earlier this year.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Schmidt noted that a hug-a-tree month could be an initiative to promote Owen Sound as a "Tree City" and increase advertising of the boulevard tree planting program.

CS-251119-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the deputation from Tasha Schmidt provided on November 19, 2025 respecting tree opportunities, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include a review of the boulevard tree planting program in 2026 staff workplans."

Carried.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

6.a Anne Finlay-Stewart, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Finlay-Stewart provided comments respecting the need for shade at the new Owen Heights and Comm-er-Ette playgrounds, as well as comments respecting new trees planted by the hospital. Additionally, she asked for an update on the Ryerson Park Renaming working group, missing emergency signage at Ryerson Park, and an update about the possibility of a cricket pitch.

Ms. Coulter noted that as outlined in the staff report regarding the playground replacements, additional trees will be planted by the City in the spring to provide shade.

Ms. Coulter noted that the Ryerson Park Renaming working group is meeting on Monday, November 24, and a report will be brought back to this Committee including the working group's recommendation in December 2025.

Ms. Coulter noted that a possible cricket pitch was to be brought forward through the capital budget process and added that the cricket group has been connected

with the Bluewater District School Board to facilitate possible use of their outdoor fields as well.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

7.a Bluewater Quilters' Guild Re: Hall Rental Fee Increase

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the group could apply to available grant programs, such as the Community Foundation, to help offset rental fees.

CS-251119-004

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of correspondence listed on the November 19, 2025 Community Services Committee agenda from the Bluewater Quilters' Guild respecting a hall rental fee increase, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 7.a for information purposes."

Carried.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Planning and Heritage

8.a.1 Report CS-25-118 from the Manager of Planning and Heritage Re: Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Update

The Manager of Planning and Heritage provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Robart noted that the outlined correspondence in the recommendation can be submitted prior to the meeting minutes being adopted by Council on November 24, as the ERO postings close prior to that Council meeting.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Robart noted that these changes may reduce the number of applications to the Committee of Adjustment going forward.

CS-251119-005

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-118 Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Update, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to:

- 1. Send this report to the Province of Ontario as the City's comments on Bill 60 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1097, 025-1099 and 025-1100; and**

2. Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all party leaders currently in the Ontario legislature."

Carried.

CS-251119-006

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-118 Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Update, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to send a letter highlighting the high cost of staff time and difficulty for municipalities to provide comments respecting the increased use of omnibus bills and rapid changes to legislation to Paul Vickers, MPP Bruce-Grey Owen Sound."

Carried.

8.b Parks and Open Space

8.b.1 Report CS-25-115 from the Director of Community Services Re: Derby Camping - Year One Implementation Report

The Director of Community Services provided a presentation on the year one implementation of Derby Camping.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that campground registration and revenue at Kelso Beach and Harrison Park were not impacted by the new Derby Camping requirements.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the increase in parks staff time was primarily for setting up and designing the layout of the parking area.

CS-251119-007

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-115 respecting Derby Camping Year One Implementation, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to implement the improvements as outlined in the report."

Carried.

8.b.2 Report CS-25-063 from the Director of Community Services Re: Design and Location of the Commemorative Forest Monument

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the City is unable to replace missing or vandalized plaques due to high costs and added that trees are guaranteed for a limited period once planted.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter clarified that new trees in the program would not have plaques but would be noted on the website in the GIS layer with additional information about the individual or occasion being commemorated.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the plaque at the monument will provide information on the commemorative tree program and the importance of trees in the community.

CS-251119-008

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-063 respecting Design and Location of the Commemorative Forest Monument, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve:

- 1. The location of the monument, being the west side of the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, as outlined in Attachment No. 1 of the report; and**
- 2. The design of the monument, generally as presented in Attachment No. 2 of the report, excluding the individual commemorative panels."**

Carried.

8.c Arena Operations

None.

8.d Building

None.

8.e Community and Business Development

None.

8.f Facility Bookings and Community Programs

None.

8.g Tourism, Culture and Events

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Memorandum from the Chief Building Official Re: Development Update

The Manager of Planning and Heritage provided an overview of the October development update, highlighting construction value and permits issued.

11.b Site Plan DA-25-018 - 2010 16th Ave E - U-Haul

11.c Site Plan DA-25-019 - 1650 20th St E – Baumberger

CS-251119-009

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the November 19, 2025 Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a to 11.c for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities and Learning Sessions

Councillor Farmer highlighted an upcoming event hosted by the organization We Vote Local, to provide insight and information about being an elected official in local government. The event is being held on Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at the Rumpus Room, and added that more information is available online at wevotelocal.ca.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Koepke adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Meeting Date: December 17, 2025
Report Code: CM-25-037
Subject: Ryerson Park Renaming – Working Group Overview and Recommendation

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-037 respecting the Ryerson Park Renaming Working Group overview and recommendation, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Ratify the Working Group's recommendation to rename Ryerson Park;
2. Direct the process to name the Park proceed in accordance with Policy No. CS-087;
3. Initiate the next phase in the process by February 2026;
4. Direct staff to prioritize a name with a locational reference;
5. Direct staff to install a plaque/marker at the park to educate visitors about its history and previous names, ensuring transparency and public awareness; and
6. Dissolve the Working Group having successfully completed its mandate as set out in Policy No. CS-087.

Highlights:

- The Working Group's recommendation is based on careful historical research, policy compliance, and reflects the City's commitment to community engagement, cultural awareness, and responsible decision-making.

- Community feedback, including an informal petition and resident emails identifying Ryerson Park as their neighborhood park, was considered by the Working Group in its decision-making process.
- Originally named for its location near Ryerson Public School, not to honour Egerton Ryerson, the park has been known by several names over time, each reflecting its changing role and connection to the community.
- The Working Group recommends that a new name should prioritize a locational reference and have a plaque installed at the park to educate visitors about its history and previous names, ensuring transparency and public awareness.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The report and work of the Working Group directly supports the Vision 2050 themes; “Celebrating & Embracing Culture,” and “Fostering Mutually Beneficial & Respectful Relationships.”

The Working Group followed a process that is consultative and responsive to community input, the report demonstrates the City’s dedication to building a welcoming, collaborative, and culturally aware future for Owen Sound.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Policy CS-087 Naming and Re-Naming Policy for City Parks and Facilities](#)

[Report CS-25-047 from the Director of Community Services Re: Request Under Policy CS087 to Rename Ryerson Park](#)

[Report CS-25-061 from the Director of Community Services Re: Request to Rename Ryerson Park](#)

[Minutes: Owen Sound City Council, July 7, 2025](#)

Background:

The City's Naming Policy Provides a Transparent Framework for Renaming Parks

In 2021, the City of Owen Sound adopted Policy No. CS087, establishing transparent and consistent criteria for naming and renaming City parks and facilities. This policy ensures that any review or change to existing park names follows a structured process, with clear requirements for applicants and opportunities for community and expert consultation. The current request to rename Ryerson Park is the first to be considered under this policy.

Council Initiated a Formal and Inclusive Renaming Process

Following the submission of a formal application, City Council reviewed Staff Report [CS-25-047](#) and resolved to initiate the renaming process. A working group was established, comprising of three Council members; Jon Farmer, Brock Hamley, and Marion Koepke, and key City staff, including the City Manager, City Clerk, Director of Community Services, and Manager of Parks & Open Space. The policy provides that the Working Group can obtain legal advice or expert opinion from a subject matter expert that may be able to provide assistance with the consideration of the matter. Broad public consultation is not included under the policy.

Renaming Process Emphasizes Community Engagement and Responsible Decision-Making

The renaming process is designed to be inclusive and transparent, with opportunities for careful review of information and obtaining expert advice where required. The Working Group is to make recommendations to the Community Services Committee, which is then to provide a recommendation to Council. The final decision rests with City Council, and only if the renaming is approved will consideration of a new name begin. The reports emphasize that this process is not an approval of the renaming itself, but a structured consideration of the request, guided by established policy and principles.

Analysis:

The Working Group Begins by Establishing Its Mandate and Reviewing the Renaming Policy

At its first meeting on September 22, 2025, the Ryerson Park Renaming Working Group convened to clarify its purpose and scope under the City's Naming and Re-Naming of Parks and Facilities Policy (CS087) and formally choose a Chair. After some discussion, the City Manager was chosen by the members to Chair the Committee.

Members reviewed the policy's principles and discussed the reasons parks are named, considering whether names reflect people or locations. The Working Group agreed that its responsibility was to recommend to the Community Services Committee whether the park should be renamed. The Working Group outlined a plan to reach out for feedback from Indigenous partners and began gathering historical records, including information on the park's previous name, Boyd Street Park. Action items included contacting Indigenous partners and researching the park's naming history, with future meetings scheduled to continue the work.

The Working Group Investigates the Park's Naming History and Develops a Consultation Framework

During the October 9, 2025, meeting, the Working Group reviewed historical documents and public correspondence about the park's name. The City Manager explained that the 1988 by-law named the area "Ryerson School Playground," which was later informally shortened to "Ryerson Park." The Working Group determined that the park was not named as an honorarium for Egerton Ryerson, but rather for its proximity to Ryerson Public School. While the school itself may have been named in honor of Egerton Ryerson, the Working Group noted that reviewing the school's naming was outside its scope. The Working Group also discussed the park's history of multiple names, including its previous designation as Boyd Park. To ensure a thorough and inclusive process, the Working Group directed staff to draft correspondence to Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) and the M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre, seeking feedback on the renaming proposal. Although broad community engagement is not contemplated by the policy the committee also received, reviewed and considered feedback that was received from the public following the open staff reports on the matter.

The possibility of installing a plaque to educate the public about the park's history was also considered, reflecting a commitment to transparency and historical acknowledgment.

The Working Group Concludes Its Review and Prepares Its Recommendation

At the November 24, 2025, meeting, the Working Group reviewed responses to its outreach efforts. Despite sending requests for feedback to Saugeen Ojibway Nation and M'Wikwedong, no formal responses were received by the deadline of November 10. At the meeting, the Chair acknowledged that although the deadline passed, still no response had been received by the meeting date and if correspondence had been received it certainly would not have been disqualified. The Working Group confirmed that all necessary information had been gathered and discussed.

The Working Group also considered community input, such as emails from neighbors and an informal petition, and reiterated the value of a historical plaque at the park. With all findings in hand, the Working Group agreed to recommend that the process to consider the request to rename Ryerson Park would recommend the park be renamed. The Working Group emphasized the importance of continued community engagement and transparent communication. The Working Group's report is presented to the Community Services Committee in December, marking the culmination of a careful, consultative process informed by historical research and stakeholder outreach.

Financial Implications:

The Working Group incurred no direct costs. Staff members on the Working Group and additional staff (as required), collectively contributed approximately 60-70 hours to provide administrative support, such as preparing agendas and meeting minutes, managing communications, report writing, coordinating tasks, and reviewing documents and emails.

Communication Strategy:

If the Community Services Committee adopts the Working Group's recommendation, communication about the decision will be issued following the Council meeting on January 12, once Council has reviewed and confirmed the recommendation. Updates will be shared through multiple channels,

including the City website, social media, and local media. Additional details on timing and format are still to be determined.

Consultation:

Working Group Members:

Councillors: Jon Farmer, Brock Hamley, Marion Koepke

Staff: Director of Community Services, City Clerk

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Jon Farmer, Councillor (Council appointed Working Group Member)

Brock Hamley, Councillor (Council appointed Working Group Member)

Marion Koepke, Councillor (Council appointed Working Group Member)

Tim Simmonds, City Manager (Chair, Working Group)

Pam Coulter, Director Community Services (Staff Working Group Member)

Briana Bloomfield, Clerk (Staff Working Group Member)

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Tim Simmonds, City Manager at tsimmonds@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1210.

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Meeting Date: December 17, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-124
Subject: Request for Commemorative Tree – Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-124 respecting Request for a Commemorative Tree - Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve:

1. The planting of a suitable shade tree outside of the City's Commemorative Forest Program generally in the location as outlined in the report; and
2. The cost of the tree and plaque being covered by the requester.

Highlights:

- The City has received a request by the former Better Pool Committee (Al Nightingale) to plant a commemorative tree in memory of John Douglas Seaman.
- The Family Y has confirmed its support of the request.
- A location along the pedestrian walkway between 10th Street East and the building is proposed.
- The cost of the tree and plaque will be covered by the requester.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City.

This project is a partnership with community members supported by the Family Y. The City has a joint operating agreement with the Family Y for this facility.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by strengthening the natural infrastructure, including the urban forest.

The proposal would make a small-scale positive impact on the urban canopy in a high-use civic area.

Previous Report/Authority:

[CS-24-047](#) Commemorative Tree – Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre for Sharif Rahman

Background:

The City has received a request from Al Nightingale on behalf of the Better Pool Committee to have a commemorative tree planted at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre in memory of John Douglas Seaman.

Attachment 1 includes a letter from Al Nightengale which notes:

He was a founding member of the Better Pool Committee, working tirelessly at Bingo and other events to bring a better pool to the community. With Doug's leadership, The Better Pool committee was able to make a significant contribution to the Julie McArthur Recreation Center to build an eight lane 25-meter pool.

Today the pools are used by young and old. This is a legacy facility that both the City of Owen Sound and Y.M.C.A should be proud of.

Analysis:

Mr. Seaman made longstanding contributions to the Owen Sound community, including leadership with the Better Pool Committee that supported delivery of the eight-lane, 25-metre pool at the JMRRC—a facility now widely used by residents of all ages. The memorial request describes his volunteerism and service to multiple community organizations.

Site and Location

The approved JMRRC landscape plan identifies areas suitable for additional trees. Based on the request and a meeting on site with former members of the better pool committee, a location on the south side of the building, east of the walkway is proposed (see attachment 2). This is a location of prominence on the south frontage along the pedestrian walkway from 10th Street East to the main doors. Final siting will consider utilities, sightlines, winter operations, and accessibility clearances.

Species

An oak tree is proposed as it is hardy, drought-tolerant, and appropriate for this location. A larger caliper tree is requested and will be paid for by the group making the request.

Plaque

A plaque would be mounted to a stone with a small concrete base and installed adjacent to the tree. The City would not be responsible for the cost or manufacturing of the plaque or its long-term maintenance. Wording will be coordinated by the requester and approved by the City and the family of Mr. Seaman.

Financial Implications:

Tree purchase cost is approximately \$300 and will be paid for by the requester.

Parks staff labour will be required for bed preparation and planting.

Plaque cost is expected in the range of \$300–\$500. The requester will cover the cost of the plaque.

Communication Strategy:

The requester will coordinate a public commemoration at the time of planting with family, members of the former Better Pool Committee, and Council.

The tree will be added to the City's commemorative forest GIS layer and be on the City website.

Consultation:

The Requester (Al Nightingale) and other members of the former Better Pool Committee. The Requester had confirmed support from Mr. Seaman's family. There is also attached a letter of support from the Family Y (Attachment 3).

Attachments:

1. Letter of request from Al Nightingale
2. Approximate Proposed Location of Tree
3. Letter of Support from Family Y

Recommended by:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services at pcoulter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 x 1252.

Commemorative Tree

John Douglas Seaman

Thank-you for considering the tree planting at the Julie McArthur Recreation Center in Memory of Doug Seaman.

I remember meeting with Doug in the late 1980's early 1990's, his daughter was on the Owen Sound Aquatic Club. I worked for the Owen Sound Y.M.C.A. So, Doug and I would talk every morning. Doug worked at PPG in Owen Sound as a computer programmer at this time.

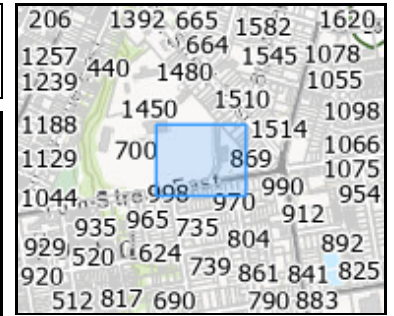
He was an active volunteer in the Owen Sound community coaching various sports teams and always lending a helping hand to any organization in need.

He was a founding member of the Better Pool Committee, working tirelessly at Bingo and other events to bring a better pool to the community. With Doug's leadership, The Better Pool committee was able to make a significant contribution to the Julie McArthur Recreation Center to build an eight lane 25-meter pool.

Today the pools are used by young and old. This is a legacy facility that both the City of Owen Sound and Y.M.C.A should be proud of.

Sincerely,

Alan Nightingale



Property Information
Assessment Parcels

Roads

A horizontal scale bar with tick marks at 0, 50, and 100 meters. The bar is black with white segments.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Good morning Pam,

I'm reaching out to confirm the YMCA's support in planting a memorial tree for Doug Seaman at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre.. Doug's contributions to the YMCA and community as a whole through The Better Pool Committee cannot be overstated. It would be a very meaningful tribute to see his legacy commemorated.

Thank you,
Brandon

Brandon Downing, BA, ATTH
Manager of Health, Fitness & Aquatics

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator
Meeting Date: December 17, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-129
Subject: 2025 Events Wrap Up Report

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-129 respecting the 2025 Events Wrap-Up, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Direct staff to move any year-end event surplus to the Events Reserve; and
2. Approve an allocation of up to \$5,000 in the events reserve to move the lifeboat at the rail museum and \$3,500 for the purchase of event supplies (tents, tables etc.).

Highlights:

- The City held 24 free live music concerts and 5 movie nights throughout 2025. The cumulative attendance was estimated at more than 8,500 people.
- A one-day Canada Day event was held July 1 at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park featuring an evening concert with local musicians and followed by fireworks over the harbour.
- The Home and Cottage Expo featured 132 indoor exhibitors and 23 outdoor exhibitors, attracting 1615 attendees.
- The third Hockey Fest was held in November which included a Referee & Timekeeper Clinic, three school visits, a high school hockey game, an Ontario University Athletics (OUA) game and a

road hockey tournament in the River District after the Kiwanis Santa Clause Parade.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: A City that Grows.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

Based on staff report [CS-25-039](#), a roster of City events was planned and executed in 2025.

Background:

The City's Events and Activation Coordinator organizes, plans, and delivers a diverse set of free community events each year. This report reviews events and activations from December 2024 to November 2025, reports on budget and attendance, and recommends 2026 event and activation planning.

The City's operating budget supports the current roster of events. In many cases, sponsorship and donations reduce the City's tax supported budget allocation. The budget is summarized in detail under each event below. An overall theme for 2025 (similarly in 2024) was increased costs for producing and licensing events and reduced sponsorship due to the current economy.

Analysis:

TD Harbour Nights

(Sunday evenings from June 1 to August 10)

Blending live music with a scenic waterfront venue located at the historical Marine and Rail Museum. TD Harbour Nights attracts a diverse audience of various ages and backgrounds, making it a beloved summer tradition in Owen Sound. In 2025, the series drew an average of 525 attendees per concert, totalling 5,250 over 11 performances.

Admission is free, with donations welcomed during the performances. The last Sunday included a matinee show at 4 p.m. in addition to the regular 7

p.m. performance. The Owen Sound North Grey Public Library and several community organizations attended to promote their upcoming events and activities. The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre was also open during these shows with the building providing access to washrooms. Rogers TV live-streamed the series as part of their summer programming, reaching audiences in Owen Sound, Meaford, Thornbury, and Georgian Bluffs. An additional social media link allowed viewers across the country to tune in. This service was provided to the city at no cost.

TD Bank served as the presenting sponsor of TD Harbour Nights, contributing \$5,500. Weekly event sponsors contributed \$600 each for a total of \$12,100. Sponsors enjoyed attending with their displays and greeting guests as part of their sponsorship benefits.

Two on-site vendors sold food and beverages, generating revenue for the City of \$320 from vendor fees. The public donated \$6,480, which is an average of \$589 per event. The combined revenue, sponsorships, and donations amounted to approximately \$18,580.

A partnership with The Harmony Centre allowed the event to move indoors in inclement weather. The rental costs were minimal, at \$180 per use. Total performer and technical fees for the 11 concerts was \$27,620.

Promotions

TD Harbour Nights was highlighted on Facebook, X, Instagram and Spotify with generic ads featuring the summer schedule along with posts for each individual evening and musician.

The social media (Instagram/X/Facebook) campaign showcasing the full summer lineup for both Mid Week Music and Harbour Nights from June to August generated more than 8,528 impressions. Individual ads for each performer which featured a sponsor were boosted, achieving an average reach of between 5,500 – 17,000 impressions. This summer, we once again initiated a QR code survey card handed out at events to inquire about visitor habits and obtain information about the events they attend. A total of 128 scans were received; comments included they enjoy the event when it is outdoors, several shared possible musicians and overall comments were positive.

Radio ads were scheduled with both Zoomer Radio and Bayshore Broadcasting. Posters and rack cards featuring the summer line up were distributed in Owen Sound and the surrounding community and various

Chamber of Commerce and Tourism offices via the Brochure Swap in May. The rack cards were also distributed to local businesses. The event was also promoted on the River District, Chamber of Commerce, and Owen Sound Tourism websites, and various newsletters. 30-second ads were placed on Spotify, generating 137,901 Impressions, and a reach of 9,249.

Impact

Music events play a crucial role in the local economy by attracting tourists, contributing to place-making, creating jobs, and generating revenue for local businesses. Live music events offer musicians a stage to display their talent and grow their fan base. Music fosters connections among people, builds a sense of community, and acts as a powerful tool for creating social change and bringing communities together.

Planning for 2026

The event is well received and supported in the community as a source of engagement and entertainment, as evidenced by the attendance and engagement statistics. This event series is planned to continue in the summer of 2026 with 8-12 performances on Sunday evenings at the Marine and Rail Museum stage on the City's west harbourfront.

The attendees would benefit from additional seating space by relocating the lifeboat which is located beside the train. More space is needed for a growing audience on these popular Sunday evening performances.

Mid Week Music

The Summer Events report [CS-25-039](#) noted the Midweek Music Concert Series would run on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at accessible locations in Owen Sound from June 18 to September 10.

Midweek Music locations included: The Owen Sound Farmers' Market, Grey Gallery Gardens, Mudtown Station Brewery (patio/green space) Marine & Rail Museum, Harrison Park (green space), Westside Boat launch, City Hall (front), The new Boardwalk on 1st Ave E, Billy Bishop Museum (front lawn) and the Gazebo at the Bayshore Community Centre.

Moving this event to various locations in the River District, Harbour and Parks created activity and interest and offered people another reason to be in these popular community spaces. The 13 weeks featured solos, duos, trios, and full bands as well as a dedicated night for youth performers. There was one Presenting sponsor valued at \$1,500 plus three supporting sponsors

valued at \$500 each for a total of \$3,000 in sponsorship. Total performer and technical fees for the 13 concerts was \$15,220. There were no grants available for 2025 to support this event.

Promotions

Mid Week Music was highlighted on Facebook, X, Instagram and Spotify with generic ads featuring the summer schedule along with posts for each individual evening and musician.

The social media (Instagram/X/Facebook) campaign showcasing the full summer lineup for both Mid Week Music and Harbour Nights from June to September generated more than 8,528 impressions.

Social media ads ran from mid-May to September 10 on the Owen Sound Events and Tourism Facebook, Instagram, and the City of Owen Sound's social media. Radio ads were scheduled with both Zoomer Radio and Bayshore Broadcasting. An ad was placed in various magazines, posters and rack cards were distributed in Owen Sound and the surrounding community and various Chamber of Commerce and Tourism offices via the pamphlet exchange day in May. The event was also promoted on the River District and Tourism website and newsletters.

30-second ads were placed on Spotify, generating 52,025 impressions, a click-through rate of 23%, and a reach of 11,099.

This summer, we once again initiated a QR code survey card handed out at events to inquire about visitor habits and obtain information about the events they attend. A total of 112 scans were received; comments included they enjoy the venue moving each week, we received feedback about possible new genres of music and overall comments were positive.

Impact

Overall, Mid Week Music brought positive attention to the River District, local parks and venues, inviting visitors to spend more time in Owen Sound and supporting local businesses and restaurants. It generates animation and helps the area come alive. Like Harbour Nights, this event also used the Harmony Centre as an alternative venue during inclement weather. The rental costs were minimal, at \$180 per use. An emphasis will be placed on event venues close to the River District.

Planning for 2026

The event was well received and supported in the community as a source of engagement and entertainment. Event attendees enjoyed the different venues and green spaces. This event series is planned to continue in the summer of 2026 with 12-15 performances on Wednesdays, starting at 4:30 p.m.

Overall Analysis of summer live music events.

The 2025 summer event series, planned, marketed, and delivered by City staff, reflects and achieves several strategic goals and targets in Staff Report [CS-25-039](#). These no-cost events for residents and tourists contributed to the quality of life, lifted morale in the community, and promoted Owen Sound as 'where you want to live,' providing safe venues to enjoy live music and movies. These music events also help animate and activate the waterfront and River District. The City of Owen Sound prides itself in offering free, inclusive events to the community and surrounding area.

Budget Recap – Summer concerts

Event planning can be challenging, particularly when managing the budget, as there are many factors to consider and prepare for. The budget usually covers the same essential expenses: venue, entertainment, SOCAN fees, materials, and supplies. Event staff adopted a conservative approach to planning summer events, mindful of the rising costs of the music and entertainment industry. Securing sponsorships was once again difficult in 2025 due to challenging economic conditions and a rising cost of living.

Outdoor Movie Nights

(Friday July 25, August 8, August 22, Saturday October 25 & Friday November 28)

This summer, five outdoor movie nights were hosted at various venues across the City on Friday evenings:

1. Snow White – Marine & Rail Museum
2. Paddington Bear – Harrison Park
3. How to Train Your Dragon – Kelso Beach at Nawash Park
4. Ghost Busters – City Hall (front)
5. Elf – Owen Sound Farmers' Market

Each event featured children's activities, food and crafts prior to each movie. There was one presenting sponsor valued at \$1,500, and 3 supporting sponsors valued at \$500 each. We had two sponsors provide in kind food and beverage items. Total sponsorship was \$2,500. The average attendance was 150 per evening, bringing the total attendance to 750.

Promotions

From July 1 to November 28, social media ads ran across Owen Sound Events and Tourism Facebook, Instagram, and the City of Owen Sound's social channels. Radio ads aired on Zoomer Radio and Bayshore Broadcasting, with digital ads on Rrampt. Posters and rack cards were distributed throughout Owen Sound and surrounding communities and in various Chamber of Commerce and Tourism offices via the Brochure Swap in May, reaching local hotels and campgrounds. The event was also promoted on the River District, City, and Tourism websites and newsletters. Email invitations were sent to all daycare providers, school-age programs, and youth organizations.

Impact

Outdoor Movie nights bring people together fostering a sense of community and encouraging social interactions among residents of all ages. These movie nights provided an affordable and enjoyable option for families, offering a fun evening out without the need for expensive tickets. By utilizing local parks and community spaces, outdoor movie nights highlight the beauty and uniqueness of the community, encouraging residents to appreciate and use these venues.

Planning for 2026

The event was well received in the community as a source of entertainment for parents and children and will continue in the summer of 2026. The 2025 Outdoor Movie Nights were planned, marketed, and delivered by City staff and reflect and achieve several strategic goals and targets set out in the Staff Report [CS-25-039](#). These no-cost events for residents and tourists contributed to the quality of life, lifted morale in the community, and promoted Owen Sound as 'where you want to live,' providing safe venues to enjoy movies. The fall and winter events will continue to take place in the River District, but we will explore partnering with a business to host them indoors due to weather concerns and historically low attendance.

Canada Day (Tuesday, July 1)

Owen Sound celebrated Canada Day on Tuesday, July 1 at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park. With gates opening at 10 a.m. it was a full day of family activities including Dog Shows, pony rides, food trucks, marketplace vendors, games, music and entertainers in the park during the afternoon, big canoe rides on the water and more. The main stage started the evening with opening ceremonies, opener Gracie Jet followed up by the Rock of Fame concert that featured several local and talented well know musicians. The celebration concluded with spectacular fireworks over Owen Sound Harbour at 10 p.m.

Window flags for storefronts and homes were available for pickup at Owen Sound City Hall, Tourism at the Tom, Harrison Park Campground, Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library, and The Ginger Press.

A \$16,000 grant was received from the Government of Canada, along with a sponsorship from eleven sponsors contributed \$11,500. Due to federal grant restrictions, the City is unable to collect donations at the gate on Canada Day.

Promotions

Social media ads ran from June 1 to July 1 on the Owen Sound Events and Tourism Facebook, Instagram, and the City of Owen Sound's social media. Radio ads aired on Zoomer and Bayshore Broadcasting, while posters and rack cards were distributed to local short-term rentals (STRs), businesses, restaurants, and tourism offices throughout Ontario. The event was promoted on Destination Ontario, Festival and Events Ontario, and RT07 events pages. Digital ads were placed with Evanov and reached 82,000 people across Ontario, utilizing several websites such as TripAdvisor, Expedia, and news portals. 30-second ads were placed on Spotify.

Impact

Overall, Canada Day draws tourists and visitors from the local region. Local vendors, artisans, food trucks, and accommodations such as hotels, Airbnb's, and inns experienced a surge in bookings during the weekend, with many reaching total capacity. This signature event celebrates Owen Sound's identity and connection to the harbor, fostering high public engagement through various activities, events, and cross-cultural experiences.

Planning for 2026

Canada Day will take place as a single day event on Wednesday, July 1. Staff recommend that a consideration be given to include a drone show on June 30th to open the festivities which would include musicians on the main stage and give food vendors and marketplace businesses the opportunity to increase sales and foot traffic.

Staff are seeking Experience Ontario funding to present a drone show the evening before Canada Day. This quieter, sensory-friendly event would make us the first in Grey County to host such a show, positioning the city as an innovator. It also offers sponsors unique branding opportunities, with logos featured in the display. This enhancement would only be planned if we are successful in receiving a grant to offset the costs.

Doors Open

Discovering Owen Sound's rich cultural heritage was made possible through a day trip to explore heritage sites as part of Doors Open Ontario, an annual program of the Ontario Heritage Trust. The event took place on Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring 19 sites in this summer's Doors Open tour in Owen Sound.

Doors Open Ontario is a province-wide heritage tourism program that provides the public with free access to explore fascinating heritage properties in communities across Ontario. It showcases the buildings, natural spaces, infrastructure, and cultural landscapes that shape and define our communities.

Doors Open Ontario began in 2002 to connect people to places by facilitating public access to compelling built and natural heritage sites that typically restricted regular access. The initiative aimed to ensure that Ontario's diverse heritage was accessible to individuals and families of all socioeconomic backgrounds without the cost barrier.

Nineteen sites were featured in Owen Sound, including; The Billy Bishop Museum, British Methodist Episcopal Church, Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, Georgian Bay School of the Arts, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, Giche-Name Wiikwedong Reconciliation Garden, Morland Place, Mudtown Station Brewery and Restaurant, Owen Sound Artists' Co-op, Owen Sound Cenotaph, Potters Field, St. George's Anglican Church, Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Tone Yoga Studio, CFOS, Harmony Centre, Sydenham Campus, Owen Sound Roselawn Bowling Club and The Roxy Theatre.

Two sponsors contributed \$1,500 to the event, and one in-kind sponsor supported promotions. The cost to host the event with Heritage Canada is \$1,000.

Promotions

From June 1 -21, social media ads ran across Owen Sound Events and Tourism's Facebook, Instagram, and the City of Owen Sound's social channels. Bayshore Broadcasting sponsored radio ads and ran for 2 weeks before the event date.

Impact

Doors Open has a significant impact on community life, heritage conservation, and tourism. By providing free access to historic sites, it encourages engagement with local history, fosters community pride, and attracts visitors who support the local economy. The program highlights adaptive reuse, promotes sustainable urban development, and serves as an educational platform through tours and talks. By showcasing diverse heritage properties, Doors Open preserves cultural landscapes, strengthens community networks, and inspires ongoing support for heritage initiatives. Overall, Doors Open had a lasting positive impact on the community, with 2,028 visitors to 19 sites in Owen Sound between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Planning for 2026

Staff will plan and implement Doors Open in 2026 after Heritage Canada releases the theme in the new year. A date will be selected in the new year. Doors Open was planned, marketed, and delivered by City staff and reflected and achieved several strategic goals and targets in Staff Report [CS-25-039](#).

Home and Cottage Expo

The 2025 Home and Cottage Expo was held at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre and JD McArthur Arena on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The annual Expo is a collaborative partnership between the City of Owen Sound, the Knights of Columbus, and the Grey Bruce Home Builders Association.

The event showcased indoor exhibitors from across Ontario, including popular local businesses, interactive displays, local municipal building officials, and a dedicated green energy section. Additionally, a fenced outdoor area featured outdoor vendors, home-based businesses, and a kid's zone.

Attendees were able to connect with contractors, interior designers, landscapers, home improvement experts, outdoor recreation dealers, consumer electronics suppliers, and more—all in one convenient location. It's the ideal opportunity for residents and visitors to explore services for upcoming renovations and consult with building officials about necessary permits and plans.

A variety of booth spaces were available, including single, double, and triple options, as well as outdoor spaces. The Entry fee was \$5, children under 12 were free. The event attracted 1,800 people.

One presenting sponsor and 2 presenting sponsors totalled \$7,000 as well as three in kind sponsors that offered radio promotions and security for the event. A total of \$64,000 in revenue was received from vendor registration which included indoor, outdoor, hydro fees and passports.

Promotions

A total of \$25,000 was spent on promoting the event which included 4 billboards, transit shelters, banners that were erected on city owned properties, and 5 magazines including Rrampt, Mosaic, Our Homes, Escarpment and On the Bay. Radio ads promoting the event were featured on all local stations as well as digital ads on both Rrampt and Evanov which reached areas outside of Owen Sound and was featured on sites such as Trip Advisor and Amazon. Spotify ads also ran from January to May featuring the event details and presenting sponsor with 63,055 impressions and a reach of 57,977.

Impact

A home expo strengthens the community by bringing residents, local businesses, and service providers together. It offers homeowners and buyers the chance to explore products, services, and innovations, while giving businesses visibility and networking opportunities. Through workshops, demonstrations, and interactive activities, the event educates, inspires, and connects people, promoting economic growth and empowering residents to enhance their homes.

Planning for 2026

Staff and partners have begun the planning process for the 2026 Expo taking place on May 2 and 3. A rebrand of the Expo has taken place after consideration of the trends in homeownership and living. While the original name suggests a focus on construction, renovation, and cottage-specific

products, the term “Lifestyle” allows the event to include décor, wellness, smart technology, gardening, entertaining, and sustainable living. This expanded focus attracts a wider audience, including younger homeowners, urban residents, and families who may not own cottages but are interested in enhancing their daily living spaces.

Rebranding the event also opens new marketing and sponsorship opportunities, allowing partnerships with brands outside the traditional home improvement sector, such as fashion, fitness, food, and wellness companies. By aligning with modern lifestyle trends, the show becomes more relevant, engaging, and appealing to the community. Ultimately, this shift can increase attendance, attract more exhibitors, and support the financial sustainability of the event while fostering greater community engagement.

Registration for the newly branded [“Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show”](#) opened on November 10, with 33 businesses already signed up, along with the securing of the presenting sponsor and three supporting sponsors.

The new branding will also focus on a more diverse portfolio of marketing and promotions moving away from printed materials to increase our presence online and digitally. For cash handling at the door city staff will be on hand to administer entrance fees.

Hockey Fest

(November 13-15)

Hockey Fest, a partnership with Owen Sound Girls Ice Hawks, local schools and The Waterloo Warriors, took place Thursday, November 13-15.

High school games took place on Thursday, with girls’ hockey at 10:30 a.m. and boys’ hockey at 12:30 p.m. between local schools (e.g. Owen Sound District Secondary School and Grey Highlands Secondary School). Games were free to attend.

On Friday players from the Waterloo Warriors Women’s team visited several elementary schools (including Hillcrest Elementary School, Keppel-Sarawak Elementary School, and East Ridge Community School) to run interactive floor-hockey and Q&A sessions.

The evening consisted of on-ice clinics — for youth players in U9 up to U15, plus a high-performance session for older players. There were also free clinics for referees and timekeepers (for those interested in officiating/bench-work).

Throughout Hockey Fest, the Owen Sound Ice Hawks hosted the Northern Lights Lady Classic Festival (Nov 13–16), — a tournament for youth girls’ teams (U11, U13, U15 and divisions B and C for some).

On Saturday, the marquee event — a university women’s game featured the Waterloo Warriors vs. Toronto Varsity Blues. The puck dropped at 2:00 p.m. and the game featured a raffle draw by the local Owen Sound Ice Hawks with total prizes of \$5,000. 1917 tickets were sold.

Later that evening: the community was invited to join downtown for holiday festivities — including the Kiwanis Santa Claus Parade and the launch of the Festival of Northern Lights. Immediately after the parade: “Sick Shot” road-hockey games took place, a tribute in memory of local minor-hockey player Josh Olynyk. 140 youth registered from U7–U12.

Promotions

Zoomer Radio was the main radio sponsor offering \$3,000 in promotions which included on-air ads and announcements, sharing event details during peak listening hours, featured interviews with organizers and special guests, as well as mentioning the event in community updates.

The event was promoted across Owen Sound Events and Tourism, River District and The City of Owen Sound’s Facebook, Instagram and X.

Hockey Fest played an important role in strengthening the Owen Sound community by bringing people of all ages together through a wide range of activities. The mix of high-school games, youth clinics, elementary-school visits, and road hockey created inclusive opportunities for everyone—from young children learning the sport to seasoned fans enjoying a university-level game. For a town with deep hockey roots, the festival reinforced local pride and celebrated the community’s long-standing connection to the sport. It also provided meaningful pathways for youth, as clinics led by university athletes and sessions for aspiring officials allowed young participants to explore different roles in hockey beyond playing. By aligning with the Santa Claus Parade and the Festival of Northern Lights, Hockey Fest helped kick off the holiday season and contributed to the vibrancy of the River District. The Sick Shot road hockey event, held in memory of Josh Olynyk, added a heartfelt tribute that blended sport with community remembrance. Overall, through free events, volunteer involvement, and strong local support, the festival highlighted grassroots engagement and strengthened Owen Sound’s sense of community and tradition.

Planning for 2026

Staff will plan and implement Hockey Fest in November 2026 and will build on the existing partnerships to ensure continued community collaboration.

Staff are seeking Ontario Sport Funding to grow the event and add new initiatives to the weekend.

New Years Eve

(Dec 31, 2024)

The City of Owen Sound hosted the New Year's Eve Family Celebration in partnership with the YMCA Bruce Grey Owen Sound on Tuesday, December 31, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre. Admission was free, but donations of \$537 were received.

Public skating took place from 12:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. on both ice pads, and an open swim at the YMCA ran from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library was on-site with button making and a scavenger hunt. Other activities included Balloon Creations by Petunia, cookie decorating, open gym time, fun crafts. There was live music by Charlie Gillespie, Vaughan Coffey, and Levi Wathke plus stilt walkers and Face Painting. 3 sponsors contributed \$2,000.

Promotions

Social media ads ran from June December 15 to 31 on the Owen Sound Events and Tourism Facebook, Instagram, and the City of Owen Sound's social media. Radio ads aired on Zoomer and Bayshore Broadcasting, while posters and rack cards were distributed to local establishments, arena's, facilities and family-oriented retailers.

Impact

Hosting a free community New Year's family celebration has a positive impact on the community by creating an inclusive space where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to mark the start of a new year. By removing financial barriers, the event ensures that families who might not otherwise afford holiday activities can still participate, fostering equity and a sense of belonging. Local businesses, volunteers, and partners also benefit from increased visibility and engagement, contributing to a vibrant local culture. Overall, a free New Year's celebration promotes unity, accessibility,

and community pride while creating meaningful memories for families year after year. Each year the event attracts between 1,500-2,000 people.

Planning for 2025

The annual event will take place on December 31 from 1-4pm in the same format as in past years. The annual celebration will provide opportunities for local partners, businesses, and volunteers to collaborate, helping to foster a vibrant, supportive, and engaged community year after year.

Financial Implications:

Event	Tax Supported Budget (A)	Budgeted Revenue	Actual Expenses (C)	Actual Sponsorship Revenue & Donations/ Grants(B)	NET Surplus/ (Deficit)
Harbour Nights	10,550.00	15,950.00	(35,706.00)	18,799.00	-6,357.00
Mid-Week Music	24,500.00	4,500.00	(19,802.00)	3,000.00	+7,698.00
Canada Day	18,600.00	22,000.00	(49,558.00)	33,313.00	+2,355.00
Movie Nights	7,200.00	2,000.00	(6,534.00)	2,500.00	+3,166.00
Hockey Fest	500.00		(500.00)	0.00	0.00
Doors Open	1000.00	0.00	(1,587.00)	1,500.00	-87.00
Home and Cottage Expo	11,350.00	76,750.00	(67,582.00)	84,183.00	+27,951.00 City Share 9,317.00 (plus staff allocation) (1750.00) Partner Share 9,317.00 Knights 9,317.00 Home Builders
Total					\$+16,092 (After partner share for Home and Cottage Expo)

(A)Total Tax Supported Budget + (B) Actual Sponsorship/Revenue/Donations
- (C)-Actual Expenses = (D)Overall Net Budget Surplus/Deficit

Communication Strategy:

Staff have undertaken a broad public communication strategy to promote and market events and activations. We continue to track analytics and trends that help us understand how to reach people best and remain highly invested in growing our communication channels.

Consultation:

Aidan Ware, Director & Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator

Aidan Ware, Director & Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator, at jwright@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 Ext. 1237.

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Meeting Date: December 17, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-119
Subject: Sports Equipment Sanitizer Vending Opportunity

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-119 respecting a sports equipment sanitizer vending opportunity, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement for the non-exclusive use of space at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre for a sanitizing vending machine for three years as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- The proposed installation of a sanitizing machine will be in the currently vacant area at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre.
- Servicing the machine will be the sole responsibility of the operation and the City will assume no responsibility for damage, loss or customer service inquiries.
- A vending option is a low-risk no-cost method to provide this service.

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:

None.

Background:

The Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre (JMRRC) welcomes tens of thousands of guests annually for various sporting events and activities. The City has a Joint Operating Agreement with the Family Y respecting the operation of the building. The responsibility for food and vending machines is with the City under Agreement.

A request has been received from Mr. Josh Harris to install a machine that is designed to clean, sterilize and help remove stink from sporting equipment. This machine is similar in size to a regular vending machine and could be placed beside the units already on site at the JMRRC.

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval to place the machine at the JMRRC.

Analysis:

In late Fall 2025, staff was approached by Mr. Josh Harris with the request to place a sanitizing machine in the vacant vending spot the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre.

The JMRRC does not have an on-site pro-shop or anything that would perform similar services.

Owen Sound would be the first location for a machine of this kind, however, Mr. Harris plans to expand if the service is successful.

The dimensions are 30" wide by 27" deep by 78" high. The unit requires a 20-amp electrical outlet that is available.

Mr. Harris will complete all servicing and maintenance for the vending machine.

A cleaning cycle can last anywhere between 5-8 minutes, depending on the customer's selection. The machine makes a gentle hum while in use and doesn't have any odour. A small amount of electricity is used for each cycle.

A \$750.00+HST annual lease fee for the space has been agreed upon, in principle, pending committee approval.

Responsibility for servicing the machine lies with the operator. The City will assume no responsibility for damage, loss of product or customer service inquiries.

An agreement would be required. The proponent would be responsible for the cost of the Agreement preparation which would include other matters and requirement for insurance and indemnification.

Financial Implications:

The operator has agreed to a \$750.00+HST annual lease fee for the space.

Communication Strategy:

This report to Community Services Committee.

The promotion and advertising of the on-site machine would be the responsibility of Mr. Harris.

Consultation:

Ryan Gowan, Manager of Arena Operations
YMCA of Owen Sound Grey-Bruce

Attachments:

Photo of Sanitizing Machine

Recommended by:

Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

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



Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Pamela Coulter, Director of Community
Meeting Date: December 17, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-125
Subject: Concession Options at the Julie McArthur Regional
Recreation Centre

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-125 respecting concession options at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a concession operator at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre; and
2. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the successful proponent.

Highlights:

- The Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre opened in 2012 under a joint operating agreement with the Family Y.
- The responsibility under the Joint Operating Agreement with the Y for the concession is entirely with the City.
- This report presents several options for the future of this space.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[CS-23-123](#) – Request to assign lease – JMRRC Concession (agreement reassign to Saleem Khan)

[CS-22-096](#) – JMRRC Concession (agreement reassign to Sharif Rahman)

[CS-18-142](#) – Concession JMRRC – Two Sisters Café

[CS-18-105](#) – Concession at the JMRRC

Background:

The City has an Operating Agreement with the Family Y for the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre. Among other matters, the agreement addresses food service and assigns responsibility for all aspects of food service and vending machines in the common area to the City. Any revenue received is to be allocated equally between the City and Y and held by the City in a reserve for Capital Improvement Expenditures.

The concession is located in the shared North-South corridor with a small food preparation area and seating area, as seen in attachment 1. The City had installed some basic infrastructure such as cupboards, counters and sinks. Other trade fixtures have been provided by leases of the space.

There are certain restrictions that apply to the operation of the space, including a requirement for healthy food options, no cooking that would require a range hood vent, as well as compliance with the City's Nut Aware Policy.

Initially, after the building opened, finding an operator was challenging.

Since 2016 there have been several operators:

- 2016-2018 Buff Bistro
- 2018-2022 Sister's Café
- 2022 – 2023 Sharif Rahman
- 2023 lease assigned to new operator

There is no operator currently.

The City spoke with the Family Y regarding their interest in potentially operating the concession. The Y is not interested at this time.

The last lease had an annual revenue of approximately \$1300, subject to annual CPI increases. The tenant is responsible for any taxes. Utilities are included in the lease.

In addition to the concession space, the tenant has also had the rights to operate the vending machines in the facility.

Since the space has been vacated, the City has received 5-7 inquiries about operating the concession.

Analysis:

The purpose of this report is to present options for review and consideration by the Committee.

Option	Pros	Cons	Other Considerations
Close and repurpose space	Eliminates compliance, procurement, and operational workload. Allows reallocation of space to other public uses.	Removes convenience and on-site amenity. Forfeits a small amount of revenue from space.	The conversion of the space would require a capital investment of \$5000-\$10,000 (estimate).
Vending Machine Only Modern refrigerated snack/meal vending machines	Low management burden for city.	Limited menu. Perceived freshness. Reduced level of service.	N/A

*RFP for a concession operator and execution of a 3 to 5 year lease	Competitive process. Best option for a wider variety of choices.	Investment required to open. Limited interest in RFP. Time to administer RFP and negotiate and execute lease.	This option would include the concession and provide the rights to the vending if desired.
Partner with a Non-Profit to operate a concession	Positive community impact.	Potential operation with volunteers may be challenging.	N/A

*Staff recommend issuing an RFP for an operator and entering a new 3 to 5-year lease. It is anticipated that the lease terms will be consistent with those of the previous agreement.

Financial Implications:

Staff time to prepare, administer and score RFP.

Staff will draft an updated lease based on the historic lease. Legal review of the draft will be required.

Communication Strategy:

The RFP will be made public and posted on the City website. This will allow smaller businesses to download the RFP without having to pay to register for the bids and tender site.

As inquiries were made, staff advised individuals that this report would be published on the Committee page as part of the agenda package.

Consultation:

Purchasing and Claims Coordinator, Manager of Arena Operations, The Family Y

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Concession Area

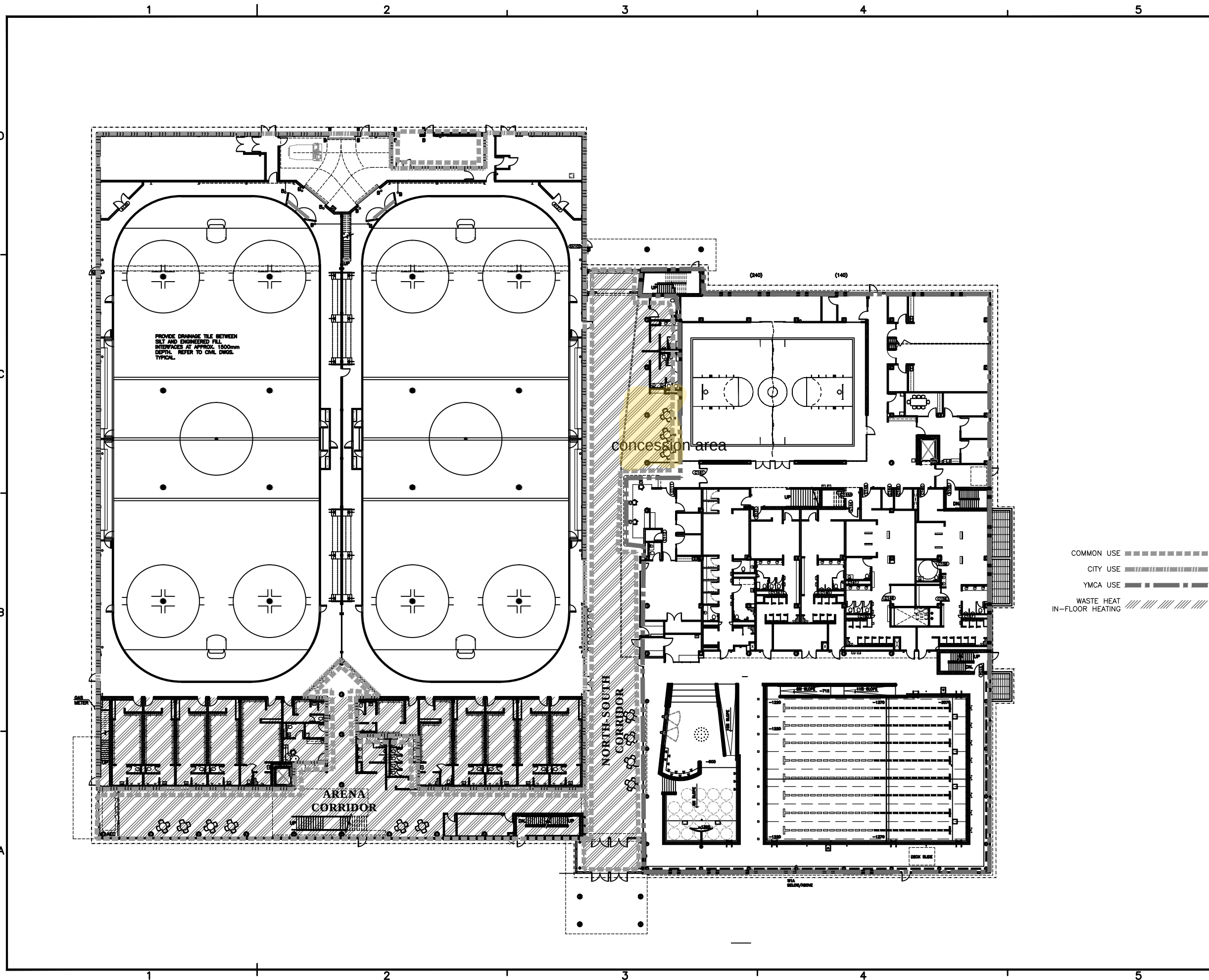
Recommended by:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services at pcoulter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 x. 1252.



ARCHITECTS

SHORE
TILBE
IRWIN
& PARTNERS

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SUITE 202
TORONTO, ON
CANADA M5G 1Z8

416.871.6990
416.871.6990
WWW.STIRPARTNERS.COM

80%:

WEDDING TILE SYSTEM. FOR
CONNECTIONS TO SUMP PUMPS AND
TO SEWER SYSTEM. REFER TO MECH
DWGS AND SITE SERVICE DWGS.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

11	07.05.10	REVISION FOR
10	08.30.10	REVISION FOR
10	08.22.10	REVISION FOR
9	08.22.10	REVISION FOR
9	08.18.10	REVISION FOR
8	08.11.10	REVISION FOR
7	08.08.10	REVISION FOR
6	08.08.10	REVISION FOR
6	08.21.10	REVISION FOR
5	05.07.10	REVISION FOR
4	04.12.10	REVISION FOR
3	04.05.10	REVISION FOR
2		
1		

MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION
REVISIONS		

PROJECT NAME:

OWEN SOUND
REGIONAL
RECREATION
CENTRE

ADDRESS:

700 10th ST. EAST
OWEN SOUND, ON

FILE NAME:	09/27/2010
DRAWN BY:	POB/PW/DB
CHECKED BY:	
SCALE:	1:150

PROJECT NUMBER:

0927

SHEET TITLE:

GROUND
FLOOR PLAN

A-102

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Meeting Date: December 17, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-126
Subject: Proposal for a Turf Floor Partnership with Junior and Minor Lacrosse – Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-126 respecting a proposal for a turf floor partnership with Junior and Minor Lacrosse at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement, generally as outlined in the report, subject to the approval of the updated 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan.

Highlights:

- Junior and Minor Lacrosse has proposed a partnership to acquire and install a turf floor at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre.
- The request for capital is being considered as part of the update of 2026-2030 Multi-year Capital Plan scheduled for the December 15, 2025, Council meeting.
- The principles of a partnership agreement are presented for review.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by considering climate adaptation in the development of the City's strategies, plans and policies.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Owen Sound Lacrosse Presentation](#) – Community Services Committee
November 19, 2025

CS-251119-002

"THAT in consideration of the deputation from Owen Sound Lacrosse provided on November 19, 2025, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include the proposed costs for the lacrosse turf at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in the December 2025 Capital Budget update."

Carried.

This resolution was adopted with the approval of the Committee meeting minutes at the November 24, 2025, Regular Council meeting.

Background:

At the November meeting of the Community Services Committee, Dwight Bryant and Peter Debrone, representing Owen Sound minor and Junior B Lacrosse, made a presentation to Committee regarding a proposed partnership between Lacrosse and the City to acquire and install a turf playing surface at the Bayshore Community Centre.

At the direction of the Committee, the project has been added to the list of proposed changes to the 2026-2030 Multi-year Capital Plan report for Council consideration on December 15, 2025.

Analysis:

The partnership proposes:

- Acquisition and installation of a used (one year of use) turf surface from Albany for use at the Bayshore Community Centre. It is

confirmed that the turf will fit the updated Bayshore playing surface (200 ft x 85ft).

- The surface would be used in the summer months by lacrosse and would be suitable for other uses.
- The anticipated costs of acquisition (\$35,000), shipping, and purchasing a shipping container for storage would total \$50,000. A 50/50 partnership is proposed. Lacrosse has applied for a grant to support the project and should they be successful, the request of the City would be reduced. The maximum contribution is \$25,000.
- There are several benefits to a turf floor that include a safer playing surface for players, enhanced recruitment for junior/senior programs and the ability to bid on and host provincial and national level lacrosse events with related economic benefit.

Lacrosse had indicated that, should the partnership move forward, they would “gift” the turf surface to the City. An agreement between the parties would help establish both short- and long-term considerations.

Acquisition

- Lacrosse would be responsible for the acquisition of the floor and the storage container, as well as shipping.
- Upon delivery to the Bayshore Community Centre, they would become a City asset.

Storage, Handling, and Facility Impact

- Lacrosse would coordinate shipping and the acquisition of the storage container for storage. As noted, this container acquisition is included in the project cost.
- A building permit would be required for the container.
- The City would reserve and be responsible for the allocation of floor time and bookings.
- The turf floor takes approximately 3 people, 4 hours to install. This can be accommodated by the Facility staff. The agreement could include a provision for lacrosse to provide volunteers to assist with installation and removal each season.
- The time to maintain this floor is not anticipated to be more than the time required to clean the concrete floor. Between floor scrubbing and mopping, this would save 6-8 hours a week.

Sponsorship and Advertising

- Owen Sound Lacrosse hopes to sell advertising space on the floor to support fundraising.
- The Attack have rights to sell advertising in the bowl in their agreement with the City. The Attack Hockey Club has confirmed that they are agreeable to the turf advertising being sold by lacrosse, with the funds retained to support the acquisition.

Insurance, Risk Management and Legal

- As the City is to accept ownership of the asset, the City would be responsible for insurance.
- The City has consulted with the City's insurer and does not anticipate any changes to the City's liability coverage through the addition of turf, provided that it is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and standard maintenance and inspection practices. There will be a minimal increase in the City's property policy due to the increased value of equipment within the facility.
- All users of the facility are required to provide insurance indemnifying the City. This requirement will remain.
- The agreement would be drafted by the City solicitor and any other clauses recommended would be included.

Environmental and End-of-Life of Asset

- There will be no obligation on the City to replace the asset at its end of life.
- Given seasonal usage, the anticipated lifespan is 15-20+ years.
- It is understood that there are a variety of options with respect to end-of-life disposal of an indoor turf floor, including:
 - **Recycling** – companies specialize in recycling synthetic materials, transforming old turf into new products.
In recent years, advancements in technology have made the recycling of artificial grass products more efficient and eco-friendly. Some manufacturers have developed fully recyclable turf systems designed from the ground up with end-of-life recycling in mind. These products are engineered so that each layer can be easily disassembled and reused.
 - **Donation** – if turf is in good condition – donation to schools, or animal shelters for re-use.

- **Sale** - the City can list the item on GovDeals and may dispose of it through that means.

Choosing to recycle old artificial grass is an important step in reducing the environmental footprint. Ensuring that materials are repurposed and reused also reduces the demand for new raw materials. This approach aligns with the City's strategic plan values.

The agreement should contemplate the recycling and repurposing options to reduce end-of-life disposal costs.

Financial Implications:

The City's share of the project is anticipated to be \$25,000. The City's share will be funded from unallocated funds within the Capital Reserve.

Staff time to install and remove each year and the minimal cost for the increase in the City's property insurance policy will be contained within the existing operating budget.

Staff anticipate there will be some cost saving of time that is normally devoted to floor cleaning.

Legal review of the agreement is estimated to be \$1500.

Communication Strategy:

Ongoing communication with minor and Junior Lacrosse

Consultation:

Arena Manager, Manager of Corporate Services

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services at pcoulter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 x 1252.



November 25, 2025

Dear Head of Council:

Through the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* ([Bill 17](#)), which received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025, changes were made to the *Planning Act* that will help streamline and standardize municipal development processes.

This includes changes that enable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, by regulation, to permit variation from a zoning by-law “as of right” if a proposal is within a prescribed percentage of the required setback (the minimum distance a building or structure must be from a property line) on specified lands. This new authority was intended to reduce planning applications for minor variances.

Today, our government announced further action to streamline planning approvals by exercising my authority established under Bill 17 to amend Ontario Regulation 545/06 ([Zoning By-laws, Holding By-laws and Interim Control By-laws](#)) to allow variations to be permitted “as-of-right” if a proposal is within 10% of setback requirements applicable to specified lands. Specified lands include any parcel of urban residential lands outside of the Greenbelt Area, and exclude areas such as hazardous lands, and lands near shorelines and railways. These changes in [Ontario Regulation 257/25](#) were filed on November 21, 2025 and took effect upon filing.

Any variances sought beyond the prescribed percentage of the setback requirement would be subject to the usual minor variance or rezoning approval process and other zoning standards (e.g., height limits, etc.) would continue to apply, helping to mitigate potential land use compatibility issues.

This “as-of-right” permission is intended to remove the need for certain variances that are the most minor in nature, resulting in fewer applications submitted and fewer hearings for minor variances before a municipal committee of adjustment for these proposals.

The proposed regulation works with the [Additional Residential Units regulation](#) (Ontario Regulation 299/19) to help create additional residential units, such as basement suites, by eliminating additional barriers related to setbacks.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our municipal partners as we work together to achieve our goal of building the homes that Ontarians need.

Sincerely,



Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c. Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, MMAH
David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Planning and Policy Division,
MMAH
Municipal Chief Administrative Officer

November 2025

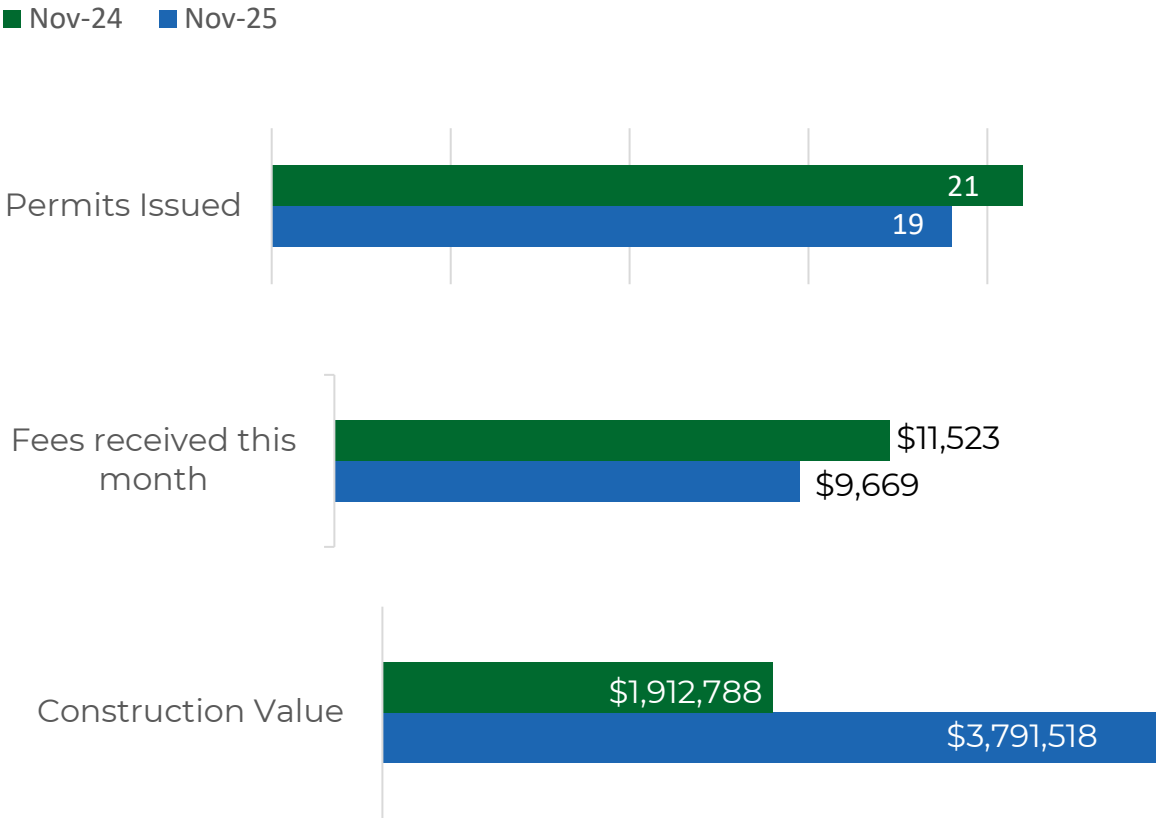
Development Update



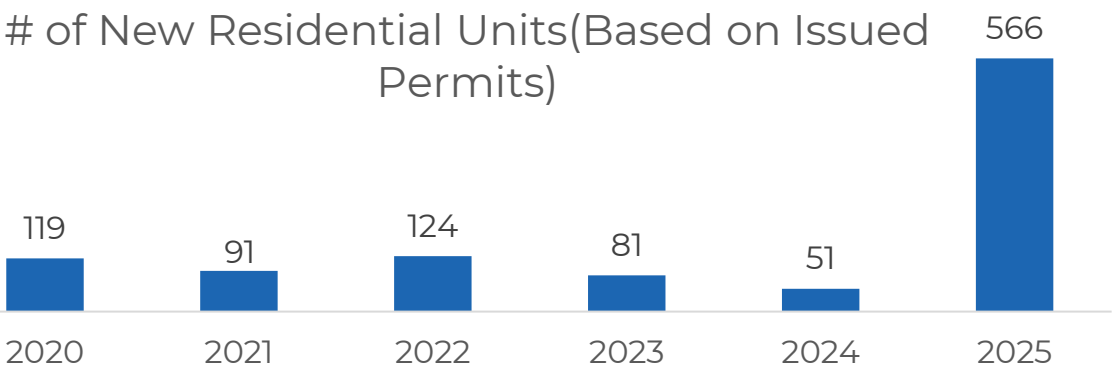
Major Permits and Projects in November:

- A permit was issued to Community Living Owen Sound and District for a new supportive housing project. A three-storey, ten-unit affordable housing project is underway on the City’s east side.
- A permit application was received for interior renovations to the Metro grocery store in the River District.
- Building Services has teamed up with the Municipality of Meaford. City staff will provide assistance with plans review, inspections and Chief Building Official Duties, as needed.

Comparison with November 2024:



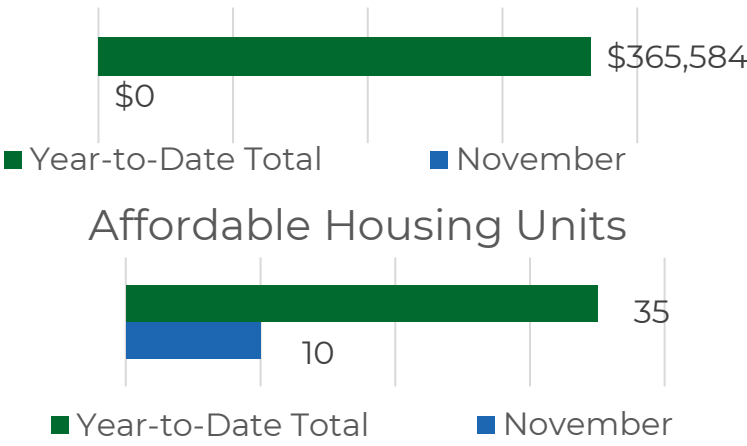
of New Residential Units(Based on Issued Permits)



Types Year-to-Date:

Single Residential: 1
Semi/Duplex: 4
Row/Townhouse:15
ARUs: 6
Apartments/Condos: 540

Development Charges Collected



*Note – data based on best information available to city at this time.

November Highlights

Construction value of:

\$3,791,518

Compared to \$1,912,788 during the same months in 2024.



19 Building Permits Issued

Including all building, plumbing, demolition, heritage, and tents.



\$ 9,669

In building permit fees collected, compared to **\$11,523** during the same period in 2024
Year-to-date, **\$939,899** in permit fees have been collected.

48

Building Inspections were conducted during the month of November.

Planning Applications Received

