

Subject: Events and Festivals update**Recommendation:**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2020 - 0064; and that recommendations within be accepted.

Background:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the status of various community festivals and events. Staff have met with most municipal and community committees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and ultimately arrived at the status recommendations below.

Analysis:**Kinsmen Home & Garden Show** April 2 – 5

Staff met with the Kinsmen Members in mid March and the Kinsmen Club agreed to cancel their annual Home & Garden show.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt April 11th

The Annual Easter Egg hunt, held in Centennial Park was cancelled.

Pelham Art Festival May 7 – 10

On March 18th the Pelham Art Festival Committee sent notification the 2020 Art Festival would be cancelled due to OVID-19.

Pelham Farmers Market May 7 – October (proposed June 11 – October 8)

Staff have been working with the Farmers Market Committee in conjunction with Niagara Public Health. The Farmers Market Committee is requesting permission to open commencing June 11 and run through to October under the following Public Health recommendations and guidelines:

- On site market and online orders for pick up
- Area designated for easy accessible area for order pick up
- No on site food preparation or cooking permitted, food will be handled only by vendor
- No drinks or items will be sold that will promote "hanging around"
- Controlled access to only permit limited numbers from entering

- Arrows to be painted on ground to direct flow of attendees
- Currently 13 vendors will be allowed (normally 26) and will be spaced 6 ft apart
- No non-profit booths allowed and no reusable bags will be permitted
- Hand wash and/or sanitation stations will be at entrance and within market
- Public Health will approve final layout of Market area
- Pelham Farmers Market website is being modified to accept online orders.

The Farmers Market Committee will adjust operating procedures as Public Health regulations permit, through the Province reopening guidelines. A draft layout of the market is attached.

Pelham Supper Market Mid June – September

Local Pelham restaurants/vendors will be meeting on Tuesday April 28 to discuss, although at this time no food preparations can be prepared on site as well as social gatherings. Staff is recommending that Supper Market be cancelled until there is a significant change in the Public Health regulations and changes in social gathering numbers. Staff are aware that the business community is suffering and would prefer to see some form of Supper Market occur, even if delayed. Staff will report back to Council when and if the restrictions are lifted during the summer.

Bandshell Concerts Mid June to Sept. (Proposed July 2 – September 10)

Staff have had telephone conversations with the Chair of the Bandshell Committee regarding the cancellation of the Bandshell Concerts for the 2020 season due to restriction of large gatherings. Please refer to attached email received from the Committee dated April 25 requesting permission to commence the Fonthill Bandshell Summer Concert Series on July 2nd, weekly to September 10th. Under the current restrictions, large gatherings are not allowed and according to the Provincial Reopening announcement, "Large public gatherings such as concerts and sporting events will continue to be restricted for the foreseeable future." On an average Thursday evenings attendance is between 2,500-4,500 people.

Staff is recommending the concert series be cancelled until there is a significant change in Public Health restrictions and changes in social gathering numbers. The best information available from the Province is that there is no anticipated return to large gatherings in 2020. This concert series, while popular, is solely for cultural and entertainment purposes and constitutes an unreasonable risk to public health and safety at this time. Cancellation can effectively be achieved by withholding permission to use Town property.

Fenwick Lions Carnival & Parade May 22 – 24

The Fenwick Lions Club have cancelled the Carnival and Parade.

Fenwick Lions Fish Frys Normally Friday Easter – Thanksgiving

The Fish Frys are served out of the Centennial Park concession, on a take-out basis. Staff have suggested the Club to contact with Public Health regarding an operating procedure that could allow them to operate the Fish Fry on Fridays. Staff will update Council if the Club decides to commence the Fish Fry events. It is anticipated that this is an activity that can ultimately be accommodated.

Shorthills Strawberry Festival June 14

Chief Lymburner has confirmed the Strawberry Festival has been cancelled.

Canada Day Celebration July 1

Staff have met with the Canada Day Celebration organizing Committee and have agreed to cancel the actual event. In lieu, and as with many Municipalities across the Province, Staff is working on a Virtual Canada Day event with other Niagara municipalities including the Niagara Parks Commission. Activities that can be done safely will be encouraged throughout the Region, i.e. house decoration; singing of the National Anthem at the same time, etc. Staff have been involved with a teleconference with the Ministry of Canadian Affairs regarding the annual Canada Day grant and it sounds like we may still receive funding for a Virtual Canada Day event. Further information will be forwarded to Council as developments proceed.

Pelham Summerfest July 16 - 19

Pelham Summerfest Committee met on April 22 and decided that Summerfest 2020 will be cancelled due to current COVID-19 pandemic and public health concerns.

Christmas In Pelham December

Staff will continue to plan for Christmas In Pelham keeping in mind the phasing of reopening. An update will be prepared in the fall.

Financial Considerations:

There will be both revenues foregone and costs avoided as a result of the foregoing cancellations. Estimates and details will be included in the Town's first major financial update report on Coronavirus costs, which will be provided to Council at the May 19, 2020 meeting.

Alternatives Reviewed:

Pursuant to Provincial Regulations, there are no practical alternatives to cancellation for most of these events.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Build Strong Communities and Cultural Assets

Pelham is known for its events and festivals. Cancellations are difficult anytime, and the entire community looks forward to the day that we can gather again and celebrate.

Consultation:

Municipal Committees; Service Clubs; Event organizers

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Pelham Farmers Market layout
Fonthill Bandshell Concert Committee email

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