

RECREATION, CULTURE & WELLNESS QUARTERLY REPORT

Monday, October 18, 2021

Reporting Period: Recreation, Culture and Wellness
Quarterly Report for the period: Q3 2021**Recommendation:**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Q3/2021 Recreation, Culture and Wellness Department Report, for information.

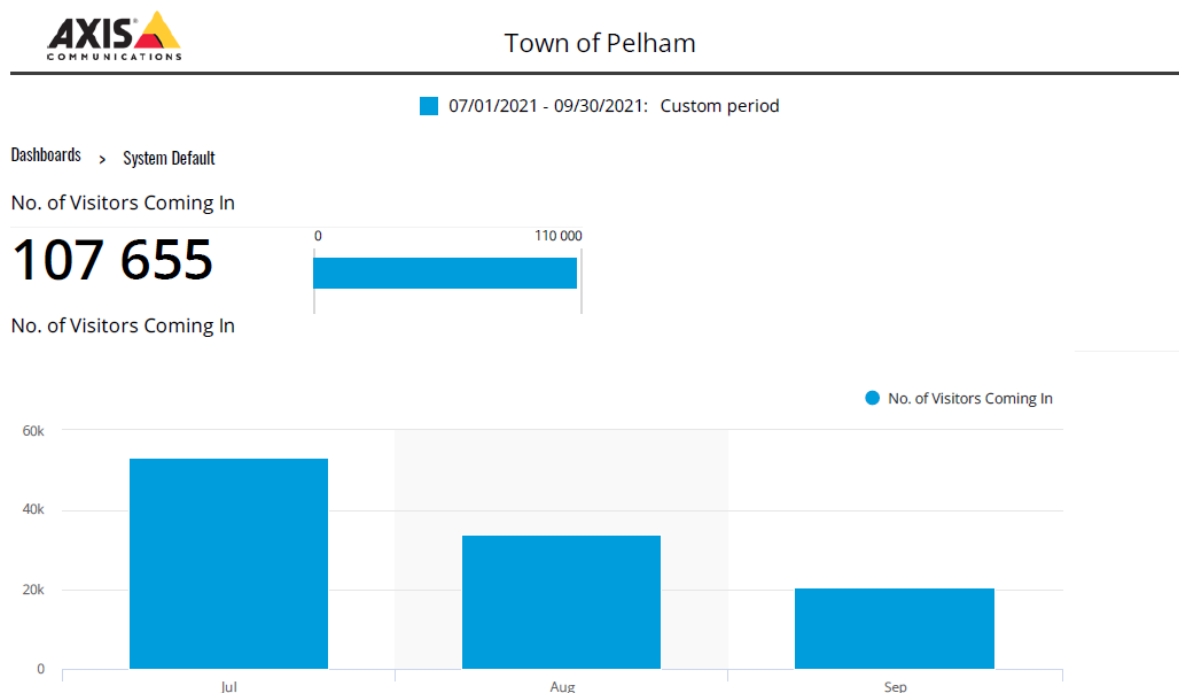
Department Overview and Statistics:**Projects:****Facilities, Programming and Rentals**

Town of Pelham's Facilities team saw a busy July and August with the Province's Roadmap to reopen and capacity limits increased to 50% for indoor programming and spectators. As of July 16th, 2021 the Meridian Community Centre opened to indoor on ice programming at 50% capacities. In July the Meridian Community Centre received 53,275 visitors through the doors. The Niagara Region Vaccination Clinic and ice rentals were at their max capacities for the latter half of July. Facility Staff were busy with indoor and outdoor programming following Provincial guidelines and keeping all facilities clean and disinfected. In August the Niagara Region Vaccination Clinic was relocated to the Accursi room at a smaller limited capacity and the majority of visitors switched to people using the facility for ice and gym rentals. August saw 33,886 visitors through the Meridian Community Centre including the Doug Burr Memorial Jr Hockey tournament.

Seasonal programming such as public skating, shinny, stick and puck and ticket ice were back in action at limited capacities. The MCC has had many happy visitors express gratitude for opening doors to the public once again, keeping them busy and all the while safe by following Provincial guidelines and decisions made by the Emergency Operation Centre. September brought some normality back to all the facilities with the Pelham Pool closing Labour Day weekend, Pelham Soccer finalizing its season and baseball finals set to be played. The Meridian Community

Centre had 20,494 visitors mainly for ice programming and basketball in the gyms. Children were now back in classes with Schools opening their doors once again. Pelham's largest user groups are now back in the Community Centre with tryouts, practices and games, taking up the majority of ice and gym rentals. New Ontario Regulations seen the Meridian Community Centre require proof of fully vaccinated visitors for 12 years and older spectators and limited exemptions for users of various associations. Due to this new regulation the Town of Pelham hired help from Signal 88 Security to aid in the initial rollout. As the new policies and procedures are rolling out, administration is returning to regular programming with happy visitors and smiles back in the building. In the last 3 months the MCC has had 107,655 visitors making use of the facility and keeping staff on their toes.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Ice rentals continued to be in high demand with both rinks. Accipter and Duliban ice pads both reopened for regular rentals July 16th, 2021, with bookings 7 days a week from 6am – 10pm daily. Beginning the second week in September, we have our regular ice rental user groups scheduled to start there season ending the end of March 2021.



SAY IT! On Stage (Seniors & Youth Intergenerational Theatre, On Stage): The SAY IT! On stage group comprised of 15 members of seniors and youth, have continued to meet both virtually and in person outdoors for filming. They have completed the script and began filming in the June for "Millennium Mission to Mars." The group has finalized all raw filming as of August and staff are working with the

volunteers to assist in final production and distribution of the final video. More information can be found here www.pelham.ca/arts

Pelham Farmers Market

The Pelham Farmers Market, with staff assistance, operated Thursdays through the season. The Market had only one night with adverse weather and was unable to operate. Average attendance of 250 continued with increased traffic when the Bandshell weekly concert series was live. The Farmers Market and staff have continued to host the virtual scavenger hunt called Junior Growers and several families have completed every mission offered weekly. All the information about the virtual scavenger hunt and list of vendors can be found on the Pelham Farmers Market website: www.pelham.ca/farmers-market

Christmas in Pelham

Town staff continue to stay up to date on pandemic restrictions related to in person events. Application for Christmas in Pelham to receive funding support from Provincial Reconnect Grant was successful. Current planning is in place for modified Outdoor Christmas Market, house decorating and light tour, Santa Claus Parade and a Great Elf Challenge virtual scavenger hunt.

River Estates Park Development

Staff received RFPs for the River Estates park development on May 27 and worked with the approved submission to host a community feedback survey from June 1 – June 15 on the engaging Pelham website. This feedback allowed residents to vote on three different designs, and allowed for additional comments. The final responses were in favor of design #2 and staff will be proceeding with this selection based on community feedback. The total number of survey responses was 60, and 180 “door knocker” notices were hand delivered to each house in the River Estates neighbourhood.

The archived survey and information for River Estates survey can be found here: [River Estates Engaging Pelham Survey](#). The water department has installed service for the water feature and the tentative start date for construction is October 12th.

Summer Chill Series

Staff collaborated with local establishments, and organizations to coordinate a hybrid event called Summer Chill Series, with funding received from the Re-Connect program to help support a safe and enjoyable event. Summer

Chill Series partnered with the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce, XplorNet, Niagara Symphony and the Niagara Region economic development department to bring back elements of the Thursday Night Experience safely to residents in a modified version.

The Summer Chill Series was essentially comprised of two main components; the Summer Chill Eats and Summer Chill Challenge. Summer Chill Eats was an in-person culinary market with music hosted by the Niagara Symphony. The first event took place Thursday, July 15, and thereafter ran every Thursday evening until wrapping up on September 2. The Bandshell Concert Series accompanied the Summer Chill Eats event from August 5 until September 2. The local vendor participants were: The Travel Café, Fonthill Lions, Marble Slab Creamery, Kame & Kettle Brewery, 26 Acre Cidery, and Vineland Estates. Pre-registration was a requirement for picnic table reservations. As well, contact tracing information was collected for all residents that dined at the event. There were approximately 300-500 people moving through the event space over the course of each evening.

Two youth volunteers donated their time to assist with the Summer Chill Eats event; one attending four of the eight events, and the other volunteering all eight weeks.

The Summer Chill Challenge is a virtual scavenger hunt that highlighted Pelham's local establishments and local amenities. This interactive event allowed residents to complete tasks (missions) to gain points and be part of a physically distanced hybrid experience. The challenge ran from July 8 to September 30, with over 20 households participating. The event was facilitated through a free downloadable app called GooseChase. Pelham inspired prizes will also be distributed to participants of the Summer Chill Challenge.

www.pelham.ca/summerchill



Mural at Marlene Stewart Streit Park E.L. Crossley students completed the mural on the Pool Shed at Marlene Stewart Streit Park. The Mural is a compilation of two images depicting Marlene Stewart Streit in during her golf

career. Mural painting took place in early July and once the painting was completed an official reveal of the mural took place on July 20th. Marlene Stewart Streit was able to attend the reveal by a dedicated zoom link.



Active Programs

With the re-opening of the Meridian Community Centre following the last lockdown, many active programs have begun again, welcoming participants of all ages back into the facility. These programs include: Ticket Ice for figure skaters, Brock FIT, Yopalates, Adult learn to skate, Shinnies for all ages, Indoor Pickleball and more. With reduced space availability due to the continuing COVID-19 vaccine clinics, programs, participants and instructors have been very flexible in utilizing new locations, dates and times for programs. Once the Accursi room is available again for program use, additional active activities will be offered for both adults and youth. For programming taking place outside of the MCC, Ballroom Dance lessons have begun at Old Pelham Town Hall, and the Centennial Park courts continue to be accessed by the community.

55+ Programs

With the re-opening of the Meridian Community Centre, many programs that cater to community members 55+ have been able to resume. This includes Brock FIT, 55+ Aerobics with conditioning, indoor pickleball and 60+ Shiny and more. These programs are requiring participants to pre-reserve their space to ensure capacities are not exceeded, and so far, all programs have had a great participation rate and response. Now that most of the active programs that were available before lockdown have begun again, more social and educational programs will be introduced to the Seniors Lounge at the Meridian Community Centre this fall.

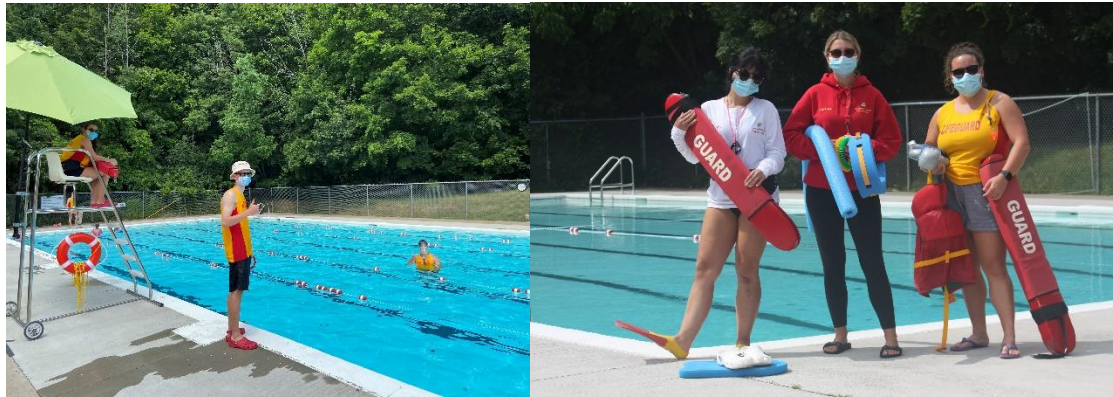
Summer Camp

This summer, the Town of Pelham provided over 600 campers with a fun summer experience, even in the midst of a global pandemic. Although this summer still didn't reflect typical programming, staff made it as fun and engaging as possible, bringing guests and fun activities to the Meridian Community Centre. Guests included Niagara Inflatables, Magician Scoop McCoy, child performer Barry O', the Niagara Falls Art Gallery, the 2022 Summer Games and more. The camps followed and exceeded the required COVID precautions, providing each camper with their own individual bin of supplies to avoid sharing, holding a smaller 2:14 ratio for staff to campers, and utilizing various Town locations including the MCC, Old Pelham Town Hall, Fire Station 2 and Fire Station 3 to allow groups to physical distance. The Camp staff also worked closely the Pelham Public Library to provide campers with books each week, as well as Story Walks at both the Meridian Community Centre and Old Pelham Town Hall. This summer the Town of Pelham provided their regular summer day camps, as well as two weeks of Bike Camp, a week of Leader-in-Training Leadership Camp, two weeks of Art & Theatre Camp, and a week of Amazing Animal Camp



Aquatics

The Pelham Pool had a very successful season this summer, seeing many new and returning families to the facility! This summer, Pelham Swim Instructors taught over 300 children and youth swimming lessons, ranging from swimmer 3 to Bronze Cross, over 4, two week sessions. In addition to lessons, the Pelham pool also welcomed 120 Lane swimmers each week, reaching the maximum capacity for registration. Additional programming at the Pelham Pool also included family swim (renting ¼ of the pool for 50 minutes for up to 10 people in your social bubble) and Aqua Zumba multiple times per week, while also being available for private rentals.



Centennial Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts

This summer, the Town of Pelham worked with the Pelham Tennis Association to offer tennis and pickleball programs and memberships throughout the late spring and summer months at Centennial Park. This summer, the courts saw 14 adult members, 30 child members (under 14), 25 family memberships, 116 senior members and 3 student members. The courts were accessible throughout the summer for both tennis and pickleball play, with designated days and times for each, while also offering lots of time for member only access, as well as instructor lead tennis lessons.

This year, the Town installed a locking system accessible by key fob, which has been a great addition to the courts. This allows members to access anytime between 5am and 11pm, 7 days a week. The locking system automatically unlocks from 1-3pm daily for community access. All players who access the courts use a screening tool QR code, which helps us to contact trace and screen players passively. Great feedback has been received by players and members, as these outdoor courts have been a great way for the community to stay active during the global pandemic and the restrictions in place.

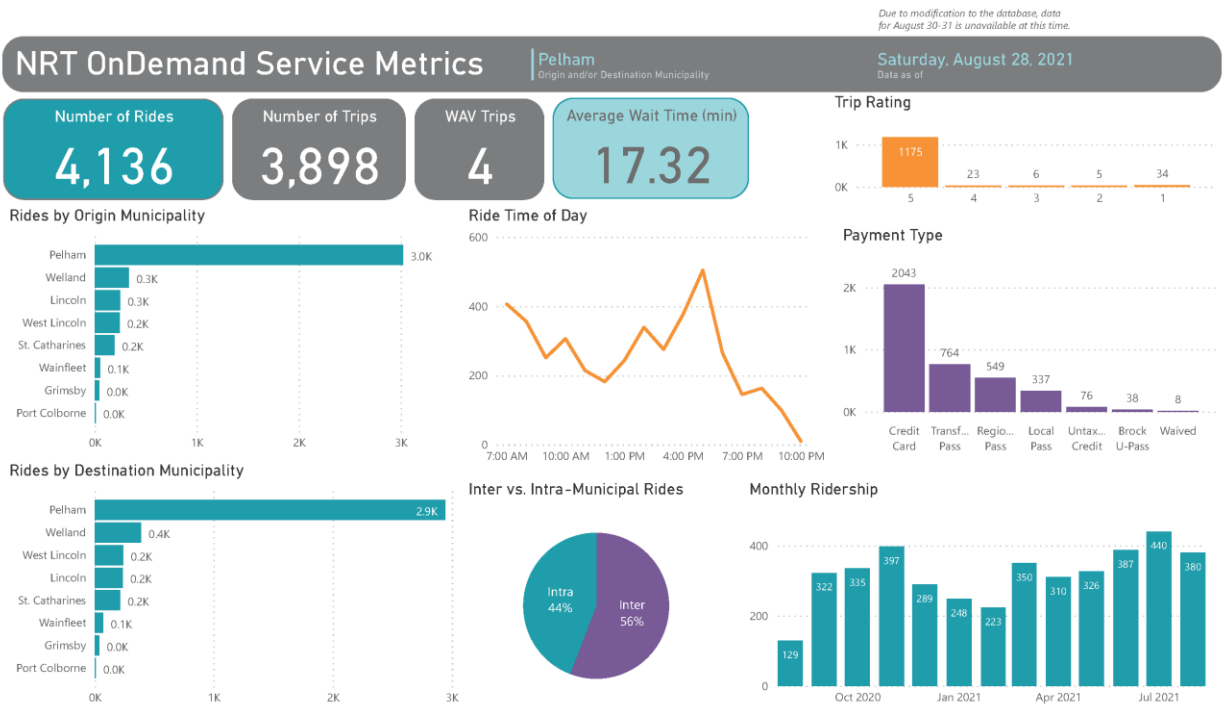


MYAC Updates

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council term of 2021/2022 came to an end in June after a successful term during an unconventional year. Applications for the 2021/2022 term became available in early August, and closed at the beginning of September. By the end of September, the council for 2021/2022 was selected by the executive members at the end of September, welcoming 18 members, varying in age, grade and school. Meetings will begin in October, with a new, dedicated council who are very excited to get started!

Street Pole Banners/Honour our Veterans Banner Program The Veterans Banner program for inclusion in the 2021 installation are now open and an additional brackets have been installed to accommodate the program growth. This year an additional 4 banners will be installed mid October. Staff will continue to support the program with the assistance of coordinating location installations for both the existing and new banners added to the program this year.

Transit Update August 28, 2021:



Constituent Concerns and Issues Arising:

Since the Region has implemented an earlier start time and pre-booking staff have had very few complaints about the service.

Employee Updates:

Amanda Deschenes was hired as the Special Events and Festivals Programmer in September. Amanda is taking over for Leah Letford who has accepted the position as communication officer.

Grants, Concerns, RFPs, Agreements:

Application for Reconnect funding was awarded for two applications. SummerChill Series and Christmas in Pelham.

Meetings:

MCC User group roundtable zoom meetings

Niagara Parks and Recreation bi-weekly information exchange zoom meeting

Network of Municipal Event Planners Quarterly Meeting

Mayor's Youth Advisory Zoom Meetings

Aquatic Sharing Information Group Zoom Meetings

Pelham Seniors Advisory Zoom Meetings

Pelham Canada Day Planning Group

Aquatic and Camp Staff In-Service Weekly Meetings

Health and Safety Policy Training

Niagara Official Plan for Mayor's Youth Advisories Meeting

IMT Working Group Meeting