



**Recreation, Culture and Wellness Department**

Monday, January 10, 2022

**Subject:** Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games – Venue Use Agreement; Torch Relay; and 13 for 13 Festival Event

**Recommendation:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2021-0213 Recreation – Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games Venue Use Agreement; Torch Relay and 13 for 13 Festival Event for information.**

**AND THAT Council approve entering into the Venue Use Agreement with Niagara 2022 Canada Summer, along with their respective by-laws, for the Mayor and Clerk’s signature.**

**Background:**

This report is being presented to bring Council up-to-date on the status of events in Pelham for the 2022 Canada Summer Games and approval for the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Venue Use Agreement. (See Appendix A – 2022 Canada Summer Games Venue Use Agreement).

As Council is aware, the Niagara Region will be hosting the 2022 Canada Summer Games August 6 to 22, 2022. This coming summer each municipality will host a sport, torch relay event and 13 for 13 festival. Pelham will be hosting Road Cycling Race Events.

The following are the dates for the above noted events:

Torch Relay – Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Saturday of Summerfest).

Road Cycling Races – Thursday August 18, 2022 (same time as the regularly scheduled Thursday night event).

13 for 13 Cultural Festival – Thursday August 18, 2022 (same time as the regularly scheduled Thursday night event).

Over the past year staff have been involved in planning these events by sitting on various Canada Games Committees and meeting with Canada Games Staff, i.e. Communications Committee; Torch Relay Committee; 13 for 13 Festival Committee; and Sport Venue Committee.

## **Analysis:**

### Torch Relay: Saturday July 16, 2022

The Niagara 2022 Summer Games Torch Relay will take place between June 8 – 18, beginning in Ottawa and travelling by ship through the Welland Canal. Then travelling by land June 25 – August 6, through each Municipality starting in Thorold; Niagara Falls, Fort Erie; Port Colborne; Wainfleet; Welland; Pelham; West Lincoln; Grimsby; Lincoln; Niagara on the Lake and finally St.Catharines' Meridian Centre Cauldron Lighting Opening Ceremonies.

Each municipality must have an official start and finish event at the torch relay. The beginning is a pep rally and the end is a party/celebration. The Town will determine the route. Routes are typically about 10km in length with about 10 torchbearers. The Games are responsible to acquire torchbearers and anything related to them (attire, vetting, etc). Torchbearer nomination process will be in February, with torchbearers announced in April.

Summerfest occurs on the date of the torch relay, therefore the start and finish will be on one of the stage locations either downtown or in the Peace Park. This avenue makes sense as the stage, entertainment, vendors, food, road closures, etc. are already in place.

Canada Games already has a partnership with Niagara Rotary Clubs to assist with the Torch Relay. Rotary will have a t-shirt fundraiser, anyone that purchases a t-shirt will have the opportunity to run behind torchbearers.

Staff will be working with the Canada Games Committee to establish the torch relay route.

### 13 for 13 Cultural Festival Event: Thursday August 18, 2022

The 13 for 13 Cultural Festival will enable each of Niagara's municipalities to collaborate with a paired Province or Territory and showcase the unique cultural heritage, entertainment, art and culinary experiences of their pairing on their assigned special evening of celebration.

Pelham will incorporate the Thursday Night Experience with this event on August 18. This event will include a focus on an Alberta-inspired offering, based on 13 for 13 Cultural Festival details. Staff have engaged the Niagara Regional Native Centre to assist in the inclusion of traditional Indigenous elements. Staff are also working with the Bandshell Committee on this event with entertainment to have an Albertan tie in.

Summer Games will be giving the Town \$10,000.00 towards this event. In working with the Bandshell Committee \$5,000.00 has been set aside for the main concert. The remainder \$5,000.00 will assist other costs such as, souvenirs, Supper Market entertainment, logistics, i.e. shuttles, etc.

#### Road Cycling Race: Thursday August 18, 2022

Pelham will be hosting the Road Cycling Race on Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Over the past couple of years staff have been working with the Canada Games on the route and condition of the roads.

The race route is a 14 km loop that starts and ends at the intersection of Pelham Street and Pelham Town Square in the downtown core of Fonthill. The race route heads west on Churchill Road and Canboro Road and uses the following Town roads for the remainder of the course: Effingham Road, Tice Road, Cream Street, Metler Road, Hansler Road, Overholt Road, and Pelham Street North. (See Appendix B – Cycling Race Route Map).

Two races will be held during the day, 10:00 am and 2:30pm, with the start and finish line Pelham Street, downtown Fonthill. Awards ceremony will be held in the Bandshell after each race. (See Appendix C - Venue description).

The Canada Games and Niagara Regional Police Services working group are meeting with their recommendation on road closure and police presence in early January and will then move forward with a full traffic management plan for the event. Exact times for closures and re-opening of Pelham Street is still being determined; however, it is anticipated that Pelham Street will be closed to vehicular traffic between Port Robinson Road and Hwy 20 for the entire duration of the race day. This is consistent with the closures undertaken during the Summerfest celebrations.

Public Works staff will be deployed to assist in the temporary closure of local roads on the race route as determined by the traffic management plan and will be assisting in the closure and re-opening of Pelham Street in the vicinity of the start/finish area.

#### **Financial Considerations:**

Canada Games will be covering all costs related to the Road Cycling Race. Canada Games have contributed \$21,250 towards the paving of Steve Bauer Trail as a legacy contribution.

Torch Relay expenses will be covered by Canada Games, many logistics are already in place due to Summerfest activities.

13 for 13 Cultural Event, Summer Games will be contributing \$10,000.00 towards this event and Staff will work within that amount.

**Alternatives Reviewed:**

There were no alternatives considered in the preparation of this report.

**Strategic Plan Relationship: Build Strong Communities and Cultural Assets**

Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games is a great opportunity to show case the Community and the Niagara Region. It will contribute to the economy and build pride within.

**Consultation:**

Jennifer Stirton, Town Solicitor, has reviewed the proposed Venue Use Agreement.

**Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:**

Appendix A – 2022 Canada Summer Games

Appendix B – Cycling Race Route Map

Appendix C - Venue Description

**Prepared and Recommended by:**

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