

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**  
**Community Human Services Department**  
**Community Attraction and Leisure Services**  
**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Ann Robinson  
Manager, Recreation and Culture Services

**Date:** January 15, 2019

**Subject:** Chatham-Kent Summer Day Camp and Playground Programs

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This report is for the information of Council.

**Background**

CK Recreation Services currently offer summer day camp and playground programs in the communities of Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Wallaceburg, and Wheatley. These programs offer a fun, interactive, and safe environment for children aged 4-12 to continue to be active during the summer months.

Summer playground programs provide the following opportunities:

- Daily swimming and/or water activities
- Weekly local outings
- Arts and crafts
- Organized games
- Sports and activities
- Social interaction
- Mentoring/coaching

**Community of Tilbury**

In 2007, a full 8-week summer day camp program was offered to the community; the program ran for only two weeks with a total of 14 participants. The program was discontinued in 2008 due to lack of community use.

**Community of Bothwell**

In 2014, a full 8-week summer playground program was offered to the community; the program did not run due to lack of participants. The program was discontinued in 2015 due to lack of community use.

All summer camp programs require a minimum of six participants to operate each week.

### SuperKids CK Project Funding

In 2016, Recreation Services was successful in receiving funding from SuperKids CK which allowed for the implementation of CKRec HotSpot programs, a third stream of summer camp programming. The funded initiative, which offered barrier-free access to week-long summer camp programming focused on physical activity free of charge, was piloted over an 8-week period in the community of Dresden with great success.

In 2018, the CKRec HotSpot program was expanded and modified with additional one-time funding from SuperKids CK to include the communities of Bothwell, Blenheim, Tilbury, and Wallaceburg. Each community hosted two weeks of the programming over the course of the summer.

Participation statistics for program usage are below and outline the success of barrier-free programming in these communities:

<b>HotSpot Location</b>	<b>Duration (weeks)</b>	<b>Participation</b>
Blenheim	2	87
Bothwell	2	80
Tilbury	2	94
Wallaceburg	2	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>344</b>

One-time funding for this program will not be available in 2019 due to the completion of the SuperKidsCK provincial grant initiative.

At the December 17, 2018 Council meeting, Councillor Harrigan made the following motion:

18(c) – Motion by Councillor Harrigan re Summer Camps in Tilbury and Bothwell

“Whereas the CK Super Kids program is scheduled to come to completion in December of 2018 and part of that programming provided significant support to child care summer programs in rural communities in CK such as Bothwell and Tilbury, who previously did not have play-based municipally run summer camps. And whereas the Municipality is committed alongside the 70 partners involved to advancing the goals of the Super Kids program; to broadly promote and enable healthy behaviors in children.

That this request be brought forward during the 2019 budget deliberations to support the operation of summer camps in Tilbury, Bothwell and other rural communities in the summer 2019.”

### Comments

As the community changes and evolves there is a constant need to re-evaluate recreation program opportunities and ever changing service needs.

Based on the success of the CKRec HotSpot summer program and the notice of motion, there is an opportunity to re-introduce a summer playground program that currently exists in other communities.

The base budget of \$6,030 currently exists for the community of Bothwell that has not yet been removed from the base budget. Therefore, there would be no financial implication to reinstate a summer playground program.

There is no existing base budget for a Tilbury program. Therefore, a budget request of \$6,500 would be required to reinstate a summer playground program in the community of Tilbury. This amount represents wages for 1 Camp Team Leader and 1 Camp Leader, materials, and registration revenues based on 15 participants per week at a cost of \$61.00 per participant.

Recreation Services has developed a “Play Pods” initiative for 2019 to provide additional barrier-free access to recreation programs and equipment throughout Chatham-Kent. This mobile initiative is an extension of the Play Rangers program which allows the Recreation Services team to provide mobile, high-quality, recreation opportunities to all communities.

The “Play Pods” initiative will be launched in late spring and provide recreation opportunities aimed at children and families in smaller communities where full scale summer camp programming may not be viable.

There is an additional option that could be considered. One free week of CKRec HotSpot summer programming could be added to the 8-weeks of regular paid program offerings in the communities of Blenheim, Bothwell, Chatham, Dresden, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, and Wheatley.

In order to provide barrier-free/no-cost CKRec HotSpot summer programming, the budget request would be \$28,000.

Based on full capacity at each location, the participation level could be an additional 360 children. However, a challenge to consider is difficulty in finding enough summer staff to provide this level of service.

### **Consultation**

No consultation was required for this information report.

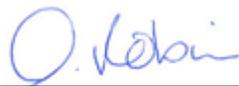
### **Financial Implications**

There is no financial implication to reinstate a summer playground program in the community of Bothwell as there is currently a base budget for this program.

The addition of a summer playground program in the community of Tilbury requires a 2019 base budget request of \$6,500.

The addition of a CKRec HotSpot in the communities of Blenheim, Bothwell, Chatham, Dresden, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Tilbury, Wallaceburg and Wheatley requires a budget request of \$28,000.

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Attachments: None

c.: None

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