



MEMO

To: Recreation and Culture Committee
From: Daniel Gagnon
Date: June 3, 2021
Subject: Recreation Dept. Programs and Special Events – Summer 2021

Feedback from the Rec and Culture Standing Committee / Council would be appropriate now as the dept. plans for resuming some programs and special events as the vaccinations continue to rollout and the province implements their reopening plan.

Annual Drag Races: In the coming days/weeks, Council may need to cancel or direct staff to reformat the event. There may be an opportunity to host a pared down event, focusing largely on hosting the drivers and limiting extraneous costs such as off track entertainment. Most likely the typical July weekend is not practical but the date of August 12-14, 2021 may be possible. That date was reserved by Wawa with the race coordinator Luskville Dragway but Wawa made the decision to cancel their 2021 races. In order to maximize staff time some direction would be needed. At this stage of the summer and provincial reopening plans, options include:

- Cancel the races now or soon to ensure clarity for all concerned
- Direct staff to research and develop a budget for a pared down event with some key assumptions of pandemic impacts (ie. limited to no spectators etc) and return for more input and a final decision as soon as practical

Canada Day / Uranium Festival Options: Plans are underway for pandemic limited events for the Uranium Festival. At the time of the agenda deadline preparation, information was not available but will be presented at the Recreation and Culture Standing Committee meeting on Monday evening.

Day of Mourning Ceremony: when permitted outdoor gatherings reach a number that is realistic for the typical event (or at a minimum the families of the individuals honoured this year) the event will proceed.

Day Camps: Indications are good that day camps will be permitted to open soon (stage 1 of reopening plan). It is proposed that the Recreation and Culture Dept. will staff up and run a day camp(s) this summer, following all pandemic health and safety guidelines. Day camps typically open after the July 1st long weekend. With kids in remote learning there may be some pressure to open early. We can explore that concept in the coming weeks but staff need time to hire coordinators etc. The site will be the Centennial Arena for all age groups (given the Collins Hall will be used for vaccinations for the foreseeable future). Plans will be researched if and as needed for mid to late August time when ice making operations may begin for various ice user groups.

Lumberjack Days: A pared down 1-day event is tentatively being planned for the August long weekend.

Arts on the Trail: Plans for some form of Arts on the Trail event will be deferred for a few weeks and revisited in mid-summer once more lessons are learned from the provincial reopening / vaccination rollout.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Gagnon