



MEMO

To: Recreation and Culture Standing Committee

From: Kari Kluge, Director of Recreation and Culture

Date: September 1st, 2023

Subject: Department Update

A Recreation and Culture Town Hall was hosted on August 9th. Approximately 80 people attended the event. Several questions were posed to staff including inquiries about the pool, Downtown Arts Centre, Westview Park Pavilion, and geese management.

The last day of supervision for both Spine and Spruce Beach is Monday, September 4th. Both beaches are categorized as Blue Flag beaches which means that we qualify under the set standards for cleanliness, accessibility, and level of safety. During the months of July and August, the aquatics department offered free bronze star, medallion, and cross courses to help increase the number of future lifeguard candidates.

Soil samples will be taking place this fall at Kiwanis baseball field as the next step towards the all-wheels inclusive park.

Centennial Arena has commenced its operations and programming. The arena opened on Monday, August 28th.

Collins Hall will begin its fall/winter programming mid-September including the walking program, youth basketball, youth volleyball, adult basketball, pickle ball, and free programming for seniors. We are offering free chair and wellness yoga for seniors, as well as a monthly speaker series for seniors 55+ to attend. Yoga must be registered in advance. The first speaker series is about preventing Online Scams, Fraud and Internet Safety and will be presented by Constable Phil Young on Thursday, September 21st, at 2:00 pm. These events are part of the New Horizons for Seniors Program grant. Additional programs from this program will include free skating for seniors on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1:30 pm for the months of October and February, and free senior shinny hockey on Wednesdays from 1:30 – 2:30 pm for the months of November and January.

Parks will be entering their seasonal maintenance while we transition seasons. Westview Trailer Park is set to close following Thanksgiving Weekend and the Boat Slips final day is October 31st.

Public art pieces were installed around the community throughout the summer. These projects were spearheaded by our former Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, by members Linda Finn,

Jacque Grummett, Prisca Campbell, and Barb Hukezalie, with help from Julie Merk, Julia Robinson, and Nancy-Jo Wannan. Four 'head-in-hole" panels were installed, one at each of the following locations: Spruce Beach, Spine Beach, Symbol Park, and the Fire Tower Lookout. In addition to the "head-in-hole" panels, an Elliot Lake letter sign was installed at Spruce Beach. An official unveiling of the sign will take place on September 29th at 11 am. The sign was funded by Arlene Bujold in memory of her late husband Jerry Bujold.

The Elliot Lake Museum continues its operations archiving the City's extensive heritage collection and preparing a publicly accessible digital archive. Rotating exhibits are available on display at the Elliot Lake Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kl', followed by a second, more stylized signature.

Kari Kluge, Director of Recreation and Culture