



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Terri Towstiuc, Manager of Community Services/Clerk
Date: 2026-04-23
Subject: “Game On” Youth Day Update

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the “Game On” Youth Day update report from Terri Towstiuc, Manager of Community Services/Clerk, for information purposes.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the March Break “Game On” Youth Day held on March 20, 2026, including key successes and areas for improvement to guide future programming.

Background:

The Municipality of West Elgin continues to prioritize youth engagement, accessibility, and community well-being through recreational programming. Recognizing a gap in structured activities for older youth during March Break, staff organized a “Game On” Youth Sport Drop-In Day to provide a free, inclusive opportunity for participation in physical activity and social engagement.

The Youth Day was held on March 20, 2026, and included:

- A total of 14 participants, ranging from Grades 6 to 10
- A combined age group format due to lower-than-expected registration for older youth
- A variety of sports including pickleball, floor hockey, and basketball
- Alternative activities such as crafts and games in a separate room
- Pizza lunch provided through a donation from the West Elgin Health Centre

Additionally, 7 participants completed feedback forms, providing valuable insight into program preferences and experiences.

Overall, the event was successful and positively received. Key highlights include:

- **Strong Participation and Engagement:** Attendance exceeded expectations for a first-time offering, particularly given the limited programming historically available for this age group during March Break.
- **Positive Youth Feedback:** Participants expressed enjoyment of the program, particularly the opportunity for unstructured, social recreation.

- **Popular Activities:** Floor hockey and pickleball were well utilized and received strong feedback.
- **Inclusive Environment:** Offering both active and quieter alternative activities helped accommodate varying interests and energy levels.
- **Community Support:** The donated lunch enhanced the overall experience and demonstrated strong community partnership.

Opportunities for improvement were identified:

Staffing and Supervision

- The program operated with only one instructor due to unforeseen illness, which limited the ability to effectively supervise multiple activity spaces.
- Some challenges were noted with behavior management and ensuring adherence to rules.

Opportunities:

- Schedule 2–3 instructors for future events
- Recruit student and community volunteers (with appropriate screening, including vulnerable sector checks)
- Establish and communicate clear rules and expectations.

Program Structure

- Combining a wide age range created challenges due to varying skill levels and interests.
- Lack of structured scheduling led to some inefficiencies in activity flow.

Opportunities:

- Introduce designated time slots, ideally in the morning.
- Separate participants into age-appropriate groupings
- Incorporate a balance of structured and unstructured activities.

Activity Planning

- Basketball was not well utilized, while structured games were preferred by some participants, particularly female attendees.

Opportunities:

- Reassess activity offerings based on feedback.
- Include more structured group games and facilitated activities.
- Tailor programming to better reflect participant interests and demographics.

Participant Feedback

- Only 50% of attendees completed feedback forms.

Opportunities:

- Encourage higher participation in feedback collection to better inform future programming decisions.

Financial Implications:

None.

Policies/Legislation:

N/A

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin’s infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Terri Towstiuć, Dipl. M.A.
 Manager of Community Services/Clerk

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Game On, Youth Sport Drop In Update - 2026-15-Community ServicesClerks.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 16, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Robin Greenall