



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting

From: Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services

Date: 2021-09-23

Subject: Arena Operational Update

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services for information purposes.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a brief update of operations currently underway at the West Elgin Arena.

Background:

Skating season has finally arrived, and with it comes another round of COVID regulations from the province. Staff were scheduled to start making ice on September 7, with an expected opening date of September 20. With the announcement of Ontario's vaccine passport system which will take effect on September 22, staff felt it was necessary to have a meeting with the Arena Board to discuss the implications before putting ice in. This meeting was held on September 8 and, after debating possible issues such as loss of participants and passport enforcement costs, the Board voted to continue with operations as planned. The compressors were started on September 9 and staff began making ice on the 10th.

Due to the late start in making ice, a September 20 start date was not achievable, but staff have worked hard, and the arena will be ready for skaters on September 22. This week's schedule will include a training session for skating club coaches and conditioning skates by some minor hockey teams. The full schedule will begin on Monday August 27. As in past years, a part time arena operator will be needed for this season. An advertisement was placed for this position and staff are currently in the process of conducting interviews and completing the hiring process.

As most are aware, the new COVID regulations require all people 12 and older to be double vaccinated before entering recreational facilities (including arenas). These rules have been passed along to all user groups and posted to the municipal website. While these rules are mandated by the provincial government, the burden of monitoring and enforcing this policy falls on the municipality as we are owners of the facility. The Arena Board approved hiring an individual to complete this screening procedure, and staff have followed suit with many neighboring facilities and retained the services of a professional security company for the opening weeks of the season. We all hope that people will understand and respect the rules surrounding entry to the building, but it was felt that professional security services would help prevent issues until patrons become accustomed to the changes.

Financial Implications:

The additional cost associated with hiring a person to screen at the door will come from 'Safe Restart' funding which was provided by the province last year to help municipalities cope with COVID-19 related expenses.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Arena Operational Update - 2021-40-Operations Community Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 21, 2021

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

Jana Nethercott