

Meeting Date: December 18, 2023
Department: Community Services
Report No.: CS-2023-30
Submitted by: Robert Lilbourne, Director of Community Services
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: West Middlesex Memorial Centre - Portable Toilets

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receives report CS-2023-30 West Middlesex Memorial Centre – Portable Toilets for information.

BACKGROUND:

During the Council meeting held on October 16, 2023, members of council made inquiries and comments regarding a women's baseball tournament that occurred on the weekend of September 16 and 17, 2023.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McGuire
Seconded by Councillor Pammer

THAT: Staff prepare a report regarding the Ladies' Ball Tournament at West Middlesex Memorial Centre on or about the 19th day of September regarding available washroom facilities and future mitigation strategies.

CARRIED

The discussion on the content of the report included what occurred during the tournament, the factors contributing to the limited washroom facilities, and any strategies for improvement in anticipation of the 2024 event.

It is worth noting that staff had prior knowledge of this tournament, as a booking request was submitted in March 2023. Moreover, our team regularly monitors event schedules to ensure appropriate staffing levels, particularly for maintaining and preparing the playing fields. Nevertheless, the issue of inadequate portable toilets came to our attention only when raised during the Council meeting on October 16, 2023.

No formal or informal requests for additional services beyond our usual provisions, which included regular usage of the facility by the women's team throughout the season, were received. Typically, due to constraints on the municipal operations budget, additional amenities, such as portable toilets, are expected to be provided by the tournament or event organizers themselves if they deem them necessary. It is also pertinent to mention that West Middlesex Memorial Arena and the Aquatic Park had their facilities open and in use during the weekend to enhance the convenience of attendees.

COMMENTS:

Currently, the municipality offers portable toilet facilities in various municipal parks and sports fields located in Strathroy and Mt. Brydges.

In Strathroy, you can locate these facilities at the following sites and times:

- 1 unit at Cuddy Sports Complex, available from May to September.
- 1 unit at Yorkview Community Park, available from May to September.
- 1 unit at Fairgrounds Recreation Complex, available from May to November.
- 1 unit at Strathroy Dog Park, available year-round.

In Mt. Brydges, portable toilets are available at:

- 1 unit at Legion Park, available from May to September.
- 1 unit at Caradoc Community Centre, available from May to September.
- 1 unit at Cenotaph Park, available from May to September.

In response to concerns raised, staff acknowledge that the tournament participants' experience was less than satisfactory. Staff is committed to providing tournament organizers with detailed information regarding facility access and helping them make informed decisions about their future amenity requirements, including additional portable toilets. At the most recent ball diamond user group (November 2, 2023) meeting, it was reiterated and accepted that additional amenities are the tournament organizer's responsibility.

The department acknowledges the increased demand for central washroom facilities at this park, as there has been a rise in park activities.

Our team is currently planning to resubmit a capital budget request for the year 2024, with the primary objective of constructing a centrally located pavilion within the park complex. This pavilion will be designed to include accessible washroom facilities and storage space, effectively addressing the park's requirements. This construction initiative aims to eliminate the need for portable toilets at this location.

CONSULTATION:

Darren Dowding, Supervisor of Parks and Recreational Facilities
Kaitlyn Topham, Special Events and Booking Coordinator
Ball Diamond User Group, November 2, 2023

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The current cost of providing this service falls within the range of \$11,000.00 to \$13,000.00. If the department were to expand the availability of portable toilets for various tournaments and events at our sports fields, it would require an increase in the operational budget of approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Community Wellbeing – Residents of all ages in Strathroy-Caradoc will have access to community amenities and activities that are accessible and support active lifestyles and well-being.

ATTACHMENTS:

None