



## Corporation of the Township of Brock

### Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Wayne Ward  
**Position:** Director Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
**Title / Subject:** Ice extension request 2024/2025 season  
**Date of Report:** January 24, 2025  
**Date of Meeting:** February 10, 2025  
**Report No:** 2025-PRF-003

#### 1.0 Issue / Origin

Resolution C-2025-005 requested staff schedule a meeting with user groups prior to February 10th to discuss alternatives and opportunities to meet the needs of all groups and the municipality.

#### 2.0 Background

Early ice requests have been submitted for several years from Brock Minor Hockey Association as well as Sunderland Ringette.

In order to provide early ice the facility must be equipped with sufficient insulation in both the building envelope and the ice pad floor and also be equipped with the necessary refrigeration equipment to create an environment where ice can be built and maintained.

#### 3.0 Analysis

Brock Minor Hockey Association initiated a meeting with the Beaverton Lions Club and Beaverton Agricultural Society to discuss options. Township staff became aware of this meeting as part of the booking procedure and advised BMHA of the direction of Council for this meeting and invited Sunderland Ringette as another entity that typically requests early ice along with Beaverton Skating Club as the other minor user group that may take advantage of early ice.

Staff met with representatives from Brock Minor Hockey Association, Sunderland Stingerz Ringette, Beaverton Skating Club, Beaverton Lions Club and the Beaverton Agricultural Society to discuss challenges and potential solutions to satisfy the needs of

all of these user groups where the installation of ice early in September and late into May may be.

The groups engaged in open and fulsome conversations and helped each other to understand the challenges faced by the request for ice at the beginning of September specifically.

The groups have committed to further discussions and will work towards potential solutions for the 2026/2027 ice season and beyond.

Near the end of the meeting Brock Minor Hockey Association indicated they would be willing to withdraw their request for early ice for the 2025/2026 season after consideration of the conversation. This correspondence has been received and is included in this report.

Brock Minor Hockey Association has further requested an extension of the ice until May 11, 2025.

Brock Minor Hockey Association has indicated that their usage from end of March to mid-April would most likely be 16-20 hours and would likely increase through to mid-May, however the number of hours needed has not yet been determined by this user group.

In discussion with arena staff it was noted that an extension of ice into May will likely have an impact on other parks related activities normally conducted in the spring. This may include sports field maintenance, landscaping and equipment set up for summer operations. Due to regulations for plant checks and similar requirements staff will be restricted in travel distance from the arena while the ice is in and the ice plant is fully operational.

Other factors that will be affected by keeping the ice in later is compressed timelines for regular maintenance on the facility such as painting, rink board maintenance, and deep cleaning of the ice pad areas. This work is usually conducted earlier in the spring to ensure it has been completed in time for summer camp programming.

Due to the limited number of parks and recreation staff including the restricted number of casual employees there will be some tasks that will have to be postponed to later time frames that may be identified by the public and other user groups.

Maintaining the ice later into the year will also affect how staff operate equipment as typically the grass equipment and the harbour tractor are stored inside the arena which will not be an option with the ice still in place. Staff will need to operate from Franklin Garage for this equipment increasing the travel time with subsequent increases in fuel consumption due to increased distance in travel.

There will also be increases in electricity, natural gas and water consumption due to the extension of the ice, but these are unknown costs as we have never had ice remain in place this late in the year.

Should the extension of ice be granted, staff will enter into additional contracts with the user groups who will be using the extended ice including but not limited to the minor user groups. Staff will also advertise any available ice times to allow users from other municipalities who may be looking for later ice times to rent ice and increase the rental revenue. This additional income may help to offset some of the additional costs.

#### **4.0 Related Policies / Procedures**

None

#### **5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment**

Staff reviewed the utility costs for the months prior to end of ice season to try to determine the costs for Natural Gas, Electricity and water for this extended use period. The total cost for these utilities, over the extended use period, was calculated to be approximately \$10,800.

Using the maximum of 20 hours for a two-week period (10 hours per week) through to mid-May, the revenue would be approximately \$16,200 plus HST. Should BMHA increase usage from mid-April through to mid-May this would be increased.

There will be additional cost of approximately \$200 for wages as arena staff are paid at the Light Machine Operator wage during the ice season.

Additional time for staff to travel to and from Franklin Garage for grass equipment, additional fuel for this increased travel will also have a financial impact, however we feel this would be minimal.

#### **5.1 Asset Management**

There is no known effect to asset management due to early/extended ice. However, there will be additional operation time on the components of the ice plant which could have an impact on their useful life span. This may be overcome by increased maintenance of the components such as the compressors and pumps.

#### **6.0 Climate Change Impacts**

Since the ice is already in place, extending ice should have less impact on the climate as opposed to early ice and trying to make ice in warmer temperatures. There would be an increase in electrical consumption, natural gas consumption for heating the flood water for ice maintenance, and an increase in water consumption based on the amount of ice maintenance days and post use flooding that will be required.

## **7.0 Communications**

Attached email correspondence from Brock Minor Hockey Association indicating their retraction of early ice request for 2025/2026 as well as their request for later ice starting at the end of the 2024/2025 ice season.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

The continuation of the ice season into mid-May will open opportunities for the user groups and may present additional outside rentals from other municipalities. There will be some additional costs for electricity, water and natural gas for ice maintenance and upkeep. Some other areas that the parks and recreation staff are responsible for may be delayed due to the extension of ice which may negatively affect some other users and residents. Staff will work with the parks and recreation staff to keep all negative impacts to a minimum to maintain our level of service to the community.

Staff will also work with the parks and recreation staff to provide adequate staffing levels during this time while keeping in mind the overall budget.

Staff will also continue to be engaged with the user groups on how best to meet the needs of all user groups and work on opportunities for collaboration to work towards being able to provide early ice along with late ice.

## **9.0 Recommendation**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive report 2025-PRF-003, and that the request for continuation of ice for the 2024/2025 ice season up to May 11, 2025 be approved; and

THAT Parks and Recreation staff to continue to maintain the ice at the Foster Hewitt Memorial Community Centre through to May 11, 2025 and to work with all user groups for ice scheduling to provide the highest frequency of ice usage during this extended time including advertising of available ice times for users outside of Brock Township; and

THAT staff continue to work with all user groups to see if alternatives can be found to allow for better coordination between user groups and events.