



Staff Report

Community Services – Recreation Facilities Services

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: June 9, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.019
Title: Docs on Ice 2026 Follow-up Report
Prepared by: Aaron McMullen,
Manager of Recreation Facilities and Building Maintenance
Tim Hendry,
Director of Strategic Initiatives

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.019, entitled “Docs on Ice 2026 Follow-up Report”;

AND THAT Council approves the extension of the 2025/26 ice season at the Beaver Valley Community Centre to accommodate the Docs on Ice annual hockey tournament to be held April 10, 11, and 12th of 2026;

AND THAT Council approves the request from Docs on Ice to waive the cost of ice time rentals in the amount of \$4,121.50 inclusive of taxes;

AND THAT Council directs the Community Services and Strategic Initiatives Department to work with Docs on Ice for advertising support and to attend the event as a means to promote the Town’s efforts in physician recruitment.

AND THAT Council directs staff to fund the net energy costs through the Strategic Initiatives, economic development budget.

B. Overview

The report presents the request by Docs on Ice, detailing the financial specifics requested by Dr. Mike Lewin, and highlights the community advantages of hosting the annual Docs on Ice hockey tournament, including physician recruitment for Council's consideration.

C. Background

During the Council meeting on March 24, 2025, Dr. Mike Lewin delivered a deputation regarding the use of the Beaver Valley Community Centre's ice surface for the annual Docs on Ice hockey tournament. In addition to requesting ice time, Dr. Lewin discussed the Rural

Ontario Medical Program insights about the positive impact of the Docs on Ice tournament and requested Town support in advertising, donations, participation and volunteering efforts, raising awareness, and exploring grant opportunities.

After questions and comments, Council provided the following resolution for staff:

“THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the deputation of Dr. Mike Lewin, 2026 Tournament Chair, Docs on Ice, regarding a Request for Support for Docs on Ice 2026;

AND THAT Council directs staff to provide a report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting in response to the request, for Council consideration.

D. Analysis

Extending the 2025/26 ice season by two additional weeks will result in increased operating costs and challenges, including increased utility expenses and additional staff time and resources, which could potentially delay the opening of the Tomahawk Golf Course dependent on the recruitment and onboarding processes for seasonal staff.

Given the extended ice time, there is an opportunity for existing user groups to use their current time slots during the extended two-week period. Many of the user groups have expressed an intent to take advantage of this opportunity.

Supporting the Docs on Ice Hockey Tournament presents a strategic opportunity for the Town to enhance physician recruitment efforts. Docs on Ice fosters friendship and networking among physicians, creating a unique opportunity to showcase the Town's amenities, lifestyle, and quality of life. By hosting and supporting this event, the Town can directly engage with participating physicians, building connections and relationships which may lead to future opportunities. In addition, there is an opportunity for the Town's support and sponsorship to enhance the Town's image within the medical community.

Staff will work with the event organizers to understand how best to engage physicians, but at a high level, opportunities may include a welcome table at the Beaver Valley Community Centre and a social networking evening hosted by the Town.

In addition, the Town will provide general advertising support consistent with promotional support provided for other community events. Activities will be confirmed by Town staff but may include promotion through the Town's social media accounts and a listing on the Community Events calendar.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

In the Financial Impacts section, it is highlighted that extending the ice season by an additional two weeks will lead to an increase in associated costs but also may lead to an increase in refrigeration load. However, staff feel the additional kilowatt-hour (KWh) consumption will be minimal since the ice is already maintained, avoiding the need for a comprehensive startup and cool down of the entire facility, as is necessary during the initial September startup process.

G. Financial Impacts

The following financial details provide the breakdown of the required ice time for the Docs on Ice Hockey Tournament as per the Fees and Charges By-law 2025-10.

Date	Non Prime Ice Hours	Non Prime Cost	Prime Ice Hours	Prime Cost
10-Apr	8	\$ 768.40	2	\$ 372.90
11-Apr	0		10	\$ 1,864.50
12-Apr	0		6	\$ 1,118.70
		\$ 768.40		\$ 3,356.10
		Total Ice Cost		\$ 4,124.50

In conjunction with the financial details already mentioned, staff expect utility costs to rise by approximately \$4,000.00 due to the additional two weeks of operations. A part of this cost will be offset by the rentals discussed within the report. The expected additional revenue from the current user group's commitment is estimated at \$3,600.00, which does not include potential private rentals. These projections for additional revenue and expenditures will be incorporated into the proposed 2026 budget.

Due to Easter weekend occurring during the proposed extra 2 weeks of operations, the Beaver Valley Community Centre will be closed on both Good Friday and Easter Monday to prevent an estimated accumulation of over 48 hours of overtime.

H. In Consultation With

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Doc's on Ice Organizing Committee

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Aaron McMullen, Facility Manager/Building Maintenance Coordinator amcmullen@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron McMullen
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Tim Hendry
Director of Strategic Initiatives

For more information, please contact:

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Report Approval Details

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

Aaron McMullen - May 30, 2025 - 1:12 PM

No Signature found

Tim Hendry - May 30, 2025 - 1:39 PM

Ryan Gibbons - May 30, 2025 - 1:49 PM