

Overview:

This is the time of the year when staff begin to turn their attention to planning the Remembrance Day Ceremony. In thinking through how that event could take place, staff also began to consider the Santa Clause Parade and if it can take place in 2020. The planning of the Douro-Dummer Remembrance Day Ceremony and Santa Claus Parade must consider the implications and restrictions imposed by COVID-19 this year. The constituency office of the Member of Parliament of Peterborough of Peterborough-Kawarthas, Peterborough Public Health and the Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management Ontario were contacted to help determine areas of concern regarding the events.

While no emergency orders were found that would force the cancellation of the events, there are a number of concerns involved with both. Of note are points received from Peterborough Public Health:

- Outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people are permitted
- Physical distancing, even outdoors or if spectators attend in a vehicle, is required
 - Pinch-points must be addressed to avoid forcing people together
- Those over 70 years of age are encouraged to self-isolate and avoid crowds
- Serving of buffet-style food is not permitted
- Handing out of candy along the parade route is not permitted
- Shared microphones maybe problematic - "any equipment that is rented to, provided to or provided for the use of members of the public must be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition"
- An impermeable barrier must be erected between musicians and the audience for live music

Conclusion:

Based on the above notes, numerous challenges are presented for both events, these include, but are not limited to:

- Remembrance Day Ceremony organization would need to include additional safety protocols for individuals (both attendees and participants) with existing health conditions and those over 70 years of age.
- The Remembrance Day Ceremony cannot include the community luncheon typically served after the ceremony.
- At this time the schools have not yet been contacted, but the inclusion of student attendees may push the total event attendance over 100 people.
- The Santa Claus Parade attracts well over 100 people.
- There are many pinch points throughout the Santa Claus Parade route and the Tree Lighting area.
- Alternative arrangements for children to meet Santa Claus would need to be created to avoid pinch points, contact and the touching of shared surfaces.

- Hot chocolate and cookies could not be served from the windows as in previous years.

To run the events, staff and community volunteers will need extra time and (possibly extra) resources to work around the challenges posed by the events.

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2020-50 report, dated September 8, 2020, regarding Remembrance Day and Santa Claus Parade During COVID-19 be received and that Council advise staff if and how to proceed with Remembrance Day and Santa Claus Parade planning this year.

Financial Impact:

Additional staff time to prepare and implement solutions to challenges and COVID-19 related expenses including personal protective equipment and cleaning/disinfecting solutions.

Strategic Plan Applicability: n/a

Sustainability Plan Applicability: n/a