

User Fees and Charges By-Law – Recreation Facilities

The rationale for changes, additions, and eliminations in the Recreation Facilities Fees for Services Bylaw were initiated by a comprehensive internal study. There was a need to do some housekeeping with the current fee structure, as there was multiple options presented for rates, difficult for staff to determine which fee to charge, and a flexibility in deviating from the structure. My analysis concluded that many of the fees posted were not utilized and actually followed through.

My fee study compared a varied list of neighbouring municipalities, similar in size, parks, and facilities rate structure. Upon evaluation the Township remains comparable in hall and ice costs, though differs with field and floor costs.

Most times when you rent a hall or room, the kitchen, and coffee urns are welcome to be used at no additional fee. However, there is a cost to hosting a bar at a function, and therefore an additional fee has been newly added. Should a caterer request to use the Township's commercial kitchen facility for outside catering opportunities, a stand-alone fee is presented. The Department has eliminated the catering fee from the Bylaw, as it is difficult to reflect the fluctuating food costs and different meals catered. At this point catering has not proven to be a successful and advantageous opportunity.

Ice rental rates are defined by prime time, non-prime time, local youth rates and outside youth rates to improve consistency. This also makes it easier to approximate revenues.

Floor rates were actually high for Adults in the comparison study, therefore a lower cost is presented. Parks rental rates have been non-existent for youth, and therefore have been an addition to the fee bylaw. The preference is to book field use per usage, in a block contract, similar to the ice users, and not as a seasonal rate. This allows for staff to know exactly when the field are being used.

Lastly, there is an addition of liability insurance surcharge added to individuals and groups should they not provide personal or association insurance coverage as part of the terms and conditions in their rental agreement. This would involve the Township purchasing a "User Group Program" insurance, which is a cost recovery program and provides coverage to the renter at a nominal rate.