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## **Inn From The Cold Drop By Program Information Report**

Report Number: INFO-2023-26

Department(s): Recreation & Culture, Parks & Property Services

Author(s): Colin Service, Director, Recreation & Culture

Date: October 27, 2023

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion. Due to the urgent nature of the request, if Council would like to discuss this report it is requested that it be done at the October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council meeting. Staff recognizes this is a short timeframe to consider the matter, but given the time of year and the need for the Inn From The Cold Drop By Program, staff is informing Council of the request in a timely manner.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update members of Council on the status of the Drop By Program that has been run by Inn From the Cold and York Region over the last few years. Further this report will provide further information on location and structure of the program due to begin in November 2023.

### **Background**

During the last 3 years, the Town of Newmarket has provided space at Ray Twinney Recreation Complex for a Drop By Program to be offered for vulnerable individuals within the community who may be experiencing homelessness, precarious housing and food insecurities. The program was staffed and facilitated by Inn From the Cold with support and funding from York Region. The Town of Newmarket contributed to the program through the provision of space at no charge.

The program operated Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, from late October to June. The program offered a warm place, food, shower facilities and access to various social service supports for individuals. Individuals could come and go from the program at any point during the hours of operation.

The Town of Newmarket is moving forward with the development of a Fitness Centre at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex. This will occupy the large multipurpose room. With the loss of this room, programs like our preschool programs, group fitness classes and some seniors programs need to shift locations in the building to the room that had been used for the Drop By program.

The Inn From the Cold and York Region were notified at the conclusion of the program in June that the Town would not be able to provide space for the program at Ray Twinney Recreation Complex moving forward. York Region has been actively looking since that time to find a temporary location and have not been successful in finding any alternative location. They have explored Region owned buildings, leasing commercial properties and connected with surrounding municipalities. These efforts have been unsuccessful and they have come back to the Town of Newmarket recently seeking assistance with space until the Inn From The Cold new building is complete.

## **Discussion**

Town staff have explored all possible alternatives in Town owned facilities. The program needs very specific facilities including showers. The only viable option for a Town owned facility is the old Operations Centre at 623 Timothy Street. This facility has been vacated by Central York Fire Services. Portions of it are being used for storage. However, there is a section of the facility that could accommodate this program well.

With respect to the old Operations Centre, the following should be noted:

- There is some work required to block off areas with temporary walls, changing door locks, fencing to ensure that only the space designated for the program is accessible to program participants.
- Flooring in some areas that would be designated for the program are in need of replacement
- There will need to be alarm system changes
- Additional security cameras will be required

York Region will fund these items as a condition of the agreement. In addition to funding the above noted items, the Region will also cover a portion of the utility costs along with all costs relating to cleaning and ongoing maintenance associated with the space required for the program.

This is a temporary measure for the winter period of late 2023 to early 2024. Staff will monitor on an ongoing basis both the site and programming and will report back to Council as necessary.

## **Conclusion**

York Region and Inn from the Cold have explored all viable options and were not able to secure another location for this program. The Town of Newmarket old Operations Centre is the only viable option remaining. Should we not make this space available, the only alternative will be to cancel the program. There are vulnerable people in our community who need this program and the demand seems to be growing.

## **Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages**

This program demonstrates Council's commitment to creating a diverse, welcoming and inclusive community. It is a critical support in helping the most vulnerable people within our community to feel a sense of connection and belonging.

## **Consultation**

The Community Services Commission has been involved.

## **Human Resource Considerations**

No Human Resource considerations.

## **Budget Impact**

There will be no financial impacts to the Town as all costs will be covered by the Region.

## **Attachments**

List attachments here. If none, type "None."

## **Approval**

Colin Service, Director, Recreation & Culture

Kristi Carlen, Director, Parks & Facility Services

Jeff Payne, Commissioner, Community Services

## **Contact**

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