

Report to Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: April 13, 2026
Report Title: Recreation Update

Department: Administration
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Position: Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator
Report # CLS-2026-04



RECOMMENDATION:

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that it receives for information the April 2026 recreation update on operations;

AND further, that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that By-Laws be passed to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Lower Beverley Lake Park Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Westport Lions Beach Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2026 summer swim program;

AND further, that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that staff be authorized to submit an application to the Ontario Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant to purchase accessible benches, picnic tables and solar lighting for parks and trails, as presented in CoW Report CLS-2026-04.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMENTS:

Sector #7: Community Protection - Strategic Initiative #2 – Be proactive in implementing the Community Safety and Well Being Plan.

Sector #8: Governance – Strategic Initiative #4 – Township Council will ensure openness and transparency in its operations.

UPDATE ON OPERATIONS:

Events and Programming

Volunteer Appreciation Event: The Township wide Volunteer Appreciation Event will take place on April 23 at the Portland Hall. To date, 61 people have registered to attend.

Seniors Programs: The Township has been successful in a grant application to the New Horizons Program. Through this grant a series of senior technology workshops and training modules will be held in-person and virtually over the course of 2026/27.

Youth Programs: After school clubs, monthly movie nights and PA Day programs have been going well.

CEC Events and Programming: The CECs remain busy organizing events. The Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) funding will continue for 2026/27.

Summer Swim Program: Registration for the Swim Program has opened. The swim program will be held daily in the mornings at Sand Lake Park, afternoons in July at Westport Lions Beach and afternoons in August at Lower Beverley Lake Park. Staff have confirmed with both the Westport Lions Club and the Staff at Lower Beverley Lake Park that they are in favour of continuing this partnership. It is Staff's recommendation that by-laws be passed authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the attached MOU's.

Ongoing Programming: Fitness with Rasa continues to be very popular being run out of the Newboro Hall. Through the School Boards Community Use, Wildcats Basketball, Alumni Volleyball and Pickleball take place weekly.

Beautification Update

Beautification volunteers have been contacted to set-up a meeting prior to the gardening season. This meeting will be used to assist in planning out planting locations, meet with the watering contractor and the horticultural contractor, and have a round table discussion.

Funding Update

Staff will be submitting an application to the Ontario Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant to purchase accessible benches, picnic tables and solar lighting for parks and trails. The funding awards up to \$60,000 and the application deadline is May 7. The EASE Grant funds projects that improve accessibility and support active lifestyles for people with disabilities and older adults.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Lower Beverley Lake Park MOU
- Westport Lions Club MOU

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

e-signed

April 8, 2026

Leila Stafford
Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator

Date

e-signed

April 9, 2026

Shellee Fournier, CAO

Date