

CORPORATE REPORT

To: Recreation, Culture & Airpark Services Commission
From: Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks and Recreation
Mike Freimark, Assistant Manger

Date: 2020-05-19

File No: 7710-01

Subject: Canada Day 2020

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Recreation, Culture & Airpark Services Commission of information pertaining to Canada Day celebrations for July, 2020. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want clarification or to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

Canada Day in Hope is a highly anticipated event. Recreation, Culture and Airpark Services (RCAS) hosts the annual Canada Day festivities in Hope on July 1 in partnership with the District of Hope, Hope Motorsports Group, and the Lions Club. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the framework for public gatherings and provincial health officials have banned all events of more than 50 people in order to combat the spread. This requirement coupled with the difficulty of ensuring social distancing has forced the cancellation of local government Canada Day celebrations across B.C.

It is understood that all municipalities in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) have either publicly stated the cancelation of their annual in-person events, or will before the end of May. As these restrictions are not expected to be lifted in time for the event, and due to the difficulty it imposes for logistics, securing contracts, and other financial details, the full-day celebration in Hope also cannot proceed. However, this report is provided to the Commission to highlight some of the alternative considerations for Canada Day given the current COVID-19 restrictions to ensure that an active and fun form of celebration can still occur.

DISCUSSION

Typically, Canada Day in Hope involves a formal opening ceremonies with dignitaries, a Classic Car show, cake cutting, local performers, a market place featuring local artisans, an evening program including mainstage musical performances, and a fireworks show.

Staff are in the process of looking at options to have an alternative celebration in Hope. Given the restrictions of COVID-19, and the parameters which must be followed, Canada Day will look very different in 2020 with the most likely scenario being a virtual celebration of sorts.

With the information currently available, staff are exploring options to see what may be possible including partnering with other municipalities. Some of these options include:

- Tie in to the Federal Virtual Canada Day Celebrations
- Pre-recorded messages from dignitaries
- Pre-recorded main stage concert
- On-line fun activities
- Drive-in style fireworks display where people could remain in their vehicles but come together to watch the fireworks
- Community business and home decorating initiative

Staff are continuing to devise plans to create a meaningful celebration in Hope in a way that maintains the requirements of COVID-19.

COST

There is \$22,000 budgeted for this event, and the FVRD was successful in receiving a \$12,500 grant from Heritage Canada who is supportive of a modified event. No in-kind donations or community sponsorships have been received for 2020.

CONCLUSION

Canada Day celebrations are important to the Hope community. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of the event, and staff are working on possible options for an alternate celebration.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services: Reviewed and supported.

Kristy Hodson, Acting Director of Financial Services: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.