



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council
Prepared by: Patti Funaro, Recreation Manager
Department: Culture & Recreation
Date of Report: March 31, 2020
Report Number: CR-2020-14
Subject: Status of LaSalle operated festivals in 2020

Recommendation

That the report of the Recreation Manager dated March 31, 2020 (CR-2020-14) regarding the operation of Town Festivals during the COVID-19 pandemic BE RECEIVED; and that the recommendation to cancel the 2020 Strawberry Festival BE APPROVED.

Report

The current Declaration of Emergency in Ontario and associated emergency measures is in effect until April 13, 2020 and it is expected that it will be extended beyond this date. This includes restrictions on social gatherings of more than five (5) people. Current predictions are that the health crisis could last quite some time. This has led to a number of municipalities (including the City of Toronto and the City of Welland) cancelling all festivals/events scheduled up to and including June 30 along with keeping all municipal buildings closed. In addition, Robertson Amusements (Strawberry Festival carnival operator) has indicated that all other events they had booked in June and some of July have been cancelled

It is uncertain whether the current restrictions will be lifted by June 11 when the Strawberry Festival is scheduled to start. Festival planning needs to be completed in the very near future in order to ensure the successful delivery of the event. Much of this planning involves confirming particulars of the festival that require deposits that may not be refunded if the festival is cancelled at a later date. Typically, at this point in time, the following would be in progress:

- Confirming of all logistical items including tents, fencing, stage/sound, porta johns, lights and electrical

- Reserving security personnel
- Booking all entertainment including the main stage, family stunt show and fireworks
- All arrangements for the parade including participants, staging area, emcee and judges
- Securing sponsorships and donations
- Reserving advertising space on radio and billboards
- Confirming partnerships with local non-profits to operate the gates, bike valet and strawberries and ice cream
- Recruiting vendors and processing payments

In addition, the work on Parking Lot 3 at the Vollmer Complex (to upgrade water and electrical access and paving) has been paused and may not be completed prior to the festival. Based on these circumstances, it is recommended that the festival be cancelled in 2020.

Plans are still underway to host the Last Call Before Fall event on September 11 and 12. The situation will be reviewed on a monthly basis, with a final decision on the festival required by early July. It is expected that should the event take place, it will be held at the Vollmer Complex as construction and upgrades to the waterfront building likely won't be completed in time.

Consultations

Public Works

Finance

Financial Implications

There have been several deposits made to date for 2020 event, however recreation staff are working with the vendors to apply these deposits to future events. If the festival is cancelled now, there are likely no financial implications in terms of loss of these deposits. If planning for the festival continues, deposits in the amount of approximately \$22,500 will be required in the near future. If the event is cancelled at a later date, it is likely that these deposits may not be refunded.

Prepared By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Funaro". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Manager of Recreation and Culture

Patti Funaro

Link to Strategic Goals

	Enhancing organizational excellence
Yes	Sustain strong public services and infrastructure
	Strengthen the community’s engagement with the Town
	Grow and diversify the local economy
	Build on our high-quality of life

Communications

	Not applicable
Yes	Website
Yes	Social Media
Yes	News Release
	Local Newspaper
	Bids & Tenders
	Notification pursuant to the Planning Act

Notifications

Name	Address	Email

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CR-2020-14-Operation of Festivals in 2020 related to COVID19.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 7, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Director, Council Services/Clerk

Agatha Robertson



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia