



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Recreation and Culture
Date: June 2, 2025
Prepared by: Cynthia Cakebread Manager, Recreation and Culture

Report Number: Recreation and Culture-2025-02
Subject: June is Recreation and Parks Month 2025
Number of Pages: 5

Recommendation(s)

That Recreation and Culture -2025-02 entitled June is Recreation and Parks Month 2025 prepared by Cynthia Cakebread Manager, Recreation and Culture dated June 2, 2025 be received, and

That Council proclaim June as Recreation and Parks Month for the Town of Essex by adopting the following resolution:

June is Recreation and Parks Month

Mayoral Proclamation

Whereas, in the Town of Essex, we are fortunate to have a variety of recreation and parks systems providing countless recreational opportunities for residents and visitors from around the world;

And Whereas, recreation enhances quality of life, balanced living and lifelong learning; helps people live happier and longer; develops skills and positive self-image in children and youth; develops creativity; and builds healthy bodies and positive lifestyles;

And Whereas, recreational participation builds family unity and social capital; strengthens volunteer and community development; enhances social interaction; creates community pride and vitality; and promotes sensitivity and understanding to cultural diversity;

And Whereas, parks, open space and trails provide active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities, help maintain clean air and water; and promote stewardship of the natural environment;

And Whereas, recreation, therapeutic recreation and leisure education are essential to the rehabilitation of individuals who have become ill or disabled, or disadvantaged, or who have demonstrated anti-social behaviour;

And Whereas, the benefits provided by recreation programs, services and parks, and open space, reduce healthcare and social service costs; serve to boost the economy, economic renewal and sustainability; enhance property values; attract new business; increase tourism; and curb employee absenteeism;

And Whereas, all levels of government, the voluntary sector and private enterprise throughout the Province participate in the planning, development and operation of recreation and parks program, services and facilities;

Therefore, I, Mayor Sherry Bondy, in recognition of the benefits and values of Recreation and Parks, do hereby designate the month of June as Recreation and Parks Month in the Town of Essex.

Purpose

To proclaim June as “Recreation and Parks Month” for the Town of Essex.

Background and Discussion

June is Recreation and Park Month (JRPM) is a movement that promotes the benefits of recreation and parks for physical, social, and environmental health. Communities across Ontario have embraced JRPM as a way to promote local programs and events, parks and facilities that are available for all citizens to enjoy.

Access to park and recreation is a fundamental human need that helps foster personal health, strong communities, and social inclusion. JRPM celebrates Ontario’s spectacular parks and recreation services and raises awareness for the role they play as a pathway to individual, community, and environmental well-being.

The Town of Essex has participated in the province wide initiative of proclaiming June as Recreation and Parks month since 2007 and has offered programs in all areas of the community throughout the month. The Town of Essex Community Services Department will be again offering several free exciting programs and activities in 2025 promoting active and healthy participation.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact. Free activities are included in annual planned budgets and are also funded by partnerships with Participaction program support and Pathway 2 Potential.

Consultations

Jake Morassut Director, Community Services

Zak Kolasa Assistant Manager Programs (Acting)

Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☐ Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- ☐ Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- ☒ Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- ☒ Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- ☐ Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	June is Recreation and Parks Month 2025 - Recreation and Culture-2025-02.docx
Attachments:	- JRPM Calendar 2025 (9 × 6 in).jpg
Final Approval Date:	May 20, 2025

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake Morassut', is shown on a light blue background.

Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services - May 20, 2025 - 9:04 AM

No Signature - Task assigned to Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer was completed by delegate Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - May 20, 2025 - 8:03 PM