



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: 47
Date: December 1, 2025
Prepared by: Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services
Report Number: Community Services-2025-30
Subject: **New Year's Eve/New Year's Town Sponsored Events**
Number of Pages: 3

Recommendation(s)

That Community Services-2025-30 entitled **New Year's Eve/New Year's Town Sponsored Events** prepared by Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services, dated December 1, 2025 be received, and

That Council approves the Arts, Culture and Tourism Committee sponsored **New Year's Eve** and **New Year's Day** events which include the Noon Years Eve Family Celebration on December 31, 2025 from 10:30am to 12:15pm, Town of Essex sponsored skating sessions on December 31, 2025, at both the Essex Centre Sports Complex from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre (Harrow Arena) from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and a Pathway 2 Potential sponsored swim session at the Essex Recreation Complex on January 1, 2026, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Purpose

To promote three Town sponsored family orientated New Year's events at Town facilities.

Background and Discussion

The Town's Arts Culture and Tourism (ACT) Committee approved \$1,000.00 to sponsor the Noon Year's Eve Celebration, which reduces the admission cost from \$10.00 to \$5.00 for those who participate.

Council has approved Town sponsored free public skating sessions on New Year's Eve and the free public swim session on New Year's Day for the last seventeen years. These events allow families options for a safe and "family oriented" experience for New Year's.

In 2025, the Harrow Chamber of Commerce will again be holding their annual New Year's Eve Countdown event at the Harrow Arena and the Town of Essex will be partnering with the Harrow Chamber to promote the free skating times at the Harrow Arena on New Year's Eve. The Arts Culture and Tourism Committee will be sponsoring a Noon Year's Eve Family Celebration from 10:30am to 12:15pm on December 31, 2025. This event will feature games, crafts and a special noon celebration ball drop at midday rather than midnight to ring in the New Year.

Financial Impact

There is no additional impact on the budget as all events are covered within the annual operating budgets.

To offer the four Town of Essex sponsored New Year's events there is a cost for staffing.

At the Noon Year's Eve Celebration, the ACT Committee sponsors 50% of the event cost, so participants pay \$5.00 rather than \$10.00 to attend. The total cost of the event is approximately \$2,000.00, half of which is sponsored by the ACT Committee and the other half is through user fees.

At each of the free skates on New **Year's Eve, the Town** of Essex provides two skate patrols and one rink operator for a cost of approximately \$400.00 per rink (total of \$800.00). All costs associated with these activities is funded from the respective operating budgets in 2025.

For the free **swim on the New Year's Day, the Town** of Essex provides lifeguards and a desk staff for a total cost of approximately \$325.00, which will be funded via the 2025 Pathway 2 Potential discretionary funding.

Consultations

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer

Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer

Cynthia Cakebread, Manager, Recreation and Culture

Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks & Facilities

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:	New Year's Eve and New Years Day Town Sponsored Events - Community Services-2025-30.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 25, 2025

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Giurissevich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Nov 25, 2025 - 2:11 PM