



Recreation & Community Services Memo

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Marie Malcolm, Manager of Recreation
Subject: Ice User Rates
eDocs or File ID:
Meeting Date: January 21, 2025

Purpose:

During the 2025 budget deliberations Council requested additional information be provided regarding Ice User Rates.

Background:

Council previously approved ice user rates for a 4-year term (2023-2027) that will see a 2% increase in 2025 and a 2% increase in 2026.

When presented to council in 2022, it was acknowledged that these rates would not reflect associated increased cost of utilities, wages and facility repair and maintenance, however, the rates were established to help affiliated groups recover post-pandemic.

Staff noted at the time that ice rate increase across southwestern Ontario ranged from 2% to 8%.

Comments:

As requested by Council during budget deliberations, staff have compiled the ice rates of local municipalities capturing the 2024-2025 ice season, covering the period from September 2024 to July 2025.

This table highlights the prime rates, non-prime rates and the subsidy percentage.

Ice Rates 2024-2025					
	Prime Time Ice	Prime Time Ice- Affiliate	Non-Prime Ice	Non- Prime Time Ice- Affiliate	Subsidy Percentage
Township of Woolwich	\$251.39	\$167.17	\$141.49	\$94.08	33.50%
Township of Wilmot	\$277.09	\$180.11	\$166.26	\$108.07	35%
Township of Wellesley	\$223.00	\$145.00	\$145.00	\$145.00	35%
Township of North Dumfries	\$270.11	\$202.58	\$144.64	\$144.64	25%
Centre Wellington	\$251.20	\$175.85	\$140.70	\$98.49	30%
City of Waterloo	\$303.61	\$151.80	\$178.72	\$151.80	50%
City of Kitchener	\$329.04	\$162.27	\$186.55	\$162.27	50%
City of Cambridge	\$375.31	\$188.65	\$225.15	\$129.10	49%
City of Guelph	\$351.26	\$184.40	\$184.40	\$184.40	47%

HST included

The confirmed percentage rate increases for 2025 were collected from various local municipalities to illustrate the range of percentage increases in ice rates:

2025-2026 Ice Percentage Rate Increase	
Centre Wellington	2.5%
Township of Wellesley	2.8%
City of Waterloo	4%
City of Kitchener	3.5-4%

The table below details the approved 2025 percentage increase and shows the resulting fees for both a 3% and 4% increase.

2% increase			
	2025	HST	Total
Prime	\$226.92	\$29.50	\$256.42
Prime- Affiliate	\$150.90	\$19.62	\$170.52
Non-Prime	\$127.71	\$16.60	\$144.31
Non-Prime- Affiliate	\$84.93	\$11.04	\$95.97

3% increase			
	2025	HST	Total
Prime	\$229.14	\$29.79	\$258.93
Prime- Affiliate	\$152.38	\$19.81	\$172.19
Non-Prime	\$128.97	\$16.77	\$145.74
Non-Prime- Affiliate	\$85.76	\$11.15	\$96.91
4% increase			
	2025	HST	Total
Prime	\$231.37	\$30.08	\$261.45
Prime- Affiliate	\$153.86	\$20.00	\$173.86
Non-Prime	\$130.22	\$16.93	\$147.15
Non-Prime- Affiliate	\$86.59	\$11.26	\$97.85

A combined three ice rinks are available between the Woolwich Memorial Centre and St. Jacobs Arena.

Prime time ice is defined as:

- weeknights between 5 pm and 11:30 pm, and
- weekends between 6:30 am and 11 pm.

Non-prime time hours are:

- weekdays between 8:30 am and 5pm.

Prime time ice is utilized at a booking rate of 89%, which amounts to 168 hours booked per week over approximately 30 weeks. 115 hours are utilized by our affiliated groups with the remaining 53 hours utilized by non-affiliated groups.

Increased Revenue

The increase in revenue as a result of an increase in ice rate user fees from 2% to 4% for 2025 (15 weeks) for **prime ice rates** would be approximately **\$3,900** for 2025.

The increase in revenue as a result of an increase in ice rate user fees from 2% to 4% for 2025 (15 weeks) for **prime ice rates- affiliated** would be approximately **\$5,600** for 2025.

The increase in revenue generated as a result of an increase in ice rate user fees from 2% to 4% for 2025 (15 weeks) for **non-prime ice rates** would be approximately **\$300** for 2025.

The increase in revenue generated as a result of an increase in ice rate user fees from 2% to 4% for 2025 (15 weeks) for **non-prime ice rates- affiliated** would be approximately **\$240** for 2025.

Staff recommend maintaining the pre-approved 2% increases for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 ice seasons. If Council wishes to increase the ice user rates, staff propose that these changes be applied starting in the 2026-2027 ice season (August 2026 – July 2027) to allow sufficient time for affiliate ice users to adjust their budgets accordingly.