

City of Pembroke
Non-Resident Recreation Surcharge
Fact Sheet – January 2005

The information contained in this fact sheet will hopefully answer a number of questions you may have related to the City of Pembroke non-resident recreation surcharge.

Question: Why has the City implemented a non-resident recreation surcharge?

Answer: The City of Pembroke operates a number of major recreation facilities including the Pembroke Memorial Centre, Pembroke and Area Community Centre, Riverside Park soccer and ball fields and a number of athletic fields including Rotary and Kinsmen Parks on behalf of its residents. Fees charged to users of these facilities do not meet the total operating cost of providing this service, subsequently the department operates at an annual deficit. This is a normal occurrence in most communities as the cost of maintaining a facility on a twenty-four hour basis cannot be recouped from actual usage of a few hours per day.

The City has documented that approximately 45% of the use within these facilities is by non-residents of Pembroke. The net cost of providing recreation facilities to these non-residents has been, and continues to be, borne by the taxpayers of Pembroke.

Since the 1980's, Laurentian Valley Council and its predecessor Councils have recognized that its residents utilize the City's recreation facilities and have been contributing funds towards operating costs since that time. Laurentian Valley Council's current annual contribution is approximately \$17,000. which does not come close to the actual subsidy of \$161,500 that Pembroke residents have been paying on behalf of Laurentian Valley Council for usage of City facilities by its youth. Laurentian Valley Council has been advised that if an agreement fairly allocating these costs could not be reached the City would, as a matter of fairness to its ratepayers, have no choice but to implement a supplementary charge for Laurentian Valley youth using the City's recreation facilities. Laurentian Valley Council has refused to agree to the fair funding model presented by the City.

Question: Who does this non-resident surcharge apply to?

Answer: The non-resident surcharge applies to minor sports participants at the City's recreation facilities who are not residents or taxpayers in the City of Pembroke. It should be noted that this includes registrants from any other community, not just Laurentian Valley.

Question: How is the fee determined?

Answer: In order to be fair the fee is determined by the facility being used, and the program being run within that facility, and will vary accordingly. (eg. Soccer pitches cost less to maintain and operate than arenas)

Question: What does the non resident surcharge cover?

Answer: The monies collected will be applied directly to the operating deficits of each facility that currently exist. None of the money will be applied to capital costs.

Question: What facilities and services does the surcharge apply to?

Answer: The surcharge will apply to all non-residents registered or participating in an organization that rents or uses the City's major municipal sport/ recreation facilities including:

Pembroke Memorial Centre (PMC)
Pembroke and Area Community Centre (PACC)
Riverside Park Soccer and Ball Fields
Athletic Fields ie: Kinsmen Park, Rotary Park (including Tennis Courts),

Question: What activities at these facilities will not be affected by this user fee?

Answer: Presently, no surcharge will apply to those organizations paying the adult ice rental rate at the City's arena facilities. Similarly, no surcharge will apply to public skating activities, ball hockey and lacrosse as these programs are not subsidized. At the City's arena facilities, rental of the arena floor or activity halls for special event activities ie: dances, weddings, circuses, trade shows, etc. will not be affected by this fee. It is impossible to monitor non-resident use at such events.

All organizations prepared to pay the predetermined non-subsidized rental rate for their activities may also be exempt from the application of the non-resident user surcharge.

Question: How will the surcharge be collected?

Answer: Using the practice currently in place, the fees will be collected by the minor sports organizations at registration time. It is estimated there are approximately 25-30 various sport and recreation organizations with registered participants who regularly use the City's facilities. The City is requesting these organizations cooperate in the collection and implementation of the non-resident user fee

Question: What obligations do organizations have?

Answer: All organizations participating in subsidized activities at the facilities noted above will be required to submit the fees collected and a complete list of their registered participants including their residential addresses prior to their bookings being confirmed.

Organizations have an obligation to not knowingly register individuals to their program who are subject to this non-resident surcharge. A \$100 administration fee may be charged to organizations if the City determines that unpaid non-residents are knowingly participating in an organization's activities. Offences may result in cancellation of future bookings.

Question: How long will this surcharge be in effect?

Answer: One of the primary purposes of implementing a non-resident recreation surcharge to be collected directly from participants is to motivate their representative Councils to support an agreement with the City of Pembroke. Such an agreement alleviates the necessity for a non-resident surcharge. It is anticipated this fee will stay in effect until a fair and equitable agreement can be reached with Laurentian Valley Township Council. Groups and organizations are asked to advise their non-resident participants to approach their Councillors and ask them to reach a fair agreement with the City of Pembroke for the use of Pembroke's municipal recreation facilities.

Question: Where can I obtain further information regarding the recreation surcharge?

Answer: Individuals requesting information on the implementation and collection process for the surcharge should direct their enquiries to the Economic Development, Recreation and Tourism Department at 735-6821 x 1510