



The Municipality of the  
**VILLAGE OF BURK'S FALLS**

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November 25, 2020

Message from Mayor Still and Council

Re: Armour Ryerson Burk's Falls Memorial Arena – Ice Installation

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At the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting Council voted in favour of not installing the ice for the period of January to March 2021. Ice will be installed for the regular 2021 summer and fall ice schedule.

It was a difficult decision for Council to make and there were many factors considered over the last three months. Among those are that the regular community user groups could not commit to 15 hours of rental per week, which would have been 50% of the regular usage. Organizations and groups who would normally use the facility for hockey or figure skating had internal concerns due to COVID 19 as well. COVID 19 restrictions also prevent the Village from offering public skating programs.

Some arenas in the area that are operating ice are also struggling with rental numbers and having one more arena open to compete for ice renters will further hurt their efforts. Estimations showed that the Arena, which always operates in a deficit, would increase the deficit another \$35,000 to \$38,000 during the three months of possible ice time with little rentals. Council determined that would be an inefficient use of tax payers money. Residents and organizations are encouraged to assist other local facilities, within the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit area, that are operating ice during these difficult times. Working together, supporting one another will help everyone get through these concerning times.

However, the facility is still open, and our staff are here to assist with any non-ice rental inquiry. Have a birthday or other small celebration to plan? contact us. The Karl Crozier Community Room is permitted to have up to 20 friends and family gather while following social distancing and COVID 19 protocols. We have new birthday party packages to offer as well. The ice surface area is being used by community organizations that would normally use school gyms, which are closed to the public due to COVID 19. The local Cadets are able to meet, our recreation programs such as pickleball/badminton and archery have moved downstairs to offer more space and Huntsville Soccer has received special permission to attend and bring all ages indoor soccer to Almaguin for the winter. Watch for more details.

Although, Council made this difficult decision for temporary interruptions to service, know the Community Centre is still available for your use and staff are here to serve you. With announcements of vaccines in the headlines, and our Health Unit region remaining in the Green, we are looking forward to this coming summer. We'll see you then.

Mayor and Council

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