



Township of North Kawartha

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446
www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Gary Gerald, Director of Parks and Recreation / Waste Management
Date: September 27, 2025
Subject: Lions Club 2026 Home and Cottage Show Free Use Request

Recommendation:

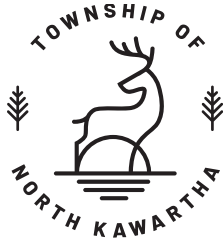
The Township of North Kawartha waive the fee associated with the North Kawartha Community Centre's arena surface from May 1, 2026 to May 4, 2026, for the Apsley & District Lions Club first annual Home and Cottage Show.

Background:

The Apsley & District Lions Club have a lease agreement with the Township of North Kawartha, that details the Lions Club usage of the North Kawartha Community Centre on an annual basis. The agreement is reviewed by both parties prior to renewal and runs concurrent with the term of Council. The current agreement expires December 31, 2026.

The Township has a Policy that was updated and passed in March 2024, that is 'Use of Municipal Facilities and Resources for a Reduced Rate or Free of Charge'. This is a formal policy and procedure (formerly By-Law 2014-007) for local Clubs, Groups and individuals, where they may request the use of a Municipal Facility for an activity or event that meets certain parameters. This may include such factors as: applicant is a local not-for-profit group, event is a fundraiser, event is for the betterment of the community, event is open to the public.

Furthermore, for expediency and consistency, Township By-Law 2024-0018 repealed By-Law 2014-007 and amended By-Law 2020-004. In summary, the By-Law delegates power to the Director of Parks and Recreation, under the authority of the Clerk, to review formal requests and grant free or reduced rate usage in a fair and consistent manner that is in compliance with the Policy. In addition, the Director of Parks and Recreation may also bring forth requests to Council that are not as routine in nature.



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Analysis:

The current Township and Apsley Lions Club agreement is detailed and references the Lions Club's regular events. This includes their weekly, monthly and significant annual community events that are held each year. As an example, the agreement includes, and outlines the usage, for the Annual Winter carnival and the Annual Flea Market.

In addition to the specific events included, the agreement also includes an allowance for the Apsley Lions Club to use the NKCC banquet hall, kitchen and bar area, for up to five additional days per year, to host Club and/or Community Special Events.

Recently, I have met with the Lions Club in reference to a Home and Cottage Show that they are planning and are excited to launch in 2026. If this event is successful, the Lions Club objective is for this to be an annual significant event. This event is scheduled for the first weekend in May each year and would use the banquet hall and the arena surface, as the ice will be gone by May.

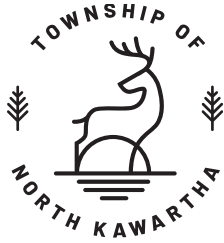
However, although the current agreement references additional days for banquet hall and kitchen use, it does not reference the arena surface. Needless to say, there will be some excellent economic development benefits to an annual successful Home and Cottage Show of this magnitude.

Therefore, as per the Policy, the Lions Club are respectfully requesting the free use of the NKCC arena surface from May 1, 2026 to May 4, 2026, in combination with the banquet hall and kitchen, that are already included in their agreement. Please note, this event was scheduled in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department. As an example, this event is scheduled after the ice surface is removed, and prior to the commencement of the Parks and Recreation Spring Sports Programs.

In summary, after meeting with the Lions Club and reviewing their plan and request, we are recommending that the Township waive any additional rental fees (arena surface) that are applicable with this event. Furthermore, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to work with the Lions Club and provide assistance at their first Annual Home and Cottage Show.

Financial Implications:

With no ice, the flat rate rental fee of the NKCC Arena Surface is \$600/day plus HST.



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Strategic and/or Other Plans:

Governance

1. Provide Quality Community Programs and Services.
2. Provide effective, clear and transparent Township Communication.

In Consultation With:

The Apsley Lions Club.

Attachment:

None