

The Recreation & Culture Division continues to strive for fiscal accountability while ensuring the delivery of quality services to all residents. These services contribute to the quality of life in our community and the overall health of our residents. Research has proven that recreation contributes to physical and mental health, acts as a protective factor for youth-at-risk and helps improve the circumstances for those living in poverty.

The City's various user fees accounts for approximately 20% of the total Operating Budget. A balance between increasing fees to reflect higher service costs and being sensitive to residents and businesses who face similar financial constraints was taken into consideration for preparing the 2025 Tariff of Fees Update. The core principles for the City's user fees remain to be:

- a) justifiable and reasonable for cost recovery;
- b) comparable with neighbouring municipalities; and
- c) affordable to citizens/users, yet competitive.

Further direction provided from the Treasurer stated to increase fees/charges by 3.0%, this is a reflection to the indexing through delegated authority.

## **OVERVIEW OF PRINCIPLES AND FEE CHANGES**

### **Registered Program Fees**

- 3% increase is being recommended for most services within the General Programs, Aquatics, Fitness, Skating, Culture, RHCPA, and Heritage programs.
- 15.15% increase to Adult Development instructional classes.
- 6.33% increase for Bronze Cross, this is to match course fee in the same level category, Bronze Medallion.
- 6.6% increase to Zumba is being proposed for fee alignment to match fees in 2026.
- No increase is being recommended for Preschool programs.
- 6.26% increase to Tyler Bayley, Children's program partnership provider, at the partner's request.

### **Drop-in Program Fees**

- 3% increase is being recommended for most Aquatics, Skating and General Programs drop-in program fees based on market comparison.
- 3.13% increase to 10 tickets Senior (65+) Swim Admission, and 3.08% to Monthly pass; the fees are being adjusted to match 70% of adult admission fee.
- No change is being propose to PA Day Swim and PA Day Skate, as this is promotional rate.

### **Membership Fees**

- 3% increase is being recommended for of Aquatics and Skating membership fees.
- 14.56% increase to Indoor Lawn Bowling Court fee per Game member fee, 6.21% increase to Court Fee per Game Non-Member (Guest Fee), and Tournament Drop-In Game Fee, this increase of \$0.25 increments including HST is to ease complications for cash transactions.

### **Facility Rental Permits – Arenas, Pools, Gymnasiums, Meeting Rooms, Sport Fields, Park Permits, Richmond Green Sport Centre & Dome, Art Exhibition Space**

- 3% increase is being recommended for indoor and outdoor rental fees.



**Advertising and Administration fees**

- Entandem and RESound fees are determined by federal Tariffs.
- 0% increase to Registration & Facility Booking Fees, the fees are set to round to specific figures including HST (\$10, \$15 and \$25).

**Birthday Party Packages**

- 3% increase to most Party Package fees are being recommended.
- 8.7% increase to Cupcake Party Package (6-8 years old), due to additional equipment being included.
- 23.13% increase to Video Game Party Package, due to updates to equipment required for parties.

**David Dunlap Observatory**

- 3% increase is being recommended for all program fees.
- 3% increase is being recommended to Commercial Filming fee.

**Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts**

- 3% increase is being recommended for rental and program fees.

**New Programs and Services**

The provision of programs and services is subject to variation each year to align with the evolving demands of the community. To accommodate these changes, the fee by-law encompasses both newly introduced programs and services implemented in 2024, as well as those scheduled for introduction in 2025.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The 2025 proposed operating budget will include the following revenue impacts as a result of the fee recommendations in this report.

| <b>Recreation Program</b>                               | <b>Estimated Revenues</b> |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Aquatics</b>   | \$ 112,200                |
| <b>Fitness</b>  | \$ 24,900                 |
| <b>Skating Programs</b>                                 | \$ 18,500                 |
| <b>General Programs</b>                                 | \$ 95,300                 |
| <b>Sports Fields and Parks</b>                          | \$ 10,100                 |
| <b>Indoor Facilities, film and road closure permits</b> | \$ 35,100                 |
| <b>Sports Dome</b>                                      | \$ 24,200                 |
| <b>Ice Rentals</b>                                      | \$ 105,800                |
| <b>Cultural Services Programming</b>                    | \$ 8,200                  |
| <b>RHCPA</b>  | \$ 50,000                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$ 484,300</b>         |



## **COMMUNICATION**

The City of Richmond Hill is committed to ensuring transparency and accessibility regarding the User Fees and Charges By-Law across all departments. To achieve this, the by-law will be prominently posted on the official City website. Furthermore, any adjustments in rates pertaining to recreation and program service delivery will be effectively communicated through the City's marketing and promotional material, enabling residents to stay informed about these changes.