

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 2026 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 2.0%, this is a reflection to the indexing through delegated authority.

OVERVIEW OF PRINCIPLES AND FEE CHANGES

Registered Program Fees

- 2% increase is being recommended for most services within the General Programs, Aquatics, Fitness, Skating, Culture, RHCPA, and Heritage programs.
- 3.5% increase to private skating lesson fee and 3.52% to semi-private skating lesson fee, based on market comparison.
- 4.5% increase to Aqua Stretch and 4.3% increase to Zumba to align with established rates for Specialized Aquatic Fitness category programs and Specialize Fitness category programs.

Drop-in and Membership Program Fees

- 2% increase is being recommended for most Aquatics, Skating and General Programs Drop-In and Membership program fees, with some fees having minor variances due to rounding.
- 1.83% increase is being recommended to Senior (65+) Single Swim ticket, following fee calculation formula.
- 9.75% decrease is recommended for Family / Group Monthly Swim Pass; the fee is being adjusted to match membership fee calculation formula.
- No change is being proposed to PA Day Swim, PA Day Skate, and Wave Pool Shoe Charms, as these are promotional rate items.
- No increase is recommended for Indoor Track - One Year Pass, Monthly Pass, 10-Tickets, and Single Drop-In, as these rates are intended to be equal in price to Senior (65+) rates.
- Between 19.1% to 19.2% decrease is recommended for Fitness Studio – Youth, Adult, Senior (65+) Drop-In and 10-Tickets, with the purpose of matching Fitness Class Drop-In and 10-Ticket rates.
- Between 2.2% to 2.3% increase is recommended for Fitness Studio – Youth, Adult, Senior (65+) Monthly Pass and 1-Year Pass, with the purpose of matching Fitness Class Monthly Pass and 1-Year Pass rates.

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

- 2% increase is being recommended for indoor and outdoor rental fees.

Advertising, Sponsorship and Administration fees

- Decrease of 79.8% to Returned NSF Cheque Fee, reduced to \$10.00 based on Federal Banking Regulation.
- 0% increase to Credit Card, INTERAC, Entandem / Royalty, C.I.F. and Ticket Handling fees, which are determined by agencies and institutions outside of jurisdiction.

Birthday Party Packages

- 2% increase to Party Package fees are being recommended

David Dunlap Observatory

- 2% increase is being recommended for all program fees.

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

- 2% 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 2025, as well as those scheduled for introduction in 2026 as follows:

David Dunlap Observatory

- Telescope Drop-In fee at \$12.00; this fee is introduced to provide an alternate participation option to the current telescope program.

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

- Exhibition Rental at \$100 weekly rate is introduced due to community demand.

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

- Commission on Merchandise Sales at \$250; based on business practice, this flat rate fee will replace percentage-based charge that currently applies through agreements.



Richmond Hill Cultural Centre

- Production / Recording Studio Space rental fees will be introduced to deliver rental program at the Richmond Hill Cultural Centre. Additional revenue has yet to be finalized as the centre is still in construction phase.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2026 proposed operating budget will include the following revenue impacts as a result of the fee recommendations in this report.

Recreation Program	Estimated Revenues
Aquatics	\$ 102,400
Fitness	\$ 23,500
Skating Programs	\$ 14,000
General Programs	\$ 100,700
Sports Fields and Parks	\$ 8,300
Indoor Facilities, film and road closure permits	\$ 26,000
Sports Dome	\$ 17,500
Ice Rentals	\$ 72,300
Cultural Services Programming	\$ 5,100
RHCPA	\$ 32,500
Total	\$ 402,300



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.