

**Report To:** Mayor & Council

**From:** Doug Brown, CAO

**SUBJECT: Waiving of Event Rental Fees for the Rainy Lake Market Square to Local Restaurant and Bar Establishments**

**Background Information**

On Friday June 12, 2020, our Province moved to the next stage for restarting the economy and easing of the restrictions put in place to stop the spread of the COVID- 19 outbreak. Under stage 2 our local restaurants and bars can temporarily extend their outdoor patio space. (See attached published Stage 2 information).

**General Discussion**

In order to provide financial support to our local food service sectors of the community during these unpredictable times, it has been suggested that the Town could consider waving the event fee for the rental of the Rainy Lake square. The established and approved 2020 rental fee is set at \$452.93 (HST extra) per event. Currently, the Rainy Lake Square is booked through the Community Services division in conjunction with Tannis Drysdale, our ED consultant. The local food establishments would still be required to book the facility as in the past. Additionally, they will be required to implement practices to keep their customers safe in accordance with provincial regulations and guidelines. Also see attached a copy of the administration report outlining the rental terms and conditions for the Rainy Lake Square area, which was approved by Council back in March of 2018.

Currently, only the Flint House Restaurant would be in a position to offer liquor sales at the Rainy Lake square, as the Rainy Lake Square is considered a temporary extension of their outdoor patio due to its close proximity to the restaurant location (across Scott Street). Also, the provincial government through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario has suspended the issuance of off-site (catering) Special Occasion Permit (SOP) for the foreseeable future. However, all local food service establishments could use the Rainy Lake Square facility to host non-alcohol special culinary events.

Currently, administration doesn't have the authority to waive established rental fees for the Rainy Lake square facility. This is a Council decision.

This report is prepared to ensure Council reviews and considers waiving the rental fees for the Rainy Lake Market Square for local food service establishments during the coronavirus times.



Doug Brown, CAO



## REPORT

**TO:** Mayor Avis & Council

**FROM:** Jason Kabel, Community Services Division Manager

**DATE:** March 16, 2018

**RE:** Rainy Lake Square Recommendations

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### Preamble

At the March 12, 2018 regular meeting of Council, the attached report from Tannis Drysdale, RRFDC Economic Development Consultant was referred to the Community Services Executive Committee with input from the Planning & Development Executive Committee.

The report contains 4 recommendations in each of the following areas: Venue Reservations, Use of the Rainy Lake Square, Liquor Service, Smoking and as well a list of planned programming for 2018.

Below are the recommendations being proposed by RRFDC for consideration:

- 1) **Venue Reservations** - *The Rainy Lake Square will be reserved through the Memorial Sports Centre facility reservation system. The BIA and Economic Development office will have access to the system. The economic development office will assist with bookings, encouraging utilization by the community.*
- 2) **Use of the Rainy Lake Square** - *Council should allow all usage options for the first season of operation and revisit in early 2019 based on experience. Recommendation to develop a fee for uses C and D based on fees for the Memorial Sports Centre Auditorium at \$427.20 + HST for residents of Fort Frances; \$534.00 + HST for non-residents.*
- 3) **Liquor Service** - *Recommendation is to allow bar and restaurant businesses with Catering Endorsements to sell alcohol at events at the Rainy Lake Square.*
  1. *The Rainy Lake Square will not be staffed in the evenings.*
  2. *Allowing alcohol service from a Special Occasion Permit set-up will be competitive with businesses. The Rainy Lake Square is meant to encourage and grow local business. Allowing Catering Endorsement alcohol sales will support bar and restaurant businesses while allowing full service events.*
- 4) **Smoking** - *Recommendation is that smoking be prohibited in the Rainy Lake Square facility.*

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Kabel".

Jason Kabel

**Recommendation**

The Community Services Executive Committee recommends to Mayor and Council to endorse the following:

**Council approval of this report will endorse** the following guidelines for the operations of the Rainy Lake Square for the 2018 season on a trial basis and that these guidelines be assessed at the end of season prior to finalizing the 2019 user fees:

1. The Community Services Division Manager, or designate, be part of the RLS operational committee to ensure the present booking practices are adhered to and to provide input as required.
2. RLS bookings will be processed at the Memorial Sports Centre through the existing ActiveNet booking system. The BIA and RRFDC will have access to view the calendar of bookings.
3. There will not be charges to book the RLS for the following uses:
  - A) Casual use – no reservation (e.g. birthday parties and gatherings where the facility remains open to the public)
  - B) Non-profit – by reservation (e.g. fenced in ticketed events for community groups & charities)
4. User Fees will be set at \$433.60 +HST (resident) & \$542.00 +HST (non-resident) per event for the following usage:
  - A) Private events fenced in – by reservation – Invitation only – No public – not ticketed (e.g. weddings, social gatherings)
  - B) For profit – by reservation (e.g. trade shows, car shows)
5. Alcohol - RLS events involving the serving of alcohol will only utilize the catering endorsement method as prescribed by the Ontario Liquor License Act (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario). This will encourage the growth and retention of local businesses in the community. No alcohol will be served past 11:00 pm. The Town is the process of amending its alcohol policy where these terms will be considered prior to finalizing the revised alcohol policy. Also, all applicable terms and conditions outlined in the Town's existing alcohol policy will be adhered too.
6. Smoking at the Rainy Lake Square will be prohibited with an update to the existing municipal bylaw.

## Restaurants & Bars

Restaurants, bars, food trucks and other food and drink establishments (e.g., wineries, breweries and distilleries) can open for dining in outdoor areas only, such as patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent premises.

- Establishments must take appropriate measures to ensure physical distancing of at least two metres between patrons from different households, including:
  - Using reservations.
  - Limiting number of patrons allowed in the outdoor space at one time.
  - Ensuring enough space between tables, including to allow for movement.
- Access to indoor facilities is limited to patio/outdoor dining area access, food pickup, payment, washrooms or other health and safety purposes.
- Liquor sales licensees who wish to temporarily extend the physical size of their existing licensed patio, or temporarily add a new licensed patio within the approved period are authorized to do so, if all the following criteria are met:
  - The physical extension of the premises is adjacent to the premises to which the licence to sell liquor applies.
  - The municipality in which the premises is situated does not object to an extension.
  - The licensee is able to demonstrate sufficient control over the physical extension of the premises.
  - There is no condition on the liquor sales licence prohibiting a patio.

### KEEP CUSTOMERS SAFE



Practice physical distancing



Increase cleaning of frequently touched surfaces



Wear PPE at all times, at minimum an appropriate face covering



Wash your hands frequently and practice good hygiene



Get tested if you are worried you have or have been exposed to COVID-19

Food services in any workplace setting are strongly advised to review and adopt workplace guidance for [restaurants and bars](#). This includes food courts, food services on television, film and photography sets, and food services as part of tours. Workplaces are strongly recommended to review and adopt guidelines to keep employees and customers safe.