SUBJECT: Supervised Park Program (Supie) for Dundas (CS06017) (Ward 13)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That a Supervised Park Program (Supie), currently called Summer Playlot Program be re-established in the Dundas Driving Park and the required operating costs for the program, totalling $2,870 be funded from the current Culture and Recreation Division, Dundas Community Centre Summer Program budget.

(b) That Item “L” respecting the Supervised Park Program (Supie) for the Dundas Driving Park be identified as completed and be removed from the Community Services Committee Outstanding Business List.

Joe-Anne Priel
General Manager
Community Services Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff is recommending that the Supervised Park Program (Supie) be re-established in the Dundas Driving Park and that the required $2,870 to support the playlot program be taken from the Dundas Community Centre’s Summer Program Budget which has the funds to cover the costs due to operating changes in the summer preschool camp.
BACKGROUND:

At the November 8, 2005, Community Services Committee meeting, staff was directed to explore and report back on the re-establishment of the Supervised Park Program (Supie) for the Dundas Driving Park.

The Town of Dundas had operated a supervised neighbourhood parks program (Supie) at eight to ten selected sites throughout the Town until the early nineteen-nineties. The summer activity ran for eight weeks in July and August (Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Budget constraints reduced the program to one week at both the Valley Community Centre and the Dundas Driving Park in 1991. In 1992, the Dundas Driving Park was the sole playlot location. In 1993 this free program was removed entirely from the Town’s summer activities due to further budget reductions.

Each year since 2001 Dundas staff and the Dundas Ward Councillors have received numerous requests to have the supervised neighbourhood park program (Supie) re-established in the Dundas Driving Park. The Summer Playlot Program is an area rated service and any re-establishment of the program requires funding to be found within current Dundas area rated operating budgets.

The Dundas Driving Park amenities (wading pool, two children’s play areas, and a community park) make the area a hub for local children and visiting families with children. The playlot program will provide an outdoor summer program opportunity to the many children playing in the Driving Park.

The Summer Playlot Program operates in 68 different park/school locations in the former City of Hamilton, Stoney Creek and one location in Waterdown Memorial Park in Flamborough. Currently Dundas and Ancaster do not offer this program.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Staff is recommending that the program be re-established in the Dundas Driving Park and be included as one of the sites under the Playlot (Supie) program. Currently the Playlot (Supie) Program operates during the summer months at 69 different park/school ground sites. It is a drop-in program offered to children free of charge and operates for eight weeks in July and August, Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. It would be consistent with this approach to offer the same program to the children in Dundas.

The Dundas Community Centre has a summer program budget that includes staffing for four summer preschool camp counsellors. Low registration, family feedback and the loss of green space at the Community Centre due to the newly constructed senior centre has resulted in a change from a full day program to half day summer preschool program and reduced the need for four staff to two. If approved, the funding of $2,870 to re-establish the Supervised Park Program (Supie) in the Dundas Driving Park could be provided within the current budget.
**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

If the Supervised Park Program (Supie) is not re-established in the Dundas Driving Park, it would result in the current operating budget having additional funds of $2,870 that could be utilized for other programs for the fall programming season.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

**Financial:**
The Dundas Community Centre’s summer program budget will fund the costs. Based on an eight week program, the costs will be $2,870 for staff and operational costs.

There will be operating costs totalling $490 for supplies and a cell phone for emergencies.

Staff is recommending that funding come from within the current operating budget, specifically from the Dundas Community Centre Dept. I.D. #730182.

**Staffing:**
One summer student will be hired for an eight week period at a cost of $2,380.

**Legal:**
There are no legal implications associated with Report CS06017.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

There are no policies affected by Report CS06017.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

There are no relevant consultations as it does not affect any other Department.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic and implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Opportunities for summer programming for children is supported and enhanced.
Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes  ☐ No
Outdoor programs provide a range of benefits; developing a connection with outdoors, enhancing social skills and becoming aware of and appreciating the natural and cultural resources outdoors.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes  ☐ No
Investment in Hamilton is enhanced and supported.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?  
☑ Yes  ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?  
☑ Yes  ☐ No
The creation of a desirable summer student position especially for a youth interested in working with children.