To: Chair and Members
   Emergency & Community Services Committee
   Outstanding Business Item No. K and Issue: Artificial Outdoor Ice Rinks

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Date: April 7, 2009

Re: Costs Associated with Artificial Outdoor Ice Rinks (ECS07064(a)) (City Wide)

Council Direction:

At its meeting on September 26, 2007, Council approved Recommendation 2 (b) (respecting Artificial Outdoor Ice Rinks) of the Emergency and Community Services Committee Report 07-011, which reads:

“(b) That staff be directed to bring forward a report, outlining the costs associated with the analysis of the City’s outdoor recreational facilities, to the 2008 budget process for consideration.”

Information:

In the Artificial Outdoor Ice Rinks Report (ECS07064), staff indicated that there is no plan for artificial rinks and further study was needed to explore the need, standards, associated capital and operating costs and locations to identify areas of the city, where specific outdoor rinks may be provided. It was noted that a study would identify if artificial outdoor rinks would rectify the unmet need for recreational pleasure skating across the city, as well as the associated capital and operating costs for future consideration.

Report ECS07064 identified that staff would be submitting a 2008 capital budget request in order to undertake a review and analysis of outdoor facility needs, which included artificial outdoor ice rinks and the associated operating costs.
In 2008, the Recreation Division submitted the “Public Use and Outdoor Facility & Sports Field Supply Review” (Project ID #71008), as an item for consideration in the Capital budget. This review was approved and the study is currently underway with an estimated completion date of September 2009. Outdoor artificial ice rinks and their associated costs will be addressed as part of the scope of work.

For the information of Committee, the artificial outdoor rink located at the Dundas Driving Park (71 Cross Avenue between Park Street East and Sydenham Road in Dundas), officially opened and just completed its first season of operation. The new rink is approximately half the size of a regulation NHL rink (100” by 60”), and includes a new concession, washrooms, storage and ice making plant for the rink.

Joe-Anne Priel,
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