



Working together with our community

Council-In-Committee Meeting – June 12, 2025

Subject: Community-Led Initiatives – Simcoe Kinsmen Splash Pad
Rehabilitation
Report Number: CAO-25-061
Division: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Department: Administration
Ward: Ward 5
Purpose: For Decision

Recommendation(s):

That the Report regarding the Simcoe Kinsmen Club Community Led Initiatives Application for splash pad rehabilitation in Simcoe Kinsmen Splash Park be received as information; and

That Council support, in principle, the proposal for the rehabilitation of Simcoe Kinsmen Splash Pad, as summarized in this report, and

That Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with the Simcoe Kinsmen Club for the Simcoe Kinsmen Splash Pad rehabilitation.

Explanation: The Simcoe Kinsmen Club has offered to raise 100% of the capital funding required to rehabilitate an existing County-owned and operated Splash Pad that requires concrete replacement. An agreement is required to specify the terms under which the project will proceed if approved by Council.

Executive Summary:

Purpose of the Report: To consider a Community-Led Initiatives (CLI) application from the Simcoe Kinsmen Club for the replacement of the Simcoe Kinsmen Splashpad concrete and to conduct waterline pressure testing.

Background and Context: The Simcoe Kinsmen Splashpad was constructed 20 years ago. The concrete pad has deteriorated and is nearing its useful life expectancy and requires replacement. The Simcoe Kinsmen Club proposes raising 100% of the project's capital costs to replace the concrete pad, and pressure test the underground waterline infrastructure. County staff would tender and manage the construction project once 100% of project funding is raised.

Key Findings and Analysis: If the project is approved by Council, staff anticipate tendering and construction would take place in early 2026, prior to the summer season.

Options: Staff recommend that the Simcoe Kinsmen Club be responsible for raising 100% of project capital costs before the project proceeds to tender, and that they also be responsible for raising any additional funding needed for the project if bids received are over budget before the tender is awarded. Furthermore, additional fundraising may be required if additional infrastructure repair is required beyond the scope identified in the original proposal. Alternatively, Council could agree that the County would cover any shortfalls if project bids are over budget and/or additional repairs are needed.

Recommendations: Staff appreciate the Kinsmen Club's contribution to maintaining our assets and improving our community. Staff recommend that Council approve the proposal and authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the Simcoe Kinsmen Club that specifies that all funding must be raised and transferred to the County prior to project tender.

Financial Implications: Staff have reviewed the attached application and confirm that there are no additional operational impacts associated with the project, as the Splash Pad is an existing County asset.

Discussions:

1. Background

Staff received the attached CLI application from the Simcoe Kinsmen Club in April 2025 for the rehabilitation of the Simcoe Kinsmen Splash Pad. The asset was constructed in 2005, and the concrete has deteriorated past its useful life and requires replacement. The Simcoe Kinsmen Club has worked with Norfolk County staff to inspect the asset and determine project costs. Concrete replacement is estimated at \$70,000. Splash pad infrastructure would also be tested for deficiencies when the concrete is removed. Staff recommend an additional \$10,000 be added to the fundraising goal in case of additional deficiencies in the underground infrastructure and in case project tenders come in over budget for a total project fundraising goal of \$80,000.

2. Proposal

The attached application proposes:

- Simcoe Kinsmen would raise 100% of capital costs associated with the project, estimated at \$80,000, and issue tax receipts to donors

The Simcoe Lions Club requests Norfolk County assistance with:

- 100% of future operating costs and capital maintenance and replacement costs would continue to be the responsibility of the County. Staff do not anticipate any

additional impacts to the Splash Pad's annual operating budget, as this is an existing asset.

- Programming and daily operations would continue to be the responsibility of the County.
- The County would issue the tender for the proposed construction, retain a contractor, and manage the project after 100% of required capital funding has been raised by the Kinsmen Club and transferred to Norfolk County.

Full details are included in the attached Application submitted by the Simcoe Kinsmen Club.

3. Analysis

Project: Staff have reviewed the proposal and are supportive of the project. Norfolk appreciates the Simcoe Kinsmen Club's efforts to improve and support our community by raising funds to maintain an existing County asset. Although splash pad replacement is not currently included in the County's 10-year capital forecast, staff had anticipated that full asset replacement would occur just beyond this timeframe. Upon inspection, staff agree that the concrete needs replacement, and maintaining it in its current state is increasing annual maintenance costs (ie – crack repairs, cleaning requirements). Staff anticipate that any associated underground infrastructure and ancillary features in need of replacement would be covered by the \$80,000 project budget. The Simcoe Kinsmen Club have agreed to endeavour to raise 100% of the estimated project budget and will present an update on their progress to Council in Autumn 2025.

Budget: Staff recommend that the Simcoe Kinsmen Club be responsible for raising 100% of the project's capital costs before proceeding to tender. If bids exceed the budget, the Club should also secure any additional funding required before awarding the tender. Further fundraising would be necessary if repairs beyond the original project scope are identified. Alternatively, Council could choose to cover any budget shortfalls or costs related to additional repairs.

Project Timeline: The Simcoe Kinsmen Club originally proposed a construction timeline from September to December 2025. However, staff recommend beginning construction in early 2026 to allow sufficient time for fundraising, drafting and issuing the tender, and securing a contractor. The Kinsmen Club has agreed to this timeline.

Financial Services Comments:

The Approved Capital Budget does not currently include an allocation for concrete work at the Simcoe Splash Pad, so if the Community-Led Application is approved, staff recommend including a project in the Proposed 2026-2035 Levy Capital Plan for Council's approval. The project is anticipated to cost \$80,000 and would be funded entirely from donations. There are no anticipated financial implications relating to the County's internal funding sources.

As the County already owns the splash pad and this project represents a replacement of an existing asset, there are no additional lifecycle cost considerations arising from this CLI application. The new concrete pad is expected to have a useful life of approximately 30 years.

The Approved 2025 Levy Operating Budget includes an allocation of \$47,700 for the operation of the splash pad, primarily related to the costs of water. There is no additional operating cost considerations anticipated as a result of this application.

Overall, given the infrastructure funding shortfall the County is facing, it would be financially beneficial to accept external funding for a renewal project such as the Splash Pad's concrete replacement.

Interdepartmental Implications:

If approved by Council, staff would include this project in our 2026 workplan. Staff do not anticipate any additional operating impacts, as this is an existing County asset.

Consultation(s):

This report was drafted in consultation with the General Manager of Operations and Supervisor of Parks Operation East, and has been reviewed by the County's Senior Leadership Team. Operations Staff met with the Kinsmen Club on the project site to discuss project specifications and consulted with an external contractor to provide the estimated project cost.

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2022-2026 Council Strategic Priority Building Norfolk - Develop the infrastructure and supports needed to ensure complete communities.

Explanation: The Simcoe Kinsmen Club has offered to raise funds to help maintain and ensure the continued enjoyment of a County asset.

Attachment(s):

- CLI Application – Simcoe Kinsmen Splash Pad

Approval:

Approved By:
Al Meneses, CAO

Reviewed By:
Bill Cridland,
General Manager, Operations

Prepared By:
Stephanie Potter,
Manager, Corporate Initiatives