

Community Services Sub-Committee

Department Update

March 2026

PARKS & CEMETERY

- Parks and Cemetery Spring clean up as begun
- Winter equipment being transferred to summer use (taking off winter applications, changing to summer implements)
- Swans to be released back into the public parks system on the Wednesday after Easter
- Completing Hiring for
 - Seasonal Workers – Summer Students
 - Temporary Parkskeepers – Summer position
 - Cemetery Maintenance – Full Time position
- Tenders are out for Devon Park and Willow Park Play Structure Replacements
- Starting to gain interest from sports groups in booking new cricket pitch

TRANSIT

Weekly Ridership Year-over-Year Comparison

| 2026 Week | Ridership | Sat On-Demand | 2025 Week | Ridership | Sat On-Demand |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Feb 15-20 | 6924 | 260 | Feb 16-21 | 7679 | 267 |
| Feb 22-27 | 9921 | 196 | Feb 23-28 | 11,234 | 211 |
| Mar 1-6 | 9930 | 201 | Mar 2-7 | 10,542 | 246 |
| Mar 8-13 | 8687 | 154 | Mar 9-14 | 8838 | 197 |

PC Connect Year-over-Year Comparison:

| Year Month | Ridership |
|------------|-----------|
| 2026 Feb | 922 |
| 2025 Feb | 1079 |

TRANSIT CAPITAL

- None scheduled

PARALLEL TRANSIT

Weekly Ridership

| 2026 Week | Ridership | 2025 Week | Ridership |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Feb 15-20 | 347 | Feb 16-21 | 388 |
| Feb 22-27 | 402 | Feb 23-28 | 411 |
| Mar 1-6 | 406 | Mar 2-7 | 420 |
| Mar 8-13 | 447 | Mar 9-14 | 416 |

Pre-Pandemic ridership was typically 400 per week.

At present, Mobility bus has 706 registrants and continues to grow.

PARALLEL TRANSIT CAPITAL

- 2 Mobility buses ordered and expected early Summer 2026

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- Recreation staff held a very positive March Break Program with each day being at capacity and are currently planning for a sold-out PA Day on April 24.
- In addition to camp, 3 free family friendly programs were offered to the community from Monday to Friday during March Break. The three free programs of basketball, NextStrat Esport Lounge and public skates were all well attended. The public skates were possible due to generous community sponsors.
- Registration for summer camp and Lions Pool programming opened on March 1, 2026, which saw high demand resulting in several of the camps and programs being full before the end of the first day. One was even full in 15 seconds of opening!
- Staff are working through the onboarding of over 70 seasonal staff.
- The Ontario Fencing Association saw over 800 attendees during their Youth Circuit #3 tournament hosted at the Agriplex February 14-15, 2026.
- Staff continue to coordinate, partner and plan Doors Open Stratford and support in the development and launch of Asian Heritage Month activities.
- Staff attended the Municipal Sponsorship Summit to gain knowledge and build a network as the development of Stratford' Sponsorship Program continues.

RECREATION FACILITIES

- The Dehumidifier Replacement Capital Projects at Rotary Complex, William Allman Memorial Arena, and Dufferin Lions were awarded to Cimco Refrigeration in the amount of \$807,166.91, including HST.

These projects will be completed during times that ensure there are no service disruptions for the facilities and ice surfaces.

- The maintenance and repairs Capital Project at National Stadium has been awarded to Baribeau Construction in the amount of \$74,160 plus HST. The scope of work for this project includes replacement of exterior metal doors, installation of handrails on the steps of the spectator seating area, and installation of prefabricated seating for the spectator seating area. The project is expected to be completed by May 31, 2026.
- The SERC Washroom renovation Capital Project has started and is expected to be completed by April 15, 2026, in advance of the May 1st seasonal opening of the washroom facility.
- The Veterans Drive Bandshell refurbishment Capital Project is expected to start in the first week of April and be completed in early June.
- The Canadian Dairy XPO (CDX) is being hosted at the Rotary Complex and Agriplex on April 1 & 2, 2026.

Following the completion of the Rotary Hockey Final Day Event at the Rotary Complex on March 28, 2026, the Rink B ice surface will be removed in advance of load-in and setup for CDX.

The Rink A ice surface at Rotary Complex will remain in for the summer months. This ice surface will be covered for the CDX event.

- The last day for ice rentals at Dufferin Lions Arena is Thursday, April 2, 2026. The ice surface will then be removed for the summer months.
- The replacement of the railing system at the Boathouse for the Membrane & Railing replacement Capital Project is scheduled for the last week of March and first week of April. This project is expected to be fully completed by April 15, 2026, in advance of the seasonal opening of the tenant at the Boathouse.