

Community Services Department Update
SEPTEMBER 2024

PARKS

- Calisthenics equipment installation at Shakespeare Park completed
- Fall sport field work to started week of Sept 9th (topdressing, seeding, etc.)
- Stratford Invasive Plant Plan Community Information Session taking place October 9th

PARKS CAPITAL

- Installation of playground equipment at Milton St. Park has started

CEMETERY

- Staff continue with:
 - Customer sales and service
 - Casket and cremation interments

CEMETERY CAPITAL

- Nothing to report at this time

TRANSIT

Weekly Ridership:

| 2024 Monday-Friday | Ridership | Saturday ODT | 2023 Monday-Friday | Ridership | Saturday ODT |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| August 18-23 | 8,194 | 203 | August 20-25 | 7,486 | 232 |
| August 25-30 | 8,441 | 268 | Aug 27-Sept 1 | 8,857 | 208 |
| September 1-6 | 7,807 | 247 | September 3-8 | 6,822 | 222 |
| September 8-13 | 9,532 | 217 | Sept 10-15 | 9,549 | 201 |
| | | | | | |
| PC Connect | | | | | |
| August 2024 | 2352 | | August 2023 | 1831 | |

Table Transit Ridership Numbers

TRANSIT CAPITAL

- **Approved** Projects for 2024 (ICIP)
- Bus wash replacement (To be awarded)
- Bus Storage/Facility Upgrades (Project started, roof repaired, concrete floor installed)
- 40 ft. Hybrid Electric/Diesel Conventional Buses (2) (Expected delivery date Fall 2024)

PARALLEL TRANSIT

Weekly Ridership:

| Weekly 2024 | Ridership | Weekly 2023 | Ridership |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| August 18-23 | 376 | August 20-25 | 355 |
| August 25-30 | 380 | Aug 27-Sept 1 | 370 |
| September 1-6 | 325 | September 3-8 | 306 |
| September 8-13 | 443 | Sept 10-15 | 381 |

Table Parallel Transit Ridership Numbers

Pre-Pandemic ridership was typically 400 per week.

PROGRAMMING

- The facility rental team successfully hosted the 183rd Stratford Fall Fair on September 19-22
- The Open House, Wellness and Multicultural Fair held on September 7 was a huge success with over 30 exhibitors and presentations from the Alzheimer's Society and Ontario Caregivers Association. The survey from participants and exhibitors indicated their time was well spent and they gained knowledge.
- Through the New Horizon's Grant two new Try Tai Chi sessions are being offered on Sunday evenings out of the City Hall Auditorium starting September 29 at 6:15pm and 7:30pm. The sessions are 10 weeks long and both are at capacity with a waitlist.
- Staff continue to work on the logistics of the Mayor's Newcomer Breakfast, Bus Tour and Community Celebration event on October 5.
- Staff completed the AODA requirements to the city website for the Play Here section.
- Fall/Winter 55+SLAAA programs, 35+ programs, and Child and Youth programs have been planned and updated on the website with registration being open. SLAAA programs have 21 ongoing programs and 16+ special events, the 35+ programs have a new board gaming program available, and Child and Youth programs include PA Days, winter break and march break.

FACILITIES

- The William Allman Memorial Arena opened for the season on September 2nd for ice rentals and programming.
- The refrigeration ice plant system at the Dufferin Lions Arena was started on September 13th. Staff are currently installing the ice surface in advance of the facility opening for the season on September 23rd for ice rentals and programming.
- The Packham Sports Complex closed for the season on September 9th. Recreation Facility Operator staff have completed the seasonal shutdown of Packham and have now transitioned to the Dufferin Lions Arena.
- The Fall Fair is being hosted at the Rotary Complex and Agriplex from September 19th to 22nd. Following the Fall Fair, the Rotary Complex Rink B ice surface will be installed in advance of ice rentals and programming starting on Rink B on September 29th. The Agriplex Fieldhouse hardwood flooring will be re-installed with Fieldhouse programming starting on October 15th.

FACILITIES CAPITAL

- The LED lighting retrofit of the ice surface lighting at the Dufferin Lions Arena has been completed in advance of the startup of the ice season.
The LED lighting retrofit at City Hall, Stratford Library, and 47 Downie St. is ongoing and expected to be completed by late October.
- The installation of an accessible ramp and barrier-free entrance at the Administration of Justice Building capital project was awarded by Council to Uniqueco Building Restoration Inc. in the amount of \$162,607, including HST.