

What's opening next? Kawartha Lakes plans for playgrounds, gyms, arenas

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Now that the province has green-lighted Phase 3 re-openings, Kawartha Lakes is drawing up plans to ramp up its services.

The city is opening its playgrounds and gym, dialing back COVID-19 measures at splash pads and wants to see demand from the public to open all its arenas come the fall.

Playgrounds

While the city's 55 playgrounds will open at the end of this week (July 17), and pools at the Lindsay Recreation Complex will open July 20, other openings will be staggered into August and September.

Playgrounds have been roped off and stamped with COVID-19 warnings for the duration of the pandemic. Mayor Andy Letham said that signage is coming down and playgrounds are being inspected for opening this week.

Letham said playground play will be up to discretion of parents. The city won't be stationing anyone to enforce social distancing at parks nor cleaning them regularly.

Splash pads

Parents should also note that COVID-19 measures at city splash pads are loosening as of Aug. 4.

Letham said fencing meant to help enforce gathering restrictions is coming down and the city won't be shutting down splash pads every few hours for additional cleaning. That said, splash pads will still be kept up to non-pandemic public health standards.

Libraries

The rest of the city's libraries — except for Little Britain, Dalton, Dunsford and Coboconk — will be opening for curbside pickup as of July 20 as well. Letham said the library board is working to get some physical locations opening over the course of August.

Community centres and halls

Fenelon Falls, Emily/Omemee, Little Britain and Lindsay community centres with ice pads will be opening Aug. 4. The city will work with volunteer committees of other community halls to help them open with pandemic measures in the coming months.

Kawartha Lakes' state of emergency has been extended in line with the province until July 24. The Victoria Park Armoury remains on standby to support the hospital if needed until Sept. 1.

Lindsay Recreation Complex gym

Come Aug. 10, fitness classes will be back up and running at the Lindsay rec centre. Letham said members will have to wear masks for classes indoors as a part of the mandatory mask order from the local health unit.

Don't look for gym equipment to be open before September. The city is targeting opening the weights and cardio equipment at the rec centre Sept. 4, leaving extra time to map out COVID-19 protocols.

Ice pads and arenas

The city will be opening an ice pad at the Lindsay rec centre on Aug. 17 to meet demand for pre-season training, workouts and tryouts. Local leagues and user groups were asked to submit ice requests by July 8.

Letham said the city will review those requests for some ice pad decisions at its regular council meeting July 28. He said the city will look to open ice pads through September and October but, based on demand, could stagger openings or only open some arenas.

Bobcaygeon, Oakwood and Little Britain ice pads saw fewer requests than other arenas. Letham said the community would have to "step up" and get more bookings in for those arenas.