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# Sheet

December 9, 2002

## **Recreation programs for children not affected by proposed user fee increases**

The City has proposed a budget that maintains 2002 services and keeps any cost increase as low as possible in the face of significant budget pressures.

The City is working hard to maintain the same level of Toronto Parks and Recreation services and programs in 2003. An Environics poll indicates these programs and services enjoy a 92 per cent satisfaction rating.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the proposed user fee increases for Toronto Parks and Recreation programs and services is either none or minimal on families, youth, children and seniors.

Toronto Parks and Recreation operates and maintains 1,460 named parks, 833 playgrounds, 7,344 hectares of green space, and more than 90 kilometres of paved trails. These are all available for enjoyment and casual use for families and individuals and continue to remain free of charge.

Approximately 1.7 million individuals participated in pleasure swimming and 225,000 participated in leisure skating programs offered at the City's swimming pools and arenas in 2002. These opportunities will continue to be free of charge for children, youth and families.

There are approximately 433,000 registered participants in Parks and Recreation programs in 2002. These programs are offered at 140 community centres, 1,500 satellite locations in churches and schools, 121 ice surfaces and 298 aquatic facilities.

The majority of programs offered by Parks and Recreation are aimed at children and youth, ranging from 70 per cent during the school year to 88 per cent during the summer. Another 15 to 18 per cent of programs are offered for older adults. None of these programs will be affected by the proposed user fee change.

The rates proposed are below GTA standards and reflect the increased cost of service delivery; e.g. a fitness session will cost \$40.60 under the proposed fee increase. The average for GTA is \$48.30.

Individuals and families who cannot access recreation programs because of financial difficulties can use the Welcome Policy, which enables them to register for programs free of charge. In 2002, there are approximately 7,900 users of the Welcome Policy. For more information about the City's Welcome Policy go to [http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/welcome\\_policy.htm](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/welcome_policy.htm)

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There are 25 priority centres across the City where all programs are free of charge. Program information in the Toronto Fun Parks and Recreation Guide reflects the no fee requirement for these centres.

In the case of ferry rides, the increase to monthly passes were kept at a minimum so that the bulk of the increase affects casual travellers and tourists.

#### Proposed Parks and Recreation User Fee Increases

<b>Proposed User Fee Increase</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>New Rate</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Fitness fees per session	\$35.60	\$40.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 45,000 participants affected</li> <li>GTA average \$48.30</li> </ul>
Employee Rate for City Hall/Metro Hall Fitness Centres	\$234.00 per year	\$286.00 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affect 1,000 employees</li> <li>YMCA \$732</li> </ul>
Golf Fees	<i>Don Valley:</i> \$49	\$52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 230,000 rounds per year</li> <li>Rate varies from golf course to golf course</li> </ul>
Ice Rates	<i>Community Youth</i> \$103.00 per hour	\$108.00 per hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average Prime Time rate in GTA is \$235 per hour.</li> </ul>
Ferry Rates	<i>Adults</i> \$5 <i>Senior/Student</i> \$3.00 <i>Adult Pass</i> \$85.00 <i>Children</i> \$2.00	\$6 \$3.50 \$88.00 \$2.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 1.23 million riders per year</li> </ul>
Adult Fees for Recreation Programs	\$27.76 to \$44.48 per session	\$32.76 to \$49.48 per session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affect approximately 20,000 participants.</li> <li>Averages \$4.66 per hour. GTA average of \$5.16 per hour.</li> </ul>

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