



**Subject:** *HERH Safe Grad - Private Event Request*  
**To:** Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee  
**Date Prepared:** May 4, 2022  
**Related Motions:** N/A  
**Prepared by:** Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture  
**Approved by:** Kim Ramsay, CAO

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### Summary

This report brings forward the request from Hants Easts Rural High School (HERHS) to reduce the cost of a private rental of the East Hants Aquatic Centre (EHAC) for safe grad activities on June 29, 2022.

### Financial Impact Statement

The Hants East Rural High School has requested a reduced rate for use of the East Hants Aquatic Centre on June 29, 2022 for safe grad activities from 10:00pm - 12:00am, outside of the regular operating hours of the facility. The current rate for a private event at the EHAC is \$400.00/hour and the total cost for this event would be \$800.00. The operating cost, including facility and staff costs, is estimated at \$1000.00 due to the size of the event and number of patrons.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council that the Hants East Rural High School be permitted one-time use of the East Hants Aquatic Centre for safe grad activities on June 29, 2022 from 10:00pm - 12:00 am at a reduced cost as determined by Council and that any municipal financial support provided be recorded as a General Government Grant with recognition of Council's support displayed by the organizing committee.

And that other high schools in the municipality be permitted the same reduced rate or benefit as determined by Council if requested for similar safe grad activities for 2022.

### Recommended Motion

*Move that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council that the Hants East Rural High School be permitted one-time use of the East Hants Aquatic Centre for safe grad activities on June 29, 2022 from 10:00pm - 12:00 am at a reduced cost as determined by Council and that any municipal financial support provided be recorded as a General Government Grant with recognition of Council's support displayed by the organizing committee.*

*And that other high schools in the municipality be permitted the same reduced rate or benefit as determined by Council if requested for similar safe grad activities for 2022.*

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### Background

Prior to 2020, Hants East Rural High School had used the Milford Pool for safe grad activities and had covered the entire cost required at that time, approximately \$250.00 for the 2 hours.

In 2020, gift bags were made by parents for HERHS graduates that included free swim passes to the East Hants Aquatic Centre for each graduate. In order to remain equitable, these passes were also provided to graduates at Hants North Rural High School.

In 2021, HERHS rented the EHAC for safe grad activities and paid the private rental rate in full. Also in 2021, there was only one other private event held at the EHAC for an internal municipal event celebrating a former employee's retirement.

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## Discussion

The request from Hants Easts Rural High School was submitted to staff in early May 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic and increase in cases earlier in the year impacted the ability of the graduating class to fundraise and the decision to hold safe grad was made later in the school year than in previous years. The high school has used the Milford pool and the EHAC for safe grad in the past, paid the set private rate and would like to continue to use the EHAC for this type of activity annually.

The East Hants Sportsplex has also been approached by HERHS for safe grad activities and the East Hants Arena Association has offered to permit the use at no cost, as it has traditionally done in other years for the HERHS safe grad.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Supporting the request by HERHS to use the EHAC aligns with a strong sense of community by providing a fun activity in a safe facility.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration was given to internal grants that may be provided to cover the cost, but as per policy this request does not fit the criteria of the various Parks, Recreation and Culture grants.

The set rate for a private event during operating hours at the EHAC is \$400.00/hour and the total cost to rent for a private 2-hour event would be \$800.00. Staff requirements for this request outside of regular operating hours includes a number of Aquatics staff dependent on the number of participants, as well as Building Maintenance and Custodial staff.

The estimated operating costs for a 2-hour, private event for approximately 80-100 people is approximately \$1000.00.

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## Alternatives

1. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council that the Hants East Rural High School be permitted one-time use of the East Hants Aquatic Centre for safe grad activities on June 29, 2022 from 10:00pm - 12:00 am at a reduced cost as determined by Council and that any municipal financial support provided be recorded as a General Government Grant with recognition of Council's support displayed by the organizing committee.

And that other high schools in the municipality be permitted the same reduced rate or benefit as determined by Council if requested for similar safe grad activities for 2022.

2. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council that the Hants East Rural High School and any other high schools in the municipality not be required to pay a private rate and be permitted to use the facility free of charge.
3. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council that the Hants East Rural High School and any other high schools in the municipality be required to pay the full private rental rate for the East Hants Aquatic Centre.