



City of Brockville
Non-Resident Recreation Surcharge
Fact Sheet

The information contained in this fact sheet will hopefully answer a number of questions you may have related to the City of Brockville non-resident recreation surcharge.

Question: Why has the City implemented a non-resident user fee surcharge?

Answer: The City of Brockville operates a number of major recreation facilities including the Brockville Memorial Civic Centre, Centennial Youth Arena, Memorial Park soccer fields and a number of athletic fields. Fees charged to users of these facilities do not meet the total operating cost of providing this service, subsequently the department operates at an annual deficit. The City has documented that approximately 30% of the use within these facilities is by non-residents of Brockville. The net cost of providing recreation facilities to these non-residents is borne by the taxpayers of Brockville.

Since 1990, Elizabethtown Council has recognized that traditionally township residents utilize the City's recreation facilities and has been paying for services since that time. Their annual contribution is approximately \$26,000. To date discussions with other neighbouring municipalities primarily the Township of Front of Yonge and Augusta Township have proven unsuccessful. These municipalities have been advised that if an agreement fairly allocating these costs could not be agreed upon that the City would implement a supplementary charge to their residents for use of the City's recreation facilities.

Question: Who does this non-resident surcharge apply to?

Answer: The non-resident surcharge applies to participants at the City's recreation facilities who are not residents or taxpayers in the City of Brockville, Elizabethtown/Kitley Township and/or Edwardsburgh-Cardinal.

Question: How much is the surcharge?

Answer: Families of non-participating municipalities will be charged an annual fee of \$156 plus HST per family for the use of the City's recreation facilities, programs and services (as directed by the Finance Administration Committee 2018). This fee equates to the *per household cost* of these services to Brockville residents.

Question: What does the non resident fee cover?

Answer: The per annum surcharge entitles a family to use of the City's recreation facilities for a twelve month period. A household may consist of one single person or a family with one or more children. The fee will be collected only once yearly, the first time a member of the household registers for a program in that year. For subsequent registrations within that twelve month period, household members will simply show proof of payment.

Question: What facilities and services does the user fee apply to?

Answer: The surcharge will apply to all non-residents registered or participating in an organization that rents or uses the City's major municipal sport/recreation facilities including:

Brockville Memorial Civic Centre
Centennial Youth Arena
Memorial Park Soccer Fields
Athletic Fields ie: Kinsmen fields, Goldie Christopher, Kelly Park,
Brackinreid Park, Gainford Park and Fulford Park.

Question: What activities at these facilities will not be affected by this user fee?

Answer: No surcharge will apply to those organizations presently paying the adult ice rental rate at the City's arena facilities as this rate is not subsidized by the taxpayers of Brockville. Similarly, no surcharge will apply to public skating activities as this program is not subsidized. At the City's arena facilities, rental of the arena floor or community hall for special event activities ie: dances, weddings, bingos, circuses, trade shows, etc. will not be affected by this fee. It is impossible to monitor non-resident use at such events.

All organizations prepared to pay the predetermined non subsidized rental rate for their activities may also be exempt from the application of the non-resident user surcharge.

Question: How will the surcharge be collected?

Answer: The City of Brockville will normally collect the fee. It may be paid at the following City facilities:

- ✓ Gord Watts Municipal Centre on North Augusta Road
- ✓ Brockville Memorial Civic Centre on Magedoma Drive
- ✓ City of Brockville Revenue Office, City Hall, King Street

It is estimated there are approximately 45 - 50 various sport and recreation organizations with registered participants who regularly use the City's facilities. The City is requesting these organizations to cooperate in the implementation of this non-resident surcharge.

We are not asking that the organization collect the money, simply that they not accept registrations from any individual who is a non-resident of Brockville or Elizabethtown/Kitley without them first showing a receipt from the City of Brockville that their non-resident surcharge has been paid. We would ask that they advise those individuals of the surcharge and direct them to one of the above noted facilities. Those non-residents who have paid the surcharge will be issued a receipt identifying that they have paid in full. To facilitate your registration process, the department is more than willing to set up a table during your registration and collect the fee at that time. If on-line registrations are accepted, the City will not attend registrations for these organizations.

Question: What obligations do organizations have?

Answer: All organizations participating in subsidized activities at the facilities noted above will be required to submit a list of their registered participants complete with their township of residency prior to their bookings being confirmed. Organizations unwilling to submit a participant list will be charged the non-subsidized rate for their activity.

Organizations have an obligation to ensure that they do not knowingly register individuals to their program who are subject to this non-resident surcharge that have not shown proof of payment. A \$50 administration fee may be charged to organizations if the City determines that unpaid non-residents are knowingly participating in an organization's activities.

Repeat offences may result in cancellation of future bookings.

Question: How long will this surcharge be in effect?

Answer: One of the primary purposes of implementing a non-resident user surcharge to be collected directly from participants is to motivate their representative Councils to negotiate an agreement with the City of Brockville. Such an agreement alleviates the necessity for a non-resident surcharge. It is anticipated this fee will stay in effect until an agreement can be reached with the two primary non-participating adjacent municipalities ie: Front of Yonge and Augusta Townships. Groups and organizations are asked to encourage their non-residents to go back to their Councils and request them to negotiate an agreement with the City of Brockville for the use of our municipal recreation facilities.

Question: Where can I obtain further information regarding the recreation surcharge?

Answer: Individuals requesting information on the implementation and collection process for the surcharge should direct their enquiries to the Operations Department at 342-8772, ext. 3266.

Non-residents with concerns about the cost of the recreation surcharge should address their complaints to their respective Councils.