



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-212

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Sheila Kidd, Director of Transportation Services
Jeremy DaCosta, Transit Manager

DATE OF MEETING: June 19, 2012

SUBJECT: 2013 Scotties Tournament of Hearts National Women's Championship (February 16 – 24, 2013)
Request for Complimentary Transit Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2013 Scotties Tournament of Hearts National Women's Championship (the "Scotties") curling event will be held in the City of Kingston from February 16 – 24, 2013.

Kingston Transit staff received a request from the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) on behalf of the local 2013 Scotties organizing committee, requesting that spectators and volunteers be permitted to use Kingston Transit's regular fixed-route service at no charge for the duration of the event. The current Kingston Transit fare policy does not address this type of request therefore Council approval is required. Staff has reviewed the request and recommends that the request be granted.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT spectators with a valid same-day 2013 Scotties Tournament of Hearts event ticket, and volunteers with valid credentials, be permitted to use Kingston Transit's fixed-route service at no charge for the period of February 16 – 24, 2013; and

THAT Kingston Transit staff collect ridership information for future fare policy development.

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AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER _____ Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER _____ Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability & Growth</i>	N/R
Lanie Hurdle, <i>Community Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

The 2013 Scotties Tournament of Hearts curling event will be held in the City of Kingston from February 16 – 24, 2013. The event is expected to attract 3000 out-of-town spectators.

The curling draws will be held at the K-Rock Centre. The draw schedule for Kingston has not been finalized at this point however, based on past events in other communities, a majority of the draws will take place during weekday peak hours when demand for parking is at its highest.

Kingston Transit staff received a request from the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) on behalf of the local 2013 Scotties organizing committee, requesting that spectators and volunteers be permitted to use Kingston Transit’s regular fixed-route service at no charge for the duration of the event. The organizing committee will promote the use of public transit in an effort to reduce automobile usage and reduce demand for parking.

Staff recommends that the request be approved. This request will not require any additional resources to fulfill. Any spectators or volunteers that choose to use public transit can be served by the existing transit service at no additional cost. To use Kingston Transit at no charge, a spectator will be required to show their same-day game ticket to a bus operator at the time of boarding. Volunteers will be required to show their Scotties volunteer credentials.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

The current Kingston Transit fare policy does not address this type of request therefore Council approval is required.

In December 2011, Kingston Transit provided free transit to anyone attending the BDO Canadian Open curling event. A total of 141 free rides were provided during the event. The majority of rides occurred between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. suggesting that transit assisted in reducing the number of vehicles traveling and parking during peak hours.

Staff will collect ridership information to assist in future fare policy development.

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Approval of this request will not result in any additional costs.

CONTACTS:

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OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Rob Carnegie, Director of Tourism Marketing & Development, KEDCO

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A