



January 15, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN REOPENS OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS, TOBOGGAN HILLS FOR 2-WEEK TRIAL PERIOD

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – On January 13, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville closed all Town operated outdoor skating and community rinks in response to the State of Emergency and Stay-At-Home Order issued by the Provincial government. The closures were done in an effort to maintain Whitchurch-Stouffville as a safe and healthy community during these pandemic times.

On January 14, the Provincial government clarified its position regarding outdoor recreational amenities. As a result of these clarifications, effective immediately, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will open Greenwood Park outdoor rink (weather permitting) and monitor Memorial Park & Rupert Park hills, with Municipal Bylaw officers enforcing strict safety measures.

Outdoor Skating in Whitchurch-Stouffville

New measures for outdoor skating at community rinks:

- Follow the rules posted at outdoor rink locations
- All skaters **MUST** wear a mask while waiting and while skating on the ice
- All skaters **MUST** always maintain at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart from others outside of their household
- Capacity limits remain at 25 people per surface, keeping in mind distancing requirements.

Tobogganing in Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville does not have any designated hills for tobogganing and does not maintain any areas for winter activities. Please use outdoor areas at your own risk and follow these guidelines:

- Check the hill. Make sure it is free of hazards (trees, rocks, fences, bumps)
- Avoid ice-covered areas
- Make sure there is room at the bottom of the hill to stop – away from roads, or bodies of water or other obstructions
- Use proper sliding equipment and wear a helmet (ski helmets are recommended)
- Make sure your route is clear before sliding
- All children should be supervised by an adult
- Only toboggan with members of the same household
- Maintain 6 feet (2 meters) at all times from others
- **Users, adults and/or guardians MUST wear a mask when tobogganing**

Whitchurch-Stouffville’s Municipal Bylaw officers will be patrolling all parks to enforce safety protocols and to ensure residents practice safe physical distancing at all times. The Town will rely on residents abiding by the protocols over the 2-week trial period. After the 2-week trial, the Town will announce any changes to safety protocols, extensions or termination of use. Compliance of the posted safety protocols is mandatory and non-negotiable. Your cooperation is appreciated.

As a recommended alternative, Town trails, parks and playgrounds are open, weather permitting, and residents are encouraged to use them while following all health and safety measures as outlined by the Province. Residents are reminded to wear a face mask or covering when in enclosed public spaces or when physical distancing of at least 6 feet (2 meters) is not possible (indoor and outdoor) and wash your hands frequently.

About the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is one of the jewels of the GTA, located just north of Toronto on Highway 404. We are a community rich in heritage and character and we are committed to offering our residents and businesses ‘Country Close to the City’.

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