



INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: November 14, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **City of West Kelowna Holiday Events 2023**

Report Prepared by: Kevin Bouchier, Recreation & Culture Supervisor

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Strengthen Our Community – We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.

BACKGROUND

Every December, the City of West Kelowna provides winter holiday events and activities for children, youth, and families in the community. The purpose of this report is to provide a breakdown of what is scheduled for the 2023 winter holiday season.

Listed below are some of the activities the community can anticipate this year.

Light Up

The 2023 holiday season marks the 8th year for the Light Up event on Brown Road. This year's event, which will be held on December 1st from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, includes a variety of fun family friendly activities including:

- Holiday Craft Show at Lions Hall, (New for 2023),
- Children's Arts & Craft Stations,
- Food & Beverage Vendors,
- Live Music Performances,
- Santa and the Mayor procession along Brown Road
- Festive Fireworks in the Westbank Centre

Polar Pancake Pajama Party

In 2022 staff added the Polar Pancake Pajama Party to the holiday event schedule. The City is again partnering with the Westbank Lions Club to host the event which includes a family pancake breakfast, photo booth, and craft stations. The event will be hosted at the Westbank Lions Community Centre on Sunday December 3rd from 9:00 am – 11:00 am for children under 12 years and their family. Tickets are on sale now.

Twinkle Tour

The “Twinkle Tour” event is back for a 3rd year. The event provides the opportunity for people to take a self-guided tour of holiday light decor at various, neighborhood, business, and public space locations, on the Greater Westside. The community can also take part in the Twinkle Tour competition under the categories of “Most Beautiful”:

- Home
- Business
- Street/Cul de Sac
- Other Spaces or Properties

Twinkle Tour Competition details include:

- Submissions entered between December 1st and 11th
- Judging on December 15th
- Winners announced December 19th

Participants can register their property or nominate a neighbour’s property through the Twinkle Tour web page on the City website.

Recreation Programs During the Holiday Season

In addition to the events on the December 1st to 3rd weekend, the City is offering drop-in recreation programming for the community to enjoy throughout December at the Multi-Sport Dome and Mt. Boucherie Community Centre including:

- Stick & Puck
- Public Skating
- Dome Play Days for children

Details for all programs and holiday events are available on the City of West Kelowna website and in the Fall and Winter 2023 Recreation Guides.

Ho Ho Holiday Program

To promote City and other holiday events and activities taking place in our community, staff will be launching the annual Ho Ho Holidays campaign through Visit Westside. The program focuses on promoting various community holiday activities taking place on the Greater Westside. The campaign is primarily carried out on social media and runs from mid-November into the month of December.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resources for City of West Kelowna holiday programs and events are accounted for in the 2023 Recreation and Culture annual operating budget.

REVIEWED BY

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer
Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No