



REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Eugene Todd, Director
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Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture
SUBJECT: True Sport Community Declaration
DATE: Sept 1, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts a resolution declaring The Municipality of Port Hope as a True Sport community;

BACKGROUND:

The TRUE SPORT movement saw its beginning in August 2001 in a meeting of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Sport Ministers in which the “Expectations for Fairness in Sport” were declared.

“Whereas sport enriches the lives of Canadians in a multitude of ways: in their roles as participants, spectators, coaches and volunteers;

And whereas, sport offers opportunities for the personal, moral and value-centred development of children and young people;

And whereas, ethically-bases and safe sport promote an active lifestyle, self-esteem, healthy bodies, lifelong learning and strong team spirit;

And whereas, sport is an arena for the development and realization of human excellence:

And whereas, sport helps to build a civil society by forging healthy and cooperative communities;

Now therefore, the Canadian Ministers of Sport, meeting at their 2001 Conference, August 10, 2001 in London Ontario, in conjunction with the 18th Canada Summer Games, agree to place new emphasis on reinforcing ethical principles as applicable to Canadian sport:

- *Sport is history*
- *Sport is for character*
- *Sport is experience*
- *Sport is for health*
- *Sport is for fun*
- *Sport is for excellence*
- *Sport is for community”*

A Canadian Strategy for Ethical Conduct in Sport was developed from this meeting. This became the basis for an Action Plan that was developed in 2002 and updated in 2003

The Canadian Strategy for Ethical Conduct in Sport became a national initiative that focused its attention on the wide array of ethical issues that are reflected in sport. This strategy finds its home within the Ottawa based Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport as the TRUE SPORT Secretariat.

The TRUE SPORT movement's goal is to make sport one of Canada's most valued public assets and in the process, contribute immeasurably to the social fabric of Canadian society.

Research by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport confirms that, second only to the family, community sport is the most important influencing factor on values development in children. Community-based sport also plays a unique role in shaping Canadian citizenship and identity. There is perhaps no other sphere of community life where values are made so central and so explicit.

The following values apply across all levels of sport – individuals, teams, schools, leagues, associations, communities and even cities/towns.

Inclusion – TRUE SPORT ensures inclusion by increasing accessibility and opportunities for participation in sport, while providing a welcoming, culturally diverse sport community.

Fairness – TRUE SPORT embraces fairness by promoting fair and ethical sport programs which translate into a positive sport experience for participants. Values such as respect, fair play and a love of the game are ingrained in the philosophy and implemented in community activities.

Excellence – TRUE SPORT encourages sporting excellence and demonstrates high levels of participation in sport and physical activity. For example, a True Sport community boasts a number of aspiring and elite athletes, commits to hosting sporting events, and fosters a healthy number of sport clubs and recreation centres.

Fun – TRUE SPORT embraces the concept of FUN by ensuring that programs and services provide activities that focus not only on skills and competition, but also on the social aspect of participating in sport.

Essentially a TRUE SPORT community is one where...

- Everybody gets to play.
- Sport and recreation are highly valued.
- Sport volunteers are recognized and celebrated.
- Programs and services are grounded on the values of excellence, inclusion, fairness and fun.
- Facilities and public play spaces are safe and welcoming.
- Sport is viewed as an important contributor to the health and personal development of youth.

- There are opportunities which support both participation and the pursuit of excellence.
- Sport connects people; neighbours become friends

The Municipality of Port Hope, through its community partners and local sport organizations, already conducts themselves in a manner that they deliver their programs to children-adults in a fair, inclusive and fun manner, all in the pursuit of excellence, and now as a whole they can be recognized as leaders for their efforts.

The Municipality of Port Hope by declaring itself as a True Sport Community, will embrace the True Sport Principles for Communities. This means that the community will:

Recognize Sport as a Valuable Community Asset

Help sport live up to its full potential. Enable it to contribute to the well-being of the entire community.

Champion Ethical Conduct

Commit to fair play. Make respect for the rules, officials, coaches and players a priority- on the field and on the sidelines.

Promote Inclusion

Remove barriers. Encourage participation. Make it possible for everyone to get involved and stay involved.

Strengthen Connections

Create opportunities for people to get together through sport. Make newcomers feel welcome. Promote friendship, trust, cooperation and respect.

Support Excellence

Teams and athletes carry the hearts and hopes of the community wherever they compete. Help them be the best they can be.

Foster Healthy, Active Lifestyles

Inspire people to get active and stay active. Offer a variety of sport opportunities-both structured and unstructured-that are inviting, enjoyable and rewarding for all.

Create Safe and Welcoming Environments

Develop, protect and nurture places and spaces that are hospitable and conducive to the safe enjoyment of sport.

Celebrate Contribution

Recognize and honour the people- coaches, organizers, officials and volunteers – whose contribution makes sport possible and positive in the community.

By agreeing to adhere to these Principles they will demonstrate leadership in bringing True Sport to life, and encourage all of the user groups and local sport organizations to incorporate the Principles for Sport into their philosophies.

These Principles include:

Go For It

Always rise to the challenge. Discover how good you can be.

Play Fair

Play honestly and obey the rules. Winning is only real when the competition is fair.

Respect Others

Respect team mates, competitors and officials both on and off the field. Win with dignity and lose with grace.

Keep It Fun

Have a good time. Keep a positive attitude and contribute to a positive atmosphere.

Stay Healthy

Respect your body. Stay in shape. Avoid unsafe activities.

Give Back

Do something that helps your community.

True Sport will provide to the Municipality of Port Hope, at no cost through an OTF program, a Community Animator who will begin to work with individual organizations as they adopt these Principles for Sport and support the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture as it advocates the Principles for the Community with organizations, schools, clubs, teams, facilities and individuals.

CONCLUSION

Research indicates that over 90 percent of Canadians agree that sport can and should make a positive contribution to the development of youth and the quality of life in a community. However, less than 20 percent believe that sport is actually achieving this potential. The Municipality of Port Hope, through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture already embraces the philosophies incorporated into the True Sport Principles for Communities when delivering services and working with community partners. Declaring the Municipality of Port Hope as a True Sport Community will encourage everyone to get involved with enabling sport to better achieve it's potential, and reflects the Growth and Sustainability and Unity Goal Areas of the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Original Signed by:

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