

Department 41 – Recreation Supported Festivals

Overview

This Department is used to track revenues and expenses for various Township Festivals and Events that are coordinated by volunteer committees including; Polarfest, Jazz Festival, Shamrock Festival and Tractor-Pull. These events are supported through the Parks and Recreation Department. The 2026 events:

- PolarFest – **January 30 – February 1, 2026**
- Jazz and Art Festival – **July 11, 2026**
- Shamrock Festival and Truck and Tractor-Pull – **July 17 – 19, 2026**



Revenue

The revenue for this department is generated through event user fees, donations, sponsorships and related event proceeds. There is a transfer from taxation to off-set the costs of staff assistance with site preparation and take-down and “day-of” support.

The transfers from reserve represent any surpluses brought forward from prior year’s events and are available as seed money for the current year’s event.

Expenditures

The various organizing committees establish budgets to manage their respective events. Each year the committees attempt to budget for a small surplus, which will be carried forward to the following year within the respective reserve.

Activity Update – Beyond the Budget Dollars and Cents

The 2025 events were successful and extremely well attended. There have been a few new members on each organizing committee in the past few years which has really brought in new energy and ideas. The Lakefield Jazz and Arts Festival had good attendance numbers. The Shamrock Festival and Truck and Tractor-Pull increased attendance again over the 2024 numbers. Each festival continued to provide tourism and financial boosts to the Township.

The Township will continue to support the Committees with event promotion. Each Festival has its own website which can be accessed through the main Township site. The Parks & Recreation and Clerk’s Departments maintain these websites and the social media platforms to ensure information is current and up to date. Parks & Recreation staff will continue to work with each of the Festival Committees for planning, promotion, site preparation and “day-of” support. Recruitment for new committee members is ongoing to ensure the committees’ continued existence and to get new ideas.



