



## The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**Prepared By:** Karen Loney, Manager of Recreation Programs and Special Events

**Department:** - Programs and Special Events

**Date of Meeting:** February 9, 2026

**Subject:** 2026 Kingsville Led Event Plan

---

### Recommended Action

That Council **endorses** the 2026 Kingsville Led Event Plan;

And that the road closures of King St. (from Chestnut St to Division St N), Chestnut St (from King St. to Main St.), and Walnut St. (from Chestnut St. to the north exit of the library-adjacent municipal parking lot) for the Kingsville Block Party **be approved** on the following dates and times:

- Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm; and
- Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm;

And that the road closures of King St. (from Chestnut St to Division St N), Chestnut St (from King St. to Main St.), and Walnut St. (from Chestnut St. to the north exit of the library-adjacent municipal parking lot) for the proposed Busker Festival **be approved** on the following dates and times:

- Friday, September 11, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 10:30 pm; and
- Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm;

And that Administration **be directed** to request County Council to close County Road 34 West from Victoria Street to Country Road 27 from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm, to host the Block Party in Cottam on Saturday, June 20, 2026.

### Background

Kingsville has long recognized the positive impact of festivals and special events on the community. Events provide diverse and affordable programming, attract visitors, contribute to the local economy and support community belonging.

The Town supports festivals and events in two primary ways:

#### 1. Advisory Committees of Council

These are Town-led events managed by staff with guidance from a Council advisory committee. Examples include *Fantasy of Lights* and *Migration Festival*.

## 2. Department Initiatives

These events are led by Town staff and include the *Easter Egg Hunt*, *Canada Day Celebration*, *Kingsville Block Parties*, *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* and others.

Many Town departments contribute to the successful delivery of events, including support for road closures, preparation of parks and facilities, contract review, risk mitigation, communications and marketing, and tourism alignment. As a result, a significant amount of staff time is dedicated to successful event delivery.

Currently, the delivery of Town led events is supported by one full-time **Community Events Coordinator**. Additional support is provided, as time allows, by the Manager of Recreation Programming and Special Events, the Recreation Program Coordinator and part-time staff. In 2025, volunteers contributed more than 1,500 hours to Town events. While volunteer support is invaluable and greatly appreciated, it requires ongoing staff time for recruitment, training, and coordination.

In addition to events led by the Town of Kingsville, many community groups and businesses host events. Organizers of Kingsville events are encouraged to submit details on the [Community Calendar](#) to inform the public and help people coordinate timing of events to reduce duplication.

## Discussion

The following Town led events are proposed for the 2026 calendar year:

- Open Mic Nights - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (excluding July/August)
- Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 4
- Volunteer Appreciation – Wednesday, April 22
- Kingsville Block Party (Cottam Centre) – Saturday, June 20
- Canada Day Celebration – Wednesday, July 1
  - Fireworks Rain Date – Friday, July 3
- Live at the Lighthouse – Thursday evenings July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup>
- Kingsville Block Party (Kingsville Centre) – Saturday, July 18
- Kingsville Block Party (Kingsville Centre) – Saturday, August 15
- Busker Festival – Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Mayor’s Golf Tournament – Thursday, September 24
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Wednesday, September 30
- Migration Festival:
  - Thursday, October 15 – Great Migration Paint Out begins
  - Friday, October 16 – Great Migration Kick-Off
  - Saturday, October 17 – Parade, Market, Quick-Paint
  - Sunday, October 18 – Art Show and Sale

- Fantasy of Lights:
  - Parade and Flip the Switch – Saturday, November 21
  - Kingsville Express Evenings – Selected dates November 27 – December 20
  - Paws and Claus – Tuesday, December 1
  - Market – Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6
  - Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 12
  - New Year’s Eve Celebration – Thursday, December 31
    - Fireworks Rain Date – Friday, January 8

As part of a commitment to continuous improvement, events are regularly reviewed based on community impact, staff and volunteer resources, and changing organizational priorities.

### Movies in the Park

In 2025, a community vote was held to select four movies to be shown during the summer. Two movies were hosted in Cottam and two in Kingsville. Each event required two staff members working approximately an eight-hour shift, often ending late in the evening, with support from one to two volunteers. Licensing fees ranged from \$400 to \$600 per movie.

Attendance was consistently low, with the highest attendance being approximately 30 people. Several events were cancelled due to weather, and two rescheduled movies had no attendance. Based on attendance, staffing requirements, and costs, this program did not demonstrate a sufficient return on investment or level of community participation. As a result, *Movies in the Park* is not proposed to continue for 2026.

### September Busker Festival

Since its introduction, the September Block Party has consistently experienced the lowest attendance and vendor participation of all Block Party events. Staffing this event is also challenging as the summer student employees have returned to school. Some attendees have also noted that, by the fourth Block Party of the season, the event feels somewhat repetitive.

Based on these factors, Administration is recommending to replace the September Block Party with a new and unique event that is fully family focused.

A third-party event coordinator, **Kobblestone Productions**, has expressed interest in hosting a busker-style festival in the same footprint as the Block Parties during the following times:

- Friday, September 11, 2026, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm
- Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

Kobblestone Productions specializes in producing busker festivals across Canada and is led by experienced performers and event professionals. Busker festivals feature world-renowned street and circus performers who present shows in downtown settings, drawing crowds and encouraging interaction with local businesses. Performances typically conclude with a voluntary audience contribution, known as 'passing the hat'.

In 2024, Kobblestone Productions delivered festivals in Cobourg, Belleville, St. Catharines, and Chatham, with further expansion in 2025 to Charlottetown, and Gravenhurst. Kobblestone Productions operates through sponsorship and in-kind municipal support.

Should Council approve the concept of a Busker Festival, Kobblestone Productions would be required to participate in the Town's Special Event Review Team (SERT) process to ensure compliance with provincial legislation, municipal policies, health and safety requirements, insurance, and to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of the Town and event stakeholders.

### **Financial Considerations**

The cost of hosting the above noted events is within the approved 2026 Programs and Events Operating Budget, however, it is well recognized that the scope and quality of these events would not be possible without the sponsorships, donations and hundreds of volunteer hours provided by our community.

### **Environmental Considerations**

All events strive to abide by the single use plastic direction.

### **Consultations**

- Community Events Coordinator
- Supervisor of Communications, Marketing and Tourism
- Business Relations Officer
- Manager of Public Works and Water/Wastewater
- Supervisor of Parks and Properties
- SMT

### **Prepared By:**



Karen Loney, MA  
Manager of Recreation Programs and Special Events

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2026 Kingsville Led Event Plan.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	January 29, 2026

This document and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Ryan McLeod, Director of Finance and Corporate Services/Treasurer



John Norton, Chief Administrative Officer