



ISSUE PAPER

Parks & Recreation

Budget Year: 2026

Issue Paper No.: REC-04-26

Description: Issue Paper – Keeler Centre Generator

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive budget issue paper REC-04-26 for information.

Purpose: To continue to save for the purchase of a generator at the Keeler Centre.

Background:

The Keeler Centre is Cramahe Townships only facility large enough to accommodate a large group of people in an emergency. An example of this was displayed in December 2022 when the 401 highway was closed due to a major snowstorm and over 500 people were accommodated for a 48-hour period. If the power had gone out at the Keeler Centre, none of this would have been possible as the facility does not have a generator.

In 2023 a budget pricing of \$223,000 was received to install a 600 amp / 600-volt transfer switch and a 250-kilowatt diesel generator with a 48-hour tank. This would power up the entire facility.

Although there is natural gas coming into the facility, the current gas line would be too small. This solution avoids the high cost of changing the size of the gas line.

The installation of back-up power would make the Keeler Centre a guaranteed emergency shelter and a consistent warming and cooling station for extreme weather events year-round. The risk of losing the ice surface during prolonged power outages would also be eliminated.

Staff have applied for grants for this generator have not been successful.

A 4-year plan was created in 2023 for the purchase of a generator in 2026.

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\$60,000 was secured during each of the 2023, 2024, and 2025 budgets.

Consultations/Options:

Continue to save for the purchase of a generator in 2026 and staff continue to apply for grant opportunities as they arise.

Financial Impact:

Recommended 2026 transfer to reserve: \$60,000.

Recommended Source of Funding:

Taxation.

Risk Considerations:

Lack of Emergency Accommodation

- The Keeler Centre has been used in the past for emergencies but only because the power stayed on.

Event Disruption or Cancellation

- A brief power outage can force immediate stoppage of a game or full evacuation.
- A power outage lasting a few days would result in the loss of the ice surface. Ice begins to soften within minutes and deteriorates quickly depending on ambient conditions.

Safety Risks for Players, Staff, and Spectators

- HVAC / ventilation shutdown. Loss of ventilation can rapidly lead to poor air quality, especially if gas-powered equipment (e.g., ice resurfaces) has recently operated.
- Loss of overhead lighting makes movement hazardous, especially for players wearing skates.

Impact on Member Municipalities/Partners:

None.


Alignment with the Strategic Plan Pillar:

Growth Through Diversity

Ensuring that infrastructure assets meet the emerging needs of our growing community

Environmental Resilience

Invest in environmentally conscious infrastructure and municipal building efficiencies

Submitted by: 
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