

Communiqué — June 10, 2020

Plans are afoot to accelerate the reintegration of services at your Seniors Centre! At our June Directors meeting, a plan was ratified that sees Pickleball recommence June 15, and other activities in the auditorium to re-start soon thereafter. All re-starting will be dependent on adherence to physical distancing guidelines and other risk mitigation measures that will result in smaller groups enjoying activities in larger spaces. Focus groups are filling in specifics to the general guidelines necessary to meet the needs of our vulnerable members.

Currently, we are very happy that Emily is successfully making and selling her delicious frozen entrées, as well as hot soup and sandwiches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Emily has been able to undertake this level of service without the need for volunteers and the various measures that introducing additional people into the kitchen would require. This service will continue, but will be repositioned to operate out of the side window of the kitchen — giving the new pickleball schedule greater latitude in the auditorium.

On the financial side, the pandemic has reduced our revenue stream to near zero. Many of our expenses, however, have continued unabated. Fortunately, prudent actions by your board (current and previous) have built a contingency fund that gives us the ability to re-start, taking into account the higher costs of operating and the lower participation levels anticipated moving forward. An unfortunate side effect, however, is that we must defer until a later date making a lump sum payment on the mortgage.

Opening the office and activities in other rooms (Farish room, Craft room, Dining room, Lounge) all present unique challenges. As we operate in the “new normal”, you will see changes in how we deliver services. We are unable to operate a communal drinking water and coffee facility and newspapers will no longer be available in the lounge. We intend to continue to operate the centre, including the kitchen, throughout the summer. Currently, the timeline calls for the dining room to re-open in mid-July. The consensus is that many people will not be traveling this summer, and by operating the kitchen, with the possible addition of hot entrées, we will provide a much-needed service to the membership.

A new booking and payment system is being developed to reduce volunteer exposure to cash and to streamline service delivery. Watch for news about this in future communiqués.