

## The summer that wasn't ? no sports this year

Forget about outdoor exercise this summer.

You might want to stock up on video games and figure out how your kids are going to fit into their undersized clothing from all that weight gain when it's time to go back to school.

The Town of New Tecumseth is extending the ban on local sports parks through to September 7.

?As we continue to work together as a community to stay apart and do our part to fight COVID-19, all the decisions we make have the safety of our staff and our residents at the forefront,? said New Tecumseth Mayor Rick Milne in a statement. ?We must follow the direction of the province and top health officials in determining what the next few weeks and months look like for our community as well.?

Following guidance and directives from the Province and local health officials, the Town is further extending facility closures in the Town of New Tecumseth.

The closures extend to all recreation centres, arenas, and all outdoor sporting venues.

That includes sports fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts, as well as the field house at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre and local gyms.

Skate parks are also on the list of closed activities.

Bookings for these locations will not be available until the September 7 date.

Since every local sports league relies on some kind of public venue to compete, that means spring and summer sports leagues won't be running this year.

Summer football, lacrosse, baseball, soccer, ball hockey and slo-pitch leagues will have no place to play.

This includes recreational leagues.

Also on the list are local basketball organizations, and other gym sports like volleyball and indoor soccer.

The cancellations mean teams will not be able to practice.

The good news for some people is golf courses have been given the go ahead to start getting their courses ready to play. However, there is no indication when they might be allowed to actually open for business.

If you consider walking a sport, local trails and other green spaces will be open providing you follow safe distancing practices.

The kids can still hone their sporting skills on their own and most leagues are encouraging athletes to keep their skills and physical conditioning in check over the summer months.

**By Brian Lockhart**