



## **Skate Park Closed for the Season Due to Vandalism and Violations of COVID-19 Restrictions**

*(September 29, 2020 – Ponoka, Alberta)* – Hamilton’s Skate Park has been closed for the remainder of the season following numerous complaints from the public about violations of COVID-19 gathering restrictions, and to allow Town Operations crews time to repair extensive damage that has been done to the site.

The repairs that will be done include:

- Removing graffiti and profanity spray painted throughout the facility;
- Repairing fencing that has been damaged by individuals trying to gain access to the locked facility after hours;
- Filling holes that have been dug around the outer edges of the Skate Park;
- Replacing damaged and stolen signage; and
- Replacing damaged garbage receptacles.

“There has been a general lack of respect for the site by facility users,” said Andrew Jones, Town of Ponoka Recreation Coordinator. “Warnings have been given throughout the summer but that didn’t resolve the ongoing problems,” he said.

Once repairs to the facility are completed, the Town will reassess how to best manage the operation of the Skate Park before it reopens next year. “If we see similar behavior next year, we will have to consider closing the facility again,” said Jones, noting the Town will continue to work with the Ponoka RCMP and the Town’s Bylaw Enforcement Officer to monitor the site.

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