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**Comments received from: Scott McLean**

Mr. Rosen, Mrs. Pater, and Mr. Patterson,

I am writing to voice my opinions on the recommendations of the committee looking into the new Arena proposal for the City. I am a Queen's Student, and avid hockey player, and a coach with the Church League. I have coached in Kingston for 5 years, starting with the Fort Henry Heights organization, coaching for 2 years; I spent a year with the Greater Kingston Predators, and finally, ended up with the St. John's Anglican organization in the Church League. Interestingly enough, the issue came up last night at practice, as a number of parents asked my opinion on the recommendations. Most parents were of the opinion that Harold Harvey should not and will not close, but I think that many of them will not voice that opinion to the City. The players in the Church League are unique in the City, in my opinion. My coaching and playing experiences started in Cape Breton, NS, and I have played at a national and international level with the RMC Paladins. I have played competitive hockey all of my life, and one thing that separates the kids at Harold Harvey from most is their spirit. These kids play for fun, they don't care if they win or lose. They feel a great sense of ownership over the arena; they clean up after themselves in the dressing room, and are proud to have an arena to call "Home Ice." At no other arena in Kingston do these kids feel at home. While centralizing operations out of one or two facilities may be an attractive venture, closing a facility that has a history like Harold Harvey for this venture should be examined long and hard. Not only do the players at Harold Harvey benefit, but so do the students of Queen's University. Harold Harvey is in close proximity with Queen's West Campus, and this provides an excellent opportunity for Queen's Students who wish to get involved with coaching, and allows them to get to and from the arena easily. It is not an easy task for a student to get out to the Memorial Centre, Catarqui Arena, or Centre 70 in order to coach a team, let alone in the Kingston winter. These kids should be rewarded for their dedication. The Harold Harvey Arena embodies the spirit of the Church Athletic League. Its policies and mandates are unique. It is one of the only arenas in Kingston that actually turns a profit. Closing it does not make sense. I believe that the past and present players, organizers, coaches, and parents who have been involved in the CAL would share my opinion. I invite you to share these thoughts with Council, and with any other concerned members of the community. Thank You for your time!--

**Comments received from: Nancy Churchman**

I am happy that actions are being taken to provide Kingston with a new arena, and strongly support locating the new arena in the downtown area. I think it is critical to continue to attract people – locals and visitors – to the downtown area and to keep Kingston's wonderful downtown vibrant in the future.

**Comments received from: Hal Murphy**

Leave the community rinks in their communities; just bring them up to standard. Build a new (sponsored) 6,000 – 8,000 seat arena (possibly get AHL someday) inside the horse track with the front on Concession St., and twinning it to the existing Memorial Centre. You would have lots of parking and could have entrances and exits on all four streets surrounding for easy access.

**Comments received from: David Smith**

Yes we need a new arena but, we need good access to the arena. Downtown is not the place for the arena. It needs to be some where there is lots of parking, also road that can handle the traffic and downtown can not provide any of these. The 401 area maybe or the old Nortel Plant on Gardiners Rd.

**Comments received from: Diane Conner**

1. Sell of the local arena's which are out dated and would require MAJOR repairs. CAL has been very interested in acquiring their arena back from the City for years. This would not take away from ice rentals since minor hockey player now have less ice time. It would be beneficial to have an "Adult" only arena site.
2. The new multi-pad facility should lease portions to local businesses such as a restaurant (runs all year) and perhaps a sporting goods store.
3. Winter user ground may be interest in having their own meeting rooms or offices so that their documents or office supplies could be kept in one area. Only Kingston Township Minor Hockey and KMHA has this privilege to date. District K Hockey Referees Organization may be interested in acquiring the same. To promote better officiating they conduct clinics and supervisions. I've been involved with local hockey groups and now the referee's organization since my children first put skates on. Our arenas are sad which is truly pitiful since Kingston is the place where hockey was started.

**Comments received from: Mike Scrutton**

I think you should examine what's been done in Halifax. After attending a conference at the Metro Centre's convention facility and attending the World Junior hockey tournament it showed what a boom this facility is to an already vibrant downtown core. In addition to being an excellent venue for both sport and convention/conference uses, there is the added benefit of hotels and restaurants serving attendees before, after and during conferences/sporting events. It is with this in mind that I encourage you to place such a facility in the downtown core.

**Comments received from: Frank and Noreen Catlin**

1. Please do not use or expensive waterfront property for a Community Centre. Save this property to create tax dollars to help pay for sewer repairs so we don't have raw sewage floating down the river.
2. Alcan Property at the corner of Sir John A and Counter St. would be ideal. The downtown area is already congested with traffic.

**Comments received from: Jeffrey Lowes**

They are adding a second ice pad to CFB Kingston @ RMC was this part of the plan?

**Comments received from: Darlene Mecredy**

I would prefer that the new facility is not built downtown UNTIL another bridge to Kingston East is in place. The traffic congestion would be increased dramatically. I like the idea of closing two arenas and adding another pad on one (Catarraqui). Plus the new facility. Also having a concert venue will be fantastic. And, have the new facility financed so that it doesn't increase the tax burden as studies show our residents are at the top of their tax load (Meunier comment in Whig Standard).

**Comments received from: Pat McNamee**

Would prefer to see a new arena built in the 401 corridor. He refuses to go to the Memorial Centre now as, the parking is ridiculous. He also does not want to see a new arena built in the downtown core, obviously for the same reasons (parking). Although he does feel the downtown merchants would benefit from an arena in the downtown core.

He feels that the 401 corridor would be the most suitable location due to parking, locations and ease of accessibility.

**Comments received from: Sandi Wilson**

Hello:

I am writing with concern regarding the location of the new memorial/concert facility in this terrific city where I've made my home in semi-retirement.

I moved to Kingston just over three years ago after having lived in London, Ontario for 21 years. When I first moved to London it had a vibrant downtown, seemed to value their heritage buildings and had an abundance of trees (the "Forest City"). While I lived there I saw the death of the downtown, many historic buildings (often left to rot in the interiors whereby only a façade would preserve any semblance of the former beautiful buildings). I also saw an increase in crime (especially in the downtown) and the de-valuing of trees resulting in the former title of the Forest City becoming a thing of the past. I witnessed considerable "growth and development" during the time I lived in London, including the huge Galleria Mall downtown. This mall was the "final straw" for most retailers on Dundas Street who were forced to close after being in business downtown for decades.

When the time came for the original retailers in the mall to renew their leases (after ten years tenancy) very few, if any renewed. The monstrous mall now houses many vacant spaces and the new library (a positive thing). While London worked to become a “mini-Toronto”, its former charm, safety and friendliness went by the wayside. It was sad to watch. Naturally I’m concerned about “controlled growth” in my new home, one of Canada’s best kept secrets.....Kingston, Ontario!

As your research found, in recent years London has opened a new arena/concert facility downtown next to their new market. The market itself is a great asset. The new arena/concert venue is a façade only of the beautiful, original heritage hotel that was part of that property. While the new market is a big draw, the downtown is still a dirty and scary place, especially at night after the market is closed. I returned there last Christmas to stay with friends, and the comments about the new arena/concert building were positive as to the improved entertainment it provided. I can’t help but think of Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto and how an “arena” downtown is not only an eyesore, but poses considerable parking and safety issues. BIGGER IS NOT NECESSARILY BEST! In summary, the new entertainment center/arena, like the Galleria site, is huge, and would be much better situated at another location away from the downtown. It’s hopeful that it doesn’t become another “white elephant” similar to the Galleria Mall and, something constructed in London in the 70’s – Centennial Hall behind City Hall.

I agree Kingston is very much in need of both a new arena and a concert venue. My main concern is the location. Because a building of the nature requires considerable height, I would hate to see our beautiful waterfront blocked by such a monstrous building (likewise for Block D). The current location could be revitalized by demolition of the present Memorial Centre and the construction of the new facility on the same grounds. It’s my understanding that Counter Street is to be improved. Perhaps planning a route down Division or Sir John A MacDonald along Counter Street to access the current location could be an option worth considering for those coming off the #401. Also keep in mind that the current Memorial Center has been easier access for those residing in North Kingston and a new location could possibly jeopardize this. For those of us who live south of Princess and don’t drive, I hope the public transportation system providing access to the new Centre; will be also considered when making a decision for the location of the new facility.