



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 15-215**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services
Date of Meeting: March 24, 2015
Subject: Rideau Heights Programming Plan and Recreation
Programming Update

Executive Summary:

Over the past years, Recreation & Leisure staff have worked on building stronger relationships with the not-for-profit sector to maximize resources and improve service delivery of recreation and leisure services across the City. A number of more recent municipal, community and private sector based initiatives have fostered the exploration and implementation of more partnerships. Some of these initiatives include the Rideau Heights Community Centre/Shannon Park, new facility at Westbrook Golf Course and the opening of a new Boys and Girls Club and YMCA locations in the West end of the City.

This report provides an update on the programming plan for the Rideau Heights Community Centre project. Staffs continue to engage stakeholders and the public regarding the programming on the new community centre and Shannon Park. As part of the project, the Wally Elmer Arena is scheduled to be demolished this spring. Through this process, the auction of surplus equipment will be administered by staff of the Recreation & Leisure Department. It is expected that the auction will open the first week of May and close two weeks following its commencement. The demolition of the Wally Elmer will follow the auction process. The Recreation & Leisure Department has previously conducted successful online auctions of surplus municipal property using MaxSold.

This report also provides Council with information on potential partnerships with some not-for-profit and for profit organizations. It seeks direction from Council to continue discussions with these organizations and report back on outcomes and potential partnerships.

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Recommendation:

That Council endorse the community hub model at the Rideau Heights Community Centre which will enable organizations, which have partnerships with the City, to deliver programs at Rideau Heights Community Centre and to utilize the space at no cost; and

That Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute all documents related to the partnerships for the delivery of programs at the Rideau Heights Community Centre in a form satisfactory to the Legal Services Department; and

That surplus equipment from the former Wally Elmer Arena be auctioned using MaxSold auction services under the administration of the Recreation & Leisure Services Department, with all proceeds of the auction going to PROkids Kingston; and

That Council authorize staff to execute all documents related to the retention of online auction services in a form satisfactory to the Legal Services Department; and

That Council direct staff to continue discussions with the Boys and Girls Club, Seniors Association, the YMCA and the Westbrook Golf Course to develop potential partnerships and report back to Council on outcome of discussions.

Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Cynthia Beach, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

The Rideau Heights Community Centre/Shannon Park service delivery model encourages grass roots community development by creating partnerships with a number of community agencies. In 2008, when the Wally Elmer Arena was closed to general public use in order to focus on local programming, Council approved a community hub model that enable agencies to access free space to deliver programs to the neighbourhood. This approach enabled the delivery of more programs by removing barriers to community organizations and reduced costs of accessing programs for residents within the Rideau Heights neighbourhood. This hub model has been successful with the exception that the space provided at the Wally Elmer Arena was limited and not accessible for most programs, therefore it prevented a number of agencies like the Seniors Association from utilizing the facility.

The community hub model will be applied in the new Rideau Heights Community Centre and a number of agencies have been working with City staff to develop partnerships for the delivery of programs within the centre. Some agencies have even been involved in the architectural design of the interior space to ensure that it is functional for their programming needs. The City has a Fee and Charges By-Law and a Community Leasing Policy that would require any organizations using the space to pay some fee or lease. City staff recognize that Council has already approved a partnership, including financial terms, with the Limestone District School Board, so charges would not apply for use by the Board. In this report staff is proposing that through partnerships for the delivery of services for residents in the Rideau Heights neighbourhood, fees for use be waived. This would not include any group choosing to rent space to run their own programs, for example City-wide volleyball leagues, soccer clubs, etc. Those groups would be required to pay the user fees as per the Fees and Charges By-Law. The reason for this approach and differentiation between uses is that it is the community hub model's intent is to build programming capacity that will cater mostly, but not exclusively, to residents of Rideau Heights. City staff also want to encourage use of the community centre by other paying groups that will bring people from various areas of the City into the neighbourhood.

Staff have been working with the following stakeholders and continues to engage the public on potential uses within the new community centre:

- Limestone District School Board
- Community Response to Neighbourhood Concerns
- Seniors Association
- Boys and Girls Club
- Girls Inc.
- Kingston & Frontenac Public Library
- First Peoples
- H'Art Studio
- Kingston Community Health Centres
- Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation
- United Way of KFL&A
- Community Harvest Group
- Internal City of Kingston Departments

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Based on the list of agencies above, both the Boys and Girls Club and the Seniors Association will be the primary service providers benefiting from access to free space. The 2016 and 2017 operational budgets have been prepared based on the assumption that partner agencies will access space at no cost.

Continuity Plan

Staff have been working with current programs and stakeholders whom have been delivering service at the Wally Elmer to find space during the construction period of the new community centre.

The programming staff have been working with the Principal at Rideau Heights Public School to utilize space to deliver the Game Face program during the construction period for the new community centre. A one week transition period will be required to move equipment and supplies to the school but no further disruption of the program is anticipated.

Girls Inc. have been successful in securing an alternate site at the corner of Daly Street and Weller Avenue during the construction period.

The Boys and Girls Club have been operating at the Rideau Heights Public School and will continue to do so during the construction period. Staff are continuing to review options to deliver some of the skating programs previously delivered at the Wally Elmer Arena.

A senior's card group has been utilizing the Wally Elmer and it is anticipated that this program will be able to be accommodated at the KCHC facility on Weller Avenue where a similar program is also running.

Community Response to Neighbourhood Concerns (CRNC) has been utilizing the Wally Elmer for monthly meetings and will be accommodated during the construction period at a location to still be determined.

Anticipated Project Milestones:

- RFP for Demolition issued – March 2015
- RFP Stage 1 Construction issued – March 2015
- RFP Stage 2 Construction issued – May 2015
- Wally Elmer closes – May 1, 2015
- Community Auction Begins – First week of May, 2015
- Demolition Begins (Wally Elmer and 80 Daly Street townhouses) – Late May 2015
- Construction on Rideau Heights Community Centre begins – July 2015
- Construction on skate park begins – July 2015
- Construction on new road and park begins – Fall 2015
- Rideau Heights Community Centre opens – Fall 2016

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Impact on Staff and Other Services

Full time staff will have to relocate to another City facility during this renovation period. There will be no other impact to full time staff. It is anticipated that part time staff will experience a reduction in hours as a result of the construction project.

Online Auction for PROkids

The City of Kingston's Recreation & Leisure Services Department previously conducted a successful online auction of surplus equipment using MaxSold as part of the decommissioning of the Harold Harvey Arena. More recently, staff worked with the Mayor's Office to conduct an auction of street signs from the University District and other available municipal surplus equipment. As the previous auctions proved successful and well received by the community, staff are recommending the use of MaxSold auction services for the auction of surplus equipment from the Wally Elmer Arena.

It is expected the auction will open the second week of May 2015 and close two weeks following its commencement. Advertising of the online auction will be conducted by the Strategic Communications Department, utilizing social media as the primary source of advertising.

Boys and Girls Club and YMCA West End LocationsBoys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club recently leased the former Premier Fitness Centre in the Frontenac Mall. The Boys and Girls Club planned to expand its service provision in the west end of the City but had been looking for appropriate space in the past years. This facility has ample space for various community uses, including access to a pool. The Boys and Girls Club has been working with various agencies, including the Seniors Association and CFB Kingston, to create partnerships and increase community use of the facility. City staff have been in discussion with the Boys and Girls Club about a potential partnership. City staff reviewed options at the Boys and Girls Club west end location and identified that some public access to the indoor pool would be the most preferable. City staff realize that the expansion at Artillery Park has helped to meet the demand and need for access to aquatic service but that some additional public hours of pool usage in the west end would contribute to meeting the overall community demand. Staff determined that access to community rooms is not required as the City has community rooms that are currently underutilized at both the INVISTA Centre and Centre 70. The City also has partnerships to utilize school gymnasiums in the west end. Staff are seeking direction from Council to continue discussion with Boys and Girls Club and report back with a proposed partnership if feasible.

A few years ago, the City partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to upgrade and make its Bagot Street facility accessible. The City made a \$200,000 contribution to this partnership.

YMCA

The YMCA opened its new west end facility, former Progress Fitness, in 2014. This facility located on Progress Avenue provides an indoor pool space and a fitness centre enabling a variety of community programs. The YMCA is considering adding a gymnasium to this facility in order to accommodate a much broader variety of programs. The City of Kingston's Park and Recreation Master Plan identified a long term need for a gymnasium in the west end of the City.

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The YMCA is interested in considering various partnerships for the development of a gymnasium. City staff intends to initiate discussions with the YMCA on a potential partnership for the gymnasium following Council's endorsement of this report.

The City established a partnership with the YMCA in 2008 for the construction of a new 25 metre pool at the Wright Crescent facility. The City contributed \$250,000 and was able to establish a purchase of service for 5 years and support a number of community programs and initiatives, including Kingston Gets Active.

Westbrook Golf Course

Westbrook Golf Course is a private business that opened an indoor sports dome in 2014. This dome opened following the closure of another privately owned and operated dome which used to be located at the Quarry near Division Street. A number of local soccer groups have been able to relocate their winter programs to the indoor sports dome. The City has had some discussions with the owners of the Westbrook Golf Course and believe that there are opportunities for partnerships which could include the City and agencies like the Seniors Association.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

By-Law 2005-10 A By-Law to Establish Fees and Charges

Community Leasing Policy

Notice Provisions:

Staff will ensure that notices are provided to all current users of the Wally Elmer and to the public in various forms including e-mails and the City website.

Accessibility Considerations:

The new Rideau Heights Community Centre will be constructed to meet the Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS). The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC) members have been assigned to the project and meet with City staff on regular basis.

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Adam McCluskey, Manager, Recreation Facilities

Lynda Breen, Supervisor, Recreation Programs

Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable