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May 25, 2016

**COMMUNITY SERVICES - RECREATION & CULTURE  
INFORMATION REPORT # 2016 - 19**

**TO:** Mayor Van Bynen  
Members of Council

**SUBJECT:** Potential Replacement of Hollingsworth Arena Update

**ORIGIN:** Community Services – Economic Development  
Development and Infrastructure Services – Planning  
Corporate Services – Finance  
Office of the CAO – Corporate Communications

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**THAT Community Services – Recreation and Culture Information Report # 2016 – 19 dated May 25, 2016 regarding the Potential Replacement of Hollingsworth Arena Update be received for information purposes.**

**BACKGROUND**

In 2012, the Town commissioned a study on the arena ice needs for Newmarket analyzing current use/demand and projecting use/demand into the future. This study was then peer reviewed by another firm through the Recreation Playbook process. Both processes concluded that the current inventory of 7 arenas was needed to meet the community demands through the next 30 years. Maintenance of the current inventory of seven ice pads was included with the Recreation Playbook. In June, 2014, Council also adopted that, *"...the sale of the Hollingsworth Arena site be subject to satisfactory arrangements being made to maintain 7 (seven) municipally permitted ice surfaces for the continuity of service for Town residents."*

In Joint Chief Administrative Officer, Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services, Commissioner of Community Services and Commissioner of Corporate Services Report # 2015 – 57 dated October 6, 2015 regarding Hollingsworth Arena Corridor Development and Community Benefit Opportunity Council adopted that, *"the next steps associated with the replacement of Hollingsworth Arena be determined through consideration of Community Services – Recreation and Culture Report # 2015 – 28"*.

Community Services – Recreation and Culture Report #2015 – 28 outlined the approach with respect to potential replacement of Hollingsworth Arena, with Council adopting that staff work with Pickering College on a potential capital and operating financial framework and report back within 45 days.

Staff reported back in Community Services – Recreation and Culture Closed Session Report # 2016 – 07 and was directed to continue negotiations with Pickering College. Since that time, negotiations have continued with the goal of establishing a financial framework that could serve the interests of the Town, Pickering College and the community as a whole.

At the same time, through the Recreation Playbook Process and subsequent implementation plans in the form of workshops and reports to Council, the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex has been identified as the preferred site for a replacement for Hollingsworth Arena in the event that a partnership was not achieved with Pickering College.

### **COMMENTS**

Pickering College has enjoyed a successful 174 year history, with over 100 years to date in Newmarket. They bring tremendous exposure and benefit to the Town of Newmarket. It is exciting to note that they are currently embarking upon a significant capital campaign related to a campus expansion. During their initial expansion planning, the replacement of an arena was not identified as a primary objective and therefore may not be replaced when their current arena concludes its serviceable life. This further reinforces the need for the Town to continue to maintain seven ice pads into the future as the result of a potential eventual closure of the Pickering College arena would result in a net decrease of ice pads in the community overall despite considerable future population growth projections.

When approached by the Town, Pickering College was interested in a potential partnership with the Town on an arena replacement. Throughout discussions, Pickering College has been consistent in identifying that given their expansion plans and associated costs they would be constrained in the amount of capital they would be able to outlay.

After extensive consultation and negotiation with Pickering College looking at various capital, operating and usage scenarios, it has been concluded that we are not able to recommend a partnership. Staff has concluded that the most fiscally responsible alternative for the Town is to build on already owned Town land.

As part of the public meeting process required for the potential development along Davis Drive, encompassing Hollingsworth Arena, staff intends to proceed with gauging public input with respect to a potential additional ice pad at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex to replace Hollingsworth Arena in the event that the Town does proceed with approval of the San Michael Developments development application.

### **BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**

#### **Council 2014-2018 Strategic Themes and Priorities Linkages**

- Economic Development – Creating a strategy for vibrant and livable corridors along Davis Drive and Yonge Street
- Enhanced Recreation Opportunities - Enhancing our recreational and community facilities.
- Community Engagement - Engaging our changing resident demographics.

- Efficiency/ Financial Management – Ensuring effective and efficient services.

Well Balanced

- Recreation facilities and services

Living Well

- Emphasis on active lifestyles and recreational opportunities

Well- Equipped & Managed

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Clear vision of the future and aligned corporate/business plans

Well-respected

- Discovering innovative and creative solutions for our future well-being
- Being a champion for co-operation and collaboration
- Being tradition based and forward-looking

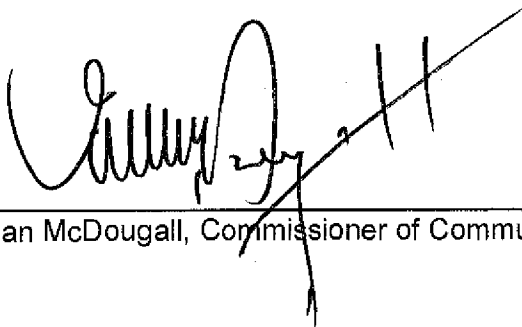
**CONTACT**

For more information on this report, please contact Colin Service, Director, Recreation and Culture at [cservice@newmarket.ca](mailto:cservice@newmarket.ca) or extension 2601.



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Colin Service, Director, Recreation & Culture



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Ian McDougall, Commissioner of Community Services