



Deputation

Item SC3.2, Scarborough Community Council, *Indoor and Outdoor Ice Provision and Programming*

January 13, 2015

Centennial Community and Recreation Association (CCRA) is in its 65th year of representing approximately 4,000 households in the Centennial Community of Ward 44, south of Highway 401 and east of Highland Creek in Scarborough.

Having reviewed the July 2014 City of Toronto Staff report *Indoor and Outdoor Ice Provision and Programming*, we would like to again express our concern at the unequal distribution of City maintained outdoor ice surfaces in Toronto.

With one small outdoor ice surface at Scarborough Civic Centre that does not provide facilities for shinny, the City is in effect denying children, youth and adults in Scarborough access to a recreational opportunity that is routinely enjoyed in other Toronto neighbourhoods. Having access to free outdoor ice ensures that youth in Scarborough have the chance to learn and enjoy an active social winter activity in their own neighbourhoods. Without local rinks, many of our children and youth are simply not able to participate in otherwise very costly ice sports. This is especially relevant to children and youth in nearby Toronto Community Housing units and priority neighbourhoods.

In Centennial and Ward 44, there would be a dependency on volunteers to build and maintain outdoor ice for pleasure and sport. This has been done in the past by our Association, however with recent weather fluctuations and the difficulty in retaining a core group of volunteers, it is not a sustainable solution for our community. We believe that our residents deserve the same City facilities that are offered to neighbourhoods across the rest of Toronto.

Scarborough's large area and shortage of reliable transit means that long travel distance between facilities is a major barrier to access for all. If we can't get there easily, we won't get there at all – a planned outdoor rink at McCowan Park will not benefit Centennial and Ward 44 residents any more than the current ice at Scarborough Civic Centre.

Our community is growing, and the need for social and recreational activity will only increase with it. As Parks, Forestry and Recreation reviews its 20-Year Master Plan, we ask that you invest in a long-term vision for recreation that includes *all* Scarborough residents.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Forsyth', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jeff Forsyth, President

Attachment



Attachment

Comments from Centennial Community Residents in Ward 44

“Some of my greatest memories are skating on the outdoor rink near my house when I was growing up. All hockey fans across the country just witnessed Team Canada win the gold medal in the World Junior Championship. Many of those players grew up skating on outdoor rinks. I know a huge part of my development was walking up the street with my skates and stick and having fun with kids of all ages in my neighborhood. The NHL Winter Classic hockey game is another example of how popular and exciting it is to skate and play hockey on an outdoor rink.”

- **Kris Draper, four-time Stanley Cup Champion, Detroit Red Wings**

“Skating on an outdoor rink makes Canadian winters wonderful! My family and I drive to Pickering or to Markham regularly to skate on outdoor rinks. The one outdoor rink at Scarborough Town Centre is very small and access to it is awkward. It would be fabulous to be able to stay at "home" to go skating on an outdoor rink and follow-up with a hot chocolate at a local restaurant! Everyone would be able to see the fun and be inspired to join in and be more active in the winter!”

- **Denise Bacon, Whiteacres Avenue**

“As a mother of four young boys who love to skate and play hockey, I am disappointed by the lack of an outdoor skating rink in our community. I would love to be able to skate with the boys recreationally on an outdoor rink. It would also be great to have a place where they can play pick-up hockey with their friends. ”

- **Melissa Brock, Delbeatrice Crescent**

“There are few better ways to enjoy a winter’s day in the city than skating on an outdoor rink with your family. It is sad that there are so few opportunities to do this in Scarborough, especially given its size. Every neighbourhood should have its own outdoor rink. My family would definitely make use of a rink in eastern Scarborough. “

- **Linda Cahill, Erwin Psocka and Family, Linderwood Drive**

“Access to *safe* outdoor skating in east Scarborough would be a boon to our community and an opportunity for fun winter exercise. The first hot chocolate is on me!”

- **Rob Doyle, Chapais Crescent**

“We are a family of recreational skaters, we don’t play organized hockey. We skate simply because it’s old-fashioned Canadian fun! We’d love the opportunity to skate regularly with our friends and neighbours in eastern Scarborough. An outdoor skating rink is a great way to bring community together.”

- **Jennifer McKelvie, Delbeatrice Crescent**



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Comments from Centennial Community Residents in Ward 44 (cont'd)

“I have lived in the Centennial Community all my life, I fondly remember skating on the outdoor ice rink that was maintained by our school principal behind Charlottetown J.P.S. when I was child. A city-run ice rink would guarantee I am able to relive those experiences with my family, as it would not be dependent on volunteers and weather.”

- **John Sinclair, Rolling Meadows**

“The Centennial-Rouge Hill Community boasts a large number of young and old hockey playing enthusiasts. Our local hockey league is one of the largest and oldest in the GTA and the only remaining house league in Scarborough. All four junior public schools, the Catholic Separate School and the high school have hockey teams, because of the large number of players. An outdoor arena would provide all ages the opportunity to enjoy the spirit of the game and further develop their skills away from their teams. Summer ball hockey and lacrosse would also take advantage of the arena.”

- **Chris Welch, Parent, Player and Minor Hockey Coach, Satchell Blvd**