

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Curling Strategy

Etobicoke Arena Users Online Survey Results

August 2021

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Project Background

In Etobicoke, arenas owned and managed by the City of Toronto support many ice sports and activities. These include hockey, figure skating, ringette, learn to skate, and leisure skating. The City is researching potential opportunities to expand this range of programming to include curling activities, as there is currently a deficit of curling ice available and a demand for curling programming.

[More information about the project can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/curlingstrategy](http://www.toronto.ca/curlingstrategy)

Survey Overview

This document provides a summary of the Etobicoke Arena Users Online Survey that was live from May 18 to May 31, 2021. The survey gathered feedback from existing Etobicoke Arena Users. Survey goals included:

- Identifying potential opportunities and challenges related to a shared use model or arena conversion to accommodate curling activities in Etobicoke
- Identifying how the existing supply of ice in Etobicoke arenas could support curling activities while ensuring existing user groups remain accommodated

The feedback collected from this survey was used to develop a set of draft Principles for Arena Conversion or Shared Use (presented to arena users, curlers, and the public for further refinement).

Over 130 arena users groups with recent permits for Etobicoke arenas were invited to participate in the survey. 53 surveys were completed.

Summary of Feedback

Shared Use Model

Opportunities

- One respondent each identified the following opportunities:
 - Youth/student curling opportunities
 - Adding curling components to existing associations
 - Access to curling
 - Improved off-ice facilities
 - Ice quality improvement (shared between figure skating and curling as opposed to figure skating and hockey)

Suggestions

- Many respondents suggested unused ice time slots (e.g. days /off-peak times) could be filled
- Some respondents suggested schools could participate in new curling programs
- A couple of respondents suggested the City consider using only those arenas primarily used for practice spaces (e.g. not those used as home ice by leagues)
- A couple of respondents suggested the City consider converting a pad in a double pad arena
- One respondent each suggested:
 - Ice allocation could be based on demand for the sport
 - More outdoor rinks could be created and bubbled to make room for new users

- Curling could have a dedicated day a week in an arena to reduce time spent on ice conversion

Concerns

- Scheduling:
 - Many respondents are concerned about being able to keep their existing ice time slots (some have had the same slot for years and members build their schedules around these slots)
 - Some respondents want more ice time, but this demand is unmet due to lack of ice availability in City rinks (therefore no room for curling)
 - A respondent is concerned about peak ice time availability for hockey.
 - A few respondents are concerned that the ice conversion process will reduce available ice time
 - A few respondents want to ensure consistent ice time schedules (e.g. consistent weekly times uninterrupted by curling)
 - Concern that Curling games will run long into other scheduled activities
 - One respondent each noted concern that:
 - A single pad cannot be shared at the same time
 - The demand for ice should reflect the allocation of ice (e.g. ice times should reflect demand for the sport)
- Ice Quality
 - Many respondents are concerned this will result in lower ice quality which could pose a safety risk for skaters
 - Some respondents noted no concern as long as the conversion maintains good ice quality and is done without interfering with program timing
 - Some respondents are not certain the conversion could be done well/in a timely manner given how different the ice for curling and non-curling uses (e.g. hockey, figure skating) are
 - Respondents are split on whether additional lines would be confusing/ unsafe, or would make no difference for existing arena respondents
 - A respondent is concerned the ice quality will be too poor for curlers
- Off-Ice amenities
 - A couple of respondents are concerned there will not be enough storage, as this is already limited
 - A respondent is concerned that there will be too many users trying to use the same amenities at once
- Change rooms
 - A few respondents want to ensure they do not lose change room time, with some noting that change rooms are already at capacity
 - A few respondents are concerned about shower time (and hot water access)
 - A couple of respondents are concerned about youth and adults mixing in the same change rooms, and being able to control who is in the change rooms with youth
 - A respondent is only concerned if the change rooms are converted to storage facilities
- Other
 - A respondent is concerned that their organisation has invested in improvements at the City rink they use and would not want their access to these improved facilities to be reduced
 - A respondent noted that existing lounge and other arena facilities are already in use by existing arena users

- A respondent is concerned that sharing ice with curling could signify to others that their organization is dying and becoming expendable, leading to membership losses
- A respondent is concerned that a shared use model would result in reduced ice time for existing users and would force clubs to rent more private ice, driving up the cost of participation in hockey programs

ARENA CONVERSION

Opportunities

- A few respondents noted that depending on the relocation, they could be close to their members
- A few respondents noted they may be able to make a relocation work depending on the time slot and the specific location
- One respondent each suggest a conversion could result in:
 - Improved arena facilities
 - Curling program access for students
 - Amalgamation of rinks would provide associations with access to more players

Concerns

- Many respondents are concerned that relocation of their programs would be further away from members' homes, or result in the need to split programs across various arenas, resulting in lost membership and/or reduced program/team viability
- Some respondents are concerned about maintaining their existing time slots or losing ice time that is already in high/unmet demand
- A respondent is concerned that as a smaller permit holder, they would get bumped out of ice time by larger organisations
- A respondent noted that their program name was related to the arena name so moving arenas would be confusing for members
- A respondent is concerned they would lose the long-standing community ties they had with the neighbourhood if they had to relocate

Overall Suggestions

- Ensure clear and transparent communications throughout this process and maintain open dialogue between arena users and the City
 - Once identified share what arenas are being considered for conversion or a shared use model
 - Share the demand for curling compared to other uses to justify the new use and share how many hours are expected to be needed
 - Explain the ice conversion process for a shared use model, how long it would take etc.
- Build a new dedicated curling facility
 - Ensure costs could be covered by the fee structure
- Convert a single pad in a double pad arena
- Provide covered outdoor facilities to meet ice time demands

Other Comments

- Improve showers/provide hot water in existing change rooms

Next Steps

Results from the survey will be used to develop draft Principles for a shared use or arena conversion. The draft principles, along with the findings from this survey will be presented at an upcoming Etobicoke Arena User Group stakeholder meeting on June 17.






Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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Appendix A: Raw Survey Responses

What user group is your organization/club a part of?


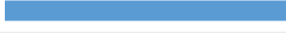




	Count	% of responses	%
Hockey	46		87%
Figure Skating	3		6%
Leisure/Recreational Skating	2		4%
Other, please specify	2		4%
Ringette	1		2%

N 53

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify" (2 responses)

- Curling
- Senior Hockey majority over 60

What concerns or needs, if any, would your organization have if a shared-use model was implemented at a rink your organization uses? Select from the categories below:

	Count	% of responses	%
Scheduling	45		85%
Maintaining ice quality	28		53%
Change rooms	15		28%
Other	12		23%
Shared off-ice amenities	8		15%
No concerns	5		9%

N 53

If programming at a rink your organization uses was expanded to support curling activities using a shared-use model, what are your organization's comments and need related to:

Scheduling:

- We require consistent ice times and blocks of at least 3 hours or more to effectively run our organization. Would we lose hours of ice from our normal allotment
- All we need is to maintain the entirety of Wednesday evenings from 8:00pm on.
- Only concerned insofar as we can keep our usual time. Otherwise, I think it's a great idea.
- Curling often is scheduled during mornings, which would be better.
- I'm unsure of the current use capacity, if existing scheduled use is at capacity. It makes no sense if the ice is fully rented to add new users.
- Wouldn't work well at Pinepoint Arena
- We run a 16-team Oldtimers Hockey League, with games (8) every Sunday starting at 1:30pm and the last one starting at 9:30pm. One concern would be the loss of ice time.

Our League has operated in Centennial Areana Etobicoke for over 39 years. Any loss of ice time would impact tge ability of the league to keep players.

- Satisfy the mass versus a small group. If 90% of the permits are used for hockey it's not right to allocated 40% of the ice to curling. Make the splitting of ice time justify the demand
- We are once a week 2 hours every Sunday Night - 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. [October 1 - March 24) at Long Branch Arena.
- In regards to scheduling, how would curling affect the amount of ice that is allocated to our association? I'm assuming it would be less. We don't have enough ice now for the program we run, loosing more ice time would have a huge impact on our association. We always are looking to secure more ice than we are allotted. The schedule needs to be the same for consistency of our program. A curling game is not time restricted, it goes by the number of ends played. A hockey game is timed - sometimes running time, and usually 3 stopped timed periods. If a curling game goes late, how can we plan a schedule when our players are to start. We are trying to encourage youth sports, and increase participation coming out of the pandemic, and parents want a firm schedule to coordinate their children's activities.
- We run a 16 team oldtimers hockey league, with games every Sunday from 1pm-10pm (or whatever the times are). One concern would be the loss of ice time. Our league has had this ice time for 25+ years, and loss of any of those ice times would impact the ability for the leage to keep players.
- Humber Valley Hockey is community based organization serving almost 800 players across House League, Select and Competitive (A/AA) accessing 9 City of Toronto arenas for more then 2300 hours of ice time plus an additional 430 hours of ice at outdoor arenas. With City Ice already at a premium to support numerous activities the addition of curling, with different ice required, will create scheduling challenges during peak hours. We do not see it possible to remove ice from strong youth focused programs to support the needs of curling which is why curling should be in a dedicated facility. Our association has contributed to the improvements at Central with a shared donation from MLSE and in the past funded the Park Lawn bubble to provide better access to facilities for our families.
- In prior years the City has only allocated one 90 minute ice slot (Chris Tonks) for the our 6 'AA' GTHL teams for practices. Additional practice ice has had to be acquired at other arenas.
- We would now want disruptions to our present schedule. Primarily with house league obligations
- At Central Arena, we are on the ice Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2:30 to 3:30. We would need to have access to dressing rooms from 1:30 beforehand to 4:00 afterwards.
- Hockey uses the whole ice for individual and team drills
- We are concerned there is not enough ice available for our younger age groups as it is now. Many of our parents are forced to drive over 20 KM (2-3 hours for 1 session) for 50 minutes of our allocated ice.
- Would it effect our schedule for ice time, ie day and time.
- Evening & weekends are high use times
- We would have a concern that ice time would be lost for maintenance and other groups being permitted over our game ice.
- Challenged persons depend on their routines and schedules, and it's therefore very important to maintain the same schedule for their events. For the last 25 years (several of our athletes have been in our club since the beginning), we have played Saturday mornings for 2 hours. Schedule changes would affect and upset some athletes, as well

as the parents who have to schedule and balance the other programs in their child's lives.

- schedule is change at the whim of your big users...NYHL for example. Perhaps make some of the lesser used rinks curling exclusive. I'm afraid that curling, like bocce, is losing it's demographic. Like in sales, don't forget about your existing clients.....we're so close to going to private rinks as it is. Don't push us out.
- We are a recreational hockey group who has rented ice at Amesbury for over 40 years. We have had the same time slot namely Thursdays 5:00 to 6:00 pm and would not want lose this time.
- Silver Blades skating club currently rents approximately 40 hours per week at Central Arena and we operate 7 days a week. We have between 450-500 members every year. Our programs start as early as 2:40 pm on some weekdays and use some early morning ice on some weekdays . We would be interested in renting more ice, as our programs are over-enrolled and over-subscribed/wait listed. Some years, we rent ice at Centennial Arena to supplement.
- We would just want our regular hourly time slot for our use. 1hr. If you want to use for curling any other time that's fine with our group.
- We've had the Friday night 9:00 pm contract at Lakeshore Arena for 40 years. That's the only time our group can schedule themselves to play. We don't want to lose that scheduled contract.
- In regards to scheduling, how does this affect the amount of ice that is allocated to our association? I'm assuming it would be less. We dont have enough ice now for the program we are trying to run - loosing more ice time would have a huge impact on our association. Our needs are always to secure more ice than we are already allotted, and keep scheduling the same for consistency of our program. A curling game is not time restricted, it goes by number of ends played. A hockey game is timed - sometimes running time, and usually 3 stopped time periods. If a curling game goes late, how can we plan a schedule when our players are to start. We are trying to encourage youth sports, and increase participation coming out of the pandemic, and parents want a firm schedule to coordinate their childrens activities.
- Teams use the ice at the same time weekly for 26 weeks by way of a contract with the city. At the competitive level we would have a very difficult time trying to reschedule. Our parent group who are also tax payers would not be happy with us for cancelling or rescheduling practice times, and even if we could, it would most likely have to be at a private facility which would increase costs by 40%. Very unpredictable and impossible to budget for.
- There is lack of ice availability now and if there is any additional activities placed on the ice shared or not shared it would most impact the multiple teams we try to operate
- a
- We would just want a consistent weekly time to have practices and games
- Our program (minor hockey) ideally requires ice slots scheduled on weeknights from 5:00 pm onward, or weekends at the following times: - Saturday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm - Sunday 7:00 am to 10:00 pm
- There would only be an issue with scheduling of our organization was required to change our schedule. We have have had our permit for for 20 years and many members have built there personal schedules to fit our time slot.
- We have had this ice and time slot for over 35 years. We skate on Mondays from 4 to 5 pm. Our members commit and schedule their work hours and activities to be able to make this skate. If we had to move our time slot or day, I do not think we would have enough members to support our ice time.
- Warren Park Hockey would be VERY against this shared-use model. We want more ice, not less.

- WE have had the same ice time, for wednesday night oldtimers hockey for 30 years 7:30 - 11:30 every Wednesday. That we are NOT willing alter.
- I wouldn't want our time to be cut short to accommodate a switch over for the ice.

Maintaining ice quality:

- Would be concerned about changing ice from curling to smooth ice for hockey, skills. Potential for safety for little ones learning to skate if ice conversion is not done properly
- Ice quality was never very good at Longbranch arena. We just wouldn't want it to get any worse. Also, the boards need work.
- The ice needs to be in standard hockey condition prior to hockey use. Lines on the ice would not be an impairment. If curling leaves grooves or lanes in the ice, that would be dangerous.
- Ice quality is poor to begin with due to roof and insulation conditions. Curling and conversion will add to further poor ice quality
- Our League consists of players aged 35 to late 70's. If there were problems with the ice quality we would be concerned this would greatly impact the quality of play and could be detrimental for the players and the league.
- In regards to ice quality, treatment of curling ice is different from ice for hockey. Ice maintenance people pebble the ice for curling. It is meant to be a little rough. They have ice makers. Ice for ice hockey is meant to be smoother ice. Skaters break up the ice which is why zamboni's are required between periods or floods. An ice surface needs to be either one or the other, but not shared.
- We run a 16 team oldtimers hockey league, with players ranging in age from 35-65. If there were problems with the ice quality we would be concerned that this would greatly impact the quality of play and could be more detrimental for the older players in the league.
- The ice required for curling is a very different texture and quality so could create scheduling challenges to accommodate. Our players that follow the Hockey Canada modified ice mandate also require mid ice dividers that require additional time to set up so being forced to have ice resurfaced to fit either hockey or curling could add significant time to the process and therefore remove ice time from our young players. Again a dedicated facility, basic in nature, that does not remove ice time from others could work for curling.
- We are over 65 year old seniors for the most part. A smooth surface is not just nice to have. It is mandatory for the safety of the players skating on the ice. Besides having access to dressing rooms before and after the games and having a hard, smooth ice surface as per usual, our only other concern would be if there were painted curling lines on the ice. This would interfere with normal ice hockey layout and would cause confusion and likely lead to injury.
- None
- Ice quality is always a concern for safety reasons. Would there be a greater chance of debris and dirt on the ice. Would removal of equipment have an impact on the ice that can not be repaired with a flood or two.
- I think the curlers would have more of a problem with the ice quality than we would. So no issues here.
- Curling ice is textured. Hockey and skating are smooth. Significant effort is required for both. Where we play it is one pad and an older rink barely capable of maintaining hockey ice. How do you do both? I have never seen this accomplished?
- As long as the ice is ready for when our group needs it....there's no problem. But how realistic is that?

- I don't understand how a shared-use model would work given that ice quality is different. i.e. pebbled ice for curling and normal smooth ice for skating. Also there are rings and circles that are required for curling and red and blue lines required for hockey. It seems that the hockey ice would have to be taken out for curling and vice versa. This would be very inefficient and time consuming and nobody would be able to use the facility during the conversion.
- We have some skaters in our more competitive programs who train as many as 12 hours per week at Central Arena and are competing at a provincial level. They require consistent high quality figure skating ice.
- In regards to ice quality, treatment of curling ice is different from ice for hockey. Ice maintenance people pebble the ice for curling. Its meant to be a little rough. They have ice makers. Ice for ice hockey is meant to be smoother ice. Skaters break up the ice which is why zamboni's are required between periods or floods. An ice surface needs to be either one or the other, but not shared.
- I do not know about keeping ice quality but I do see our rink attendant spends numerous time to shave and grind the ice to get it to a quality level for hockey. not certain that curling will make any difference once the zamboni goes around and adds the required water and the blade shaves it at a proper level. Not much concern except for the time involved for the change over.
- Will the curling ice surface be required to have a stippled finish for curling uses. If so, how reliably could this finish be removed to permit the ice to be prepared for hockey. Is there a plan layout available to show the line painting required for curling overlaid on a hockey rink?
- There would only be an issue if Ice quality was softer.
- We obviously would need proper hockey ice. i.e. not a pebbled curling ice surface. It would not matter to us if there was a painted curling surface. But we would want our blue lines to still exist and preferably the goalie crease markings.
- Hockey and Curling should NOT be using the same ice surfaces. Curling rinks existed separately from hockey playing facilities for a REASON.
- our average age is likely 55....league is 45+....one or 2 guys are 70. Ice quality is important so that there are no injuries as a result of poor ice quality.
- Wear and ruts in the ice from curling would be different from those made from hockey. Risk of injury on uneven surfaces.

Shared off-ice amenities:

- No storage available now
- Regarding off ice amenities, more users mean more people. Busier hall ways, busier public washrooms.etc
- Mimico Arena would need expanded storage space to accommodate curling need
- Timing
- Regarding off ice amenities, more users mean more people. Busier hall ways, busier public washrooms.etc
- Warren Park Hockey would be VERY against this shared-use model.

Change rooms:

- Only 4 small ones available at Pinepoint
- With games running for 8-hours starting at 1:30pm we would require 4-dressing rooms from 8:00pm onwards.
- Regarding dressing rooms, dressing rooms are usually at full capacity now. Curling players do not require to change completely the way hockey players do. They do have

some equipment, and some wear specific clothing to curl, but they do not require separate dressing rooms. How many curling rinks are going to be on one ice surface if shared use? The more curlers, the more dressing rooms required. It depends on if people are overlapping facilities. Privacy for hockey players needs to be protected. We require all coaching staff to have vulnerable sector police checks, but we would have no control over the curlers that are walking to their dressing room for the east rink, while hockey players on the West rink ((ie at Etobicoke Centennial). Wouldn't have that issue necessarily on a single pad facility other than at a change of games from one to the other.

- Shower time
- Youths together with adults in the same room
- Same as it is..... We're already challenged by the groups coming in after us. DO NOT MAKE THE CHANGE TIMES LESS!!!!
- still expect to have enough changes to accommodate our entire group as we normally would.
- We would like to ensure at least two of the four available change rooms are clear for our group to change a half hour prior to our scheduled ice time of 9:00 pm on Fridays. We also have had---for several years---significant issues with a lack of hot water for post-game showers. Will the City consider updating the hot water system at Lakeshore Arena?
- Regarding dressing rooms, dressing rooms are usually at full capacity now. Curling players do not require to change completely the way hockey players do. They do have some equipment, and some wear specific clothing to curl, but they do not require separate dressing rooms. How many curling rinks are going to be on one ice surface if shared use? The more curlers, the more dressing rooms required. It depends on if people are overlapping facilities. Privacy for hockey players needs to be protected. We require all coaching staff to have vulnerable sector police checks, but we would have no control over the curlers that are walking to their dressing room for the east rink, while hockey players on the West rink ((ie at Etobicoke Centennial). Wouldnt have that issue necessarily on a single pad facility other than at a change of games from one to the other.
- Only if the rooms are used to store items abd
- We use all 5 dressing rooms during our permitted ice times.
- Well that seems an odd question....why would we share the change room, unless we are sharing the ice. You cant play hockey and curl on the ice at the same time !! The only issue we have with change rooms is this....those change rooms at Central arena have had NOTHING done to them since the rink was built. I double dog dare you to go to the rink, go into any change room, and take a shower. I suspect you would not set one foot in there.

Other comments and needs:

- How would it work with leaving the curling circles painted on the ice for hockey. What about faceoff circles, etc. for hockey.
- Members (50) are locked into those times for week-end ice hockey play which is played as friendly/competitive.2 independent games.
- Its not a good idea to use a shared used model.
- Curling is a great sport and has been delivered very well at private facilities dedicated to the sport. City arenas today provide a great opportunity for public skating, learn to skate, adult hockey, figure skating and youth hockey because we all use the same quality of ice. Curling ice is specialized in its texture and marking so is best served in a facility dedicated to the game. If curling scheduling comes to be our association will be required

to source additional ice at private facilities and therefore see a potentially dramatic increase in fees for grass roots community hockey.

- Our main concern would be optics within the hockey community. I believe in addition to causing logistical problems during the games (based on the different lines and circles), converting our arena to accommodate curlers could signify to others that our organization is dying and becoming expendable. We certainly do not want to have any membership losses in light of our recent cancelled season due to covid. We have been playing out of this rink since 1952 longer than most Etobicoke organizations. I believe it is vital to the community of Mimico to ensure we have a strong local house league and do not want to look as though hockey is a secondary use of the rink. I would suggest using Long Branch Arena for curling.
- Extra lines may have an impact as ringette requires a few more lines than hockey.
- We have and use permanent office space at Central Arena which we use and staff regularly 10 months of the year. We also make use of the lounge area during every session and make regular use of the music room and music equipment.
- Its not a good idea to use a shared use model.

[Do you have suggestions about how arena programming could be expanded to support curling activities, while balancing the needs of existing user groups in shared-use model?](#)

- I am not sure how to do this
- Only way to expand usage is to open during the day.
- would think that a lot of schools would be interested in using the curling ice. Specific times should be set aside to accommodate them
- Including students in the expanded curling activities would be one way to offset loss of ice time.
- As I mentioned, schedule curling in the mornings. If there is a bonspiel, that takes entire days, cancel or move hockey to another arena.
- Without an understanding of the total ice allocation, it's hard to say. If there is open ice time to be up for grabs, then renting it makes sense. But if the ice is already fully rented, it does not make sense to convert for curling.
- Weekday daytime is only viable way with 2-3 hrs to convert and build ice back up prior to hockey permits
- The facility we use has two ice pads. I am not aware of what the facility utilization is, but only suggestion I could make is that if the facility is only using one sheet of ice, then the other sheet could be set up for curling and not require converting from one to the other.
- No I don't but the city needs to figure out how many groups want to curl. In the event that the number exceeds those wanting to play hockey then allocate more ice to the curlers. Fair is fair
- No
- I thought there was a shortage of present ice for various hockey & skating activities, organizations & individuals. Would it be wiser to purchase a curling rink.
- Only allow curling to be played during times that the ice usually sits idle, allowing enough time for the ice to be ready for existing user groups. During the day, on weekdays the ice isn't used as much as it is evenings and weekends (Prime time)
- The facility we use has two sheets of ice. I am not aware of what the facility utilization is, but the only suggestion I could make is that if the facility is only ever using one sheet of ice, then the other sheet could be set up for curling and not require converting from one to the other.
- Curling has existed well for years in dedicated facilities. As we understand the ice quality is very different than what is used for hockey and figure skating, we at Humber Valley do not see how it can be integrated at a shared arena. Our club is required to use a mix of

private and city ice to deliver our programming so would suggest a dedicated curling facility is required.

- None at this time.
- I would suggest you use an arena that is primarily used for practices where paining of the ice would be least destructive with no perceived degradation that could affect an existing hockey organization.
- Based on our experience with the dedicated curling sheets at Curling clubs, preparing and maintaining the “pebbled” Curling Ice is a specialized, time consuming activity. From our perspective, I don’t know how this would be effectively managed when switching back and forth from Ice hockey (or figure skating) to Curling.
- No
- Xx
- NoNo
- Build more rinks Build outdoor rinks with a roof similar to Greenwood Park
- I do not know
- Yes, devote a whole day to curling activities, so as to reduce change over challenges by doing once per week versus multiple times. As long as that day is not Thursdays I'm good with it.
- No I don’t see this shared use model working
- Perhaps arenas that do not house a house league or GTHL game ice would make sense as the rink could perhaps balance practice ice for hockey and curling.
- We play Saturdays which is probably the most popular hockey and learn-to-skate time for any club - there have usually been groups before and after us on Saturday mornings. Perhaps curling could be scheduled evenings? Sundays?
- Make some of the lesser used rinks curling exclusive..... Obviously rinks are under used during the day. Considering the demographics, make curling a daytime thing.
- Given what I just answered I don't see how it is possible that curling and skating activities can share the same surface.
- A second ice pad would be a workable solution, but the ice surface at central is already very small for figure skating so splitting the surface is not a solution. A new facility would work.
- I would say just try to fit them in available time slots.
- No ideas at this time.
- Only allow curling to be played during times that the ice usually sits idol, allowing enough time for the ice to be ready for existing user groups. During the day, on weekdays the ice isnt used as much as it is evenings and weekends (Prime time)
- I am not sure how practical it would be, but the arenas sit empty for several hours each day Monday to Friday...
- The city has not built any additional arenas in the city in decades and it would be great if they consider building some to accommodate additional sports happening in the community.
- A
- Not off the tip of our head
- as a school we would be interested in using the curling ice if we could have access to curling rocks and brooms
- Ideally with weekday slots during the day that do not interfere with school uses.
- Build a new curling only facility.
- Not at this time. I don’t know what other type of scheduling exists at our rink.
- NO - do not put curling in hockey rinks. Lambton and Chris Tonks arenas are needed for Minor Hockey. West-End hockey clubs are constantly looking for ice and this survey asks if we would accept getting less than we do now.
- no....it is already over booked. Unless they wish to curl at 1130 at night or 5am.

- Build more arenas.

Are there opportunities that a shared-use model presents for your user group?

- Not really
- 'Hockling'- a combination of hockey and curling. Rules to come!
- I cannot think of any, other than the concept of sharing and youth curling opportunities.
- If our ice time is scheduled in the transition from/to curling, we could have a single night of curling or a season end type event. Otherwise, our players just want the same ice time they have enjoyed for almost 60 years to play hockey.
- Mo
- Not from what I can see.
- No
- No
- None at this time.
- No
- We are dedicated hockey club focused on the development of youth athletes. Curling is a great sport so unless there is learn to play program, dedicated facilities and a process for shared marketing it may be a challenge. If the city can find a way to replicate the Leaside and East York curling facilities in the west end without taking away current arena use then we can find opportunities to support.
- As stated above, with only 1 time slot allocated, I doubt we could go to a shared-use model. We are looking for an increase in our allocation.
- No
- No.
- No
- Xxxx
- Not that I am aware
- We would be interested in adding a Curling Component to our Association
- No
- Yes a reduction in our costs, as curling is for the affluent, so charge them more and reduce our costs/hr.
- No. Actually our last 2 curlers retired from hockey and both participated in curling at Weston. If a private club could not keep the arena open how will the City?
- Not any I can think of
- None
- I can't answer this as I don't know what a shared-use model would look like at our arena.
- None...this is going to be a mess
- I don't see any opportunities.
- No, unless it involves improvements to the physical facility. Nearby Lambton Arena might be a more logical partner for curling as there is no figure skating in that facility.
- I don't think so, we play hockey once a week on Wednesday nights from 10-11pm. So I don't believe there's a shared opportunity with our group.
- Not sure of what you mean by 'opportunities'.
- None that I can think of
- At our arena there are definitely no opportunities to have shared use. The city added public skating and city programming for shockey instructions for young kids and taken away prime time ice from our organization for an adult league that was at George Bell arena taking away hockey use for are teams that had the facility used for over 50 years.
- A
- Not sure
- we would be delighted to use the curling ice if a suitable time was available

- Not that we are currently aware of.
- I don't believe so.
- None at this time.
- NONE
- hockey is from mid sept to end of MArch. Curling could certainly happen outside those time parameters.
- Better after ice time facilities!

If an Etobicoke arena were to be converted full-time for curling use, with existing uses/activities moved to a nearby arena, what, if any, concerns or needs would your organization have?

- That we don't lose hours of ice and timeslots. That if we are moved to another arena, that it is in the area of the other arenas that we use from the City
- We would need to have Wednesday nights if we are to keep the majority of players on all the teams. Some players can only play Wednesdays or play elsewhere on other nights.
- None
- Ice time. It's already pretty hard to get; this would certainly put more of a squeeze on.
- Depending on what rink was chosen, it may end up not allowing for any recreational skating due to the distance of other rinks.
- I cannot see that much curling demand for full-time curling use.
- Loss of ice allotment - travel time to new arena.
- None available nearby for games. We have home games all day Saturday Sunday as well as M-f evenings
- As stated previously our league has operated out of the facility for over 38-years moving to a different arena would drive away a good portion of our league members. The facility we use was selected for its centralized location for our members, easy access to the facility for our members and scheduling. Losing any of these could severely impact our league.
- No concerns as long as the new area is within a reasonable distance from the original
- that we might lose access to our permit
- The Arena we are at is ideal for us.(been here since 1967)
- West Mall Minor Hockey Association is over 50 years old. We serve the community that Etobicoke Centennial Arena is in. Our teams play Houseleague and GTHL games at this Arena as our 'home' ice. It would be detrimental to our local community association if we were to not use this arena.
- As stated previously, our league has operated out of our facility for 25+ years. Moving to a different arena/arenas would drive away a good portion of our league members. The facility we use was picked for its centralized location to our league members, easy access to the facility for our older members, and scheduling. Losing any of these could severely impact our league.
- Humber Valley hockey has concerns that the potential conversion of an existing facility to curling only will create increased costs due to the need to use more private ice, increased travel time as arenas become unavailable and a scheduling challenge as we are required to adjust arena access to meet the need of less ice.
- None
- Our concern would be that we keep our traditional ice times with as little disruption as possible.
- Almost all our players are locally based in Central Etobicoke. If we lost access to (in this case) Central Arena, it would pose transportation challenges for some depending on the location of the alternative site.
- We would close the team

- Xx
- Less ice time for youth programs
- Our club's name is tied to the Pine Point Arena. If we were moved to another arena it could cause confusion for our existing member base to drive to another arena.
- We would be concerned if it required more driving time for our families.
- A big concern would be acquiring similar ice times (day, hours, times). Most of our players are youth so having mid evening ice time is essential on week nights (7 & 8 pm). While a high percentage of our membership is focused in south-central Etobicoke our membership comes from all over west end Toronto; earlier ice times are not feasible. We are the only Ringette Association in Toronto. Ringette lines would be required to be added. Etobicoke Ringette utilizes storage facilities at Long Branch and to a lesser extent at Centennial. The ERA has been growing for the last 8 years and we have had difficulty in acquiring age appropriate ice time to accommodate our expanding membership. I am not sure how there could be enough unused ice time in the Etobicoke rinks. For the last couple of years we have been using Park Lawn for practices as there was no arena ice time available.
- If it effects our arena, then huge concerns. So to mitigate that concern, a shared arrangement is best. Just not shared on Thursdays.
- None as long as time slots are not lost to required hockey and skating. This should be straightforward, pre-schedule all activities, and if you have enough slots for everyone the go for it. But what makes you believe that there is a model if the private sector failed.
- None
- Our grassroots Hockey programming groups would be the best groups to advise on this.
- With a challenged child, we parents look at the programs that are best suited for our child first - the location is secondary. Therefore, some families have to travel fair distances to attend our program, which is why Saturday morning works better than evenings for our athletes. Having said that, we would need to ensure adequate facilities with respect to change rooms, washrooms, rink/ice quality, viewing area, parking, etc.
- Long-standing, small group, contracts will not be honoured in favour of the larger (hockey/figure skating)groups. We will be bumped out
- We would want to have the same time slot that we have had for over 40 years.
- Silver Blades has been at Central Arena for decades. The majority of our members are west end Toronto and Etobicoke residents with many in local schools, within walking distance of the arena. We are a true community club serving Etobicoke residents. Many of our students and one of our coaches even attend our Lady of Sorrows, which is literally right beside the rink.
- #1 location : how far from the existing location would it be? Obviously if it's too far that's not going to work for us. #2 Maintaining the same time slot and night we currently have had for years and years now.
- Our group has been primarily Etobicoke-based for 40 years and we might not find enough players to continue if we were moved to another arena.
- None, provided the day is the same and the time is more or less the same
- The organization concerns are these of a community base teams that our organization runs most of our players are local and relocating presents additional challenges.
- A
- Location would be our main concern as we use Mimico and its easy for our students/teams to access.
- right now we can walk to Mimico Arena for our skating sessions - if it became a curling rink we would have to bus the children to another rink
- Our hockey association has permanently lost the use of an arena that we have been a longstanding user at, as of this year. The arena is a private school facility that is being

converted to a multi-use facility so we are desperate to replace this lost ice (16 hours weekly). We are concerned about any further loss of access to ice facilities.

- We do not want to move to another arena as all of our members live close by.
- Our ice time is used for pickup hockey. We do not use referees or timekeepers. But we would like our same day and time slot.
- We need more ice for Minor Hockey not less
- evenings and weekends are pretty solidly booked - but you would know that. If curlers are wanting to use the already over booked hockey ice, do it outside of hockey season. Perhaps the city would be willing to spend the money to keep ice in all year. Convert to curling sheets April to August
- What alternate arena would be available? I would have concerns about distance and travel for our members and loss of commitment. Change in cost of ice rental.

Are there potential opportunities for your organization that could be realised through an arena conversion and relocation of existing activities? (e.g. potential to relocate closer to where existing users live or work, more appropriate arena amenities, etc.)

- If we are relocated closer to where our members live and easier to get to.
- Depends on which evening it is. Location is a minor issue, unless it is very far away.
- None
- Not sure what this means.
- Would be another activity that students could participate in.
- Centennial Park Arena is central to our existing users and we have had a continuous contract for over forty years. New amenities are a non-issue.
- Unsure of the potential. Generally about 50% to 70% of the players in our league live within 5 km of the rink.
- No
- No
- No
- possibly, if we were able to move to a suitable arena, and possibly move to an earlier time
- This arena is close to our activity. I would have to know where the other arena is.
- No. many of our players are local to Etobicoke Centennial Arena
- NO
- No. Our club currently uses a mix of indoor and outdoor throughout Etobicoke to satisfy the needs of our programming. From Long Branch to Albion we use ice at 7 am to 9 pm.
- Relocate closer - yes Potential of additional ice allocations with relocation – yes
- No. As mentioned above, we are a Central Etobicoke group. The vast majority of players live and pay taxes in Central Etobicoke.
- No
- Xx
- Not that I am aware
- The upside for our club would be an assumption that the ice quality would be better for figure skaters with curling in use rather than hockey.
- As it is there is not enough Ice Inventory. I would suggest converting one pad in a double pad facility. Provide more practice ice using outdoor facilities with a roof to shade from the sun.
- A relocation from Park Lawn where we only have 2 hours of ice time to another rink on the same day and times would likely mean better change room amenities for our players.
- None. We have had our ice for over 20 years. It is centrally located for our membership. Any change would be unwelcome.

- Dead stop NO. We have been at our arena Thursday night at 10 PM for over 40 years. ANY major disruption and we fold.
- Amalgamation with another arena means more players. We currently only have a small group
- As mentioned, our athletes are scattered - some from Toronto, some from York Region, some from Scarborough, some from Bolton, some from Barrie - so the location is secondary. Arena amenities would be important.
- You tell me....is there that potential? There is always the ability to go to other facilities. For hockey, most people drive considering the equipment required.
- We would want to remain in the same area if Amesbury Arena was converted to full time curling. I don't see this as a opportunity however, only our group being flexible by being willing to move to another rink.
- We cannot think of any benefits of relocation to another arena.
- I'd say there's a very slim opportunity since we're using arena that is the furthest north in Etobicoke than you can go. So any relocation would move us south which wouldn't be good for the majority of our group.
- Please see answer in earlier question above.
- This central location serves us well as at the competitive level kids come from various parts of the city
- There are always potential opportunities through relocation to near by arenas but not ideal.
- A
- certainly we would try scheduling our winter activities whether or not conversion happens
- This is a difficult question to answer without knowing what the options would be.
- No.
- None that I can think of. We just need one or two dressing rooms. Good parking
- None.
- ALL of the gentlemen in our league live in Etobicoke, in and around Central Arena. There is NO situation where we would consider moving to a new venue if given a choice.
- Might have an arena with better facilities. Albion arena has a terrible shower set up (one shower head in each dressing room). Also, opportunity for another facility with better after ice amenities.

Do you have suggestions for how the City can best work with your organization to address any issues or concerns during this review and consultation process?

- Just transparency.
- Communication and consultation are key.
- Outline the potential changes and the effect that would have on our league.
- Open dialogue between our league and the City would be very helpful.
- No
- No
- Normal procedure is men want to play hockey.
- In conversation with a number of associations and groups potentially impacted by this suggested change there is agreement that the best solution, if the city wants to support curling, is a dedicated curling only facility. With existing facility use at a premium, with the need for very different ice and with our club focused on youth based sports the only solution is a new facility build that does not remove existing ice.
- None
- Yes please give me a call as I believe I have a good handle on house league hockey in Etobicoke. I have been an executive member of the Mimico Canadiens for over 20

years. I believe I can offer you further discussion what arenas you can consider for conversion.

- No
- Keep us informed of any potential changes.
- We would be happy to discuss ways to consolidate our ice contracts into fewer arenas. As it is now we are spread through 6-10 arenas.
- Keep the lines of communication open. Hockey programs dominate and ringette is often a secondary consideration; so I have concerns that our issues will not be taken as seriously. The ERA has nearly tripled in size in the last 10 years and about 90% of our players are female.
- Yes, ensure the curling is not on Thursday nights at Park Lawn Community Rink from 10-11pm.
- You need to demonstrate demand. Pre-sell the concept and see how many would register. If this a grassroots initiative then build a center facility just for curling. A good use of Lotto money.
- We are always available to be part of a process for review.
- As mentioned, Saturday morning scheduling for our group is very important, and we would be willing to consider other locations to maintain this schedule.
- Dedicated locations. This way groups can foster growth in their sport with unique facilities. Organizations can have offices with these dedicated buildings. Hockey is becoming restrictive due to the costs....same with figure skating. The demographics for curling are not favourable for growth...decline is inevitable.
- Just keep us informed as the decision process moves forward.
- Silver Blades is interested in renting more ice, including through the summer months for camp programming. We have a growing membership that is interested in more programming. We are interested in any discussions that would allow us to expand our programming at Central Arena going forward.
- Just have an open and honest conversation with us.
- Not at this time.
- We are a small user in Etobicoke. At most we would use 4 hours weekly, but in past few years that number has been reduced to 2. It is essential for our program that we are able to continue to secure ice in Etobicoke.
- I have been dealing and working with the city for 46 years and I have had good support and at times been ignored. I have vary from 15 to 17 teams per year and I am allocated 9 hours of ice time most difficult to provide good quality time for our teams. Yes I am willing and want to participate to work with the city to address concerns to best accommodate all the parties involved.
- Not sure yet
- No
- It would be helpful to know what arenas are being considered for curling use and the prospective timelines for implementation, as well as what current arenas are under utilized and could accommodate additional hockey usage.
- Please keep us informed of the process.
- Keep communication open.
- I am likely calling my City Councilor Gord Perks this week to express my concern over this survey how it is a non-workable idea for all the West-End Minor hockey clubs.
- Do you have any idea how many curlers there are? Compare that to the number of men, women, girls, boys who play hockey each winter. Now...if you do a survey, and tell all the curlers that the ice for curling for the season is the same as it would be for a hockey league - in our case \$37,000 per year for 4 hours a week - I suspect that will be the last you hear from any curlers. They will not spend the money to rent at market price.

- Collaborate to discuss concessions or options if our arena was to become a shared facility or if we were to be relocated.

Do you have any other comments or feedback that could help inform this work?

- Our league has played at that time for over 30 years. We would all hate to have to leave.
- I think the arena conversion rather than a shared use model would make more sense.
- It would be interesting to see the need for curling hours quantified.
- Happy to bring our player feedback to the committee.
- Not at this time.
- Rink workers - need to be more professional and understand the City is running a business. Bad customer service means a decline in sales.
- No
- I think all been said. What ever decision is made, do not do it in a hurry. With all teams and groups wanting a home to play, the ideal playing time could be in question. I cannot participate on June 17, but can you e-mail me with your decision and info from that June 17 meeting. with THANKS
- We don't have enough City of Toronto rinks now. I believe Etobicoke Centennial was the last one to be built which was 1967. The private rinks are very expensive making the cost of youth hockey unattainable. We as minor hockey associations are being inclusive and encouraging new players, and players of other countries to give it a try. But closing down arenas will not give these players the opportunities.
- consultation and data is key. Help us understand the potential enrolment numbers for curling, the number of hours required, the facility requirements and the process by how the decisions are made. It is also important to consider that programs based in Etobicoke are often required to travel out of our community to use facilities so interested to know if this is a consideration for curlers as well.
- None
- No
- We require 2 change rooms based on number of our players before and after our games. If indeed there is demand for ice from Curlers in Etobicoke, then our suggestion would be that the City pursue the idea of a new dedicated arena somewhere in midtown Toronto. We are fairly confident that the Curlers will want their own facility to play in and a place to socialize. They generally have a strong focus on the social component, so an amenity rich facility would be an important part of the attraction to Curlers. Also, we suggest that the City look closely at all the costs involved in setting up and maintaining a Curling facility (specialized ice maintenance, rocks, back stops, etc) and examine closely if Curling is able to support the fee structure required for the City to justify and cover their investment. We can also safely say that certain locations, like Central Arena for example, have benefitted greatly from the generosity of tenants like the Humber Valley (Minor) Hockey association and Silver Blades Skating Club over the years. For example, back in the 1990's, these two associations contributed \$30,000 to the City to install 2 dehumidifiers at Central to make the rink more functional and to prolong the Spring/Fall shoulder season by getting excess humidity out of the air. Many of the members of Humber Valley at that time specifically are now enjoying recreational hockey in their Senior years and maintaining the status quo would be of great importance. As well, the Humber Valley Association Oldtimers have contributed generously and annually to the Dryden family's Sleeping Children Around the World for over 35 years and, in addition, to other local charities for the past 7 years. Finally, MLSE has contributed funding to upgrade infrastructure at Etobicoke rinks in a time of tight financial constraints. A prime example would be the new lighting at Central Arena. This gesture was in support primarily, if not exclusively, of community recreational hockey

- None
- Not sure how you can put hockey and curling on the same ice pad. Each sports needs dedicated ice
- We could commit to more ice each season to justify more inventory. We would be especially interested in outdoor covered ice rinks.
- Certainly based on my experience with the difficulties in trying to acquire ice time to expand our programs, I would dispute the assumption that there is unused capacity in Etobicoke area rinks on weeknights and weekends. I do not believe that there is enough ice time capacity to close an entire rink or really accommodate shared use unless it is during weekddays. Surely the level of curling needs are unclear; one option would be to rent ice at a commercial facility to determine the actual level of interest amongst the curlers.
- Curling, really. Should be at a devoted rink attached to a country club somewhere in Etobicoke.
- The house leagues and rep clubs that have been contacted through this survey are extremely concerned that their programming for ice will be lost. I've heard from four groups that feel a certain level of fear based on the survey and questions related to moving to other rinks.
- The only other concern we have, which is unrelated to this work however, is the cost of ice. We are a federally registered charity which operates almost strictly from our fundraising efforts. We're all volunteers - there are no paid staff. We fundraise hard to be able to continue to offer hockey to our athletes, and to try to keep the costs to our families as low as possible. Having a challenged family member certainly takes its toll on the family, and most of these challenged family members remain totally dependent for life, which takes its own toll on aging parents. I've always wondered why the City of Toronto makes no consideration for charities, however, I recognize this is not the topic at hand. Perhaps another time.
- I realize it's the City's job to provide, as best, facilities for all users.....needs to be sustainable
- Maybe someone could educate me via email as to how long it takes to make curling ice and how long it would take to change ice surfaces from skating to curling and vica versa.
- No
- Just be 100% transparent with plans and what the end goal is here. I don't think it's fair for recreational hockey groups to lose their time slots or locations just because some curling facilities have close down. Does that seem fair? Take from one to give to other? The groups that have been in the same place and playing at the same time should have priority and decide what they want to do based on options presented. Thanks!
- No comments other than we like the Friday 9:00 pm time slot at Lakeshore Arena and would like to keep that existing contract.
- I do not curl but recognize the need and desire of the curling community to have ice where they can curl. In Leaside they have a separate 6 pads along side two ice rinks used for hockey and figure skating. Perhaps the city could consider putting up bubbles adjacent to existing arenas and beefing up the refrigeration equipment in order to handle ice in both facilities. Finally, as long as what is done does not have a negative impact on kids being able to participate in hockey or other on ice activities, our association can support this initiative.
- No comments Just frustration when it comes to ice time availability.
- None
- No
- It would be helpful to understand the process for preparing the ice surface for curling and the subsequent process for returning the ice to its typical condition, along with related timing.

- There is a large demand for ice time in The city of toronto, more focus needs to be out in building new more modern cost effective solutions.
- I would like to poll my players to see if they have any incite or suggestions.
- Stupid ill-thought idea. The city would have a revolt by hockey families on their hands.
- Take the money you are considering spending to satisfy a very small number of participants in a dying sport, and spend it on updating the tile and shower heads at Central arena showers. By the way....there is a reason they have come to the city for ice time.....all the private clubs realized it is a dying sport and costs money to whomever is fool enough to support them. Be smart....dont succumb to their arguments. You will regret it.
- Incurring ice rental cost increases and accessibility to accommodate curling arenas.