



MEDIA RELEASE

Welland Arenas to Get a Makeover

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Welland – The City of Welland’s two arenas will benefit from the much-anticipated funding announcement made today at Welland’s Main Arena. St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra and MPP Jim Bradley were in Welland this afternoon to make the official funding announcements of one million dollars from each of the two levels of government.

“The federal government is very pleased to be able to assist the residents of Welland with this type of funding”, said Dykstra. “This arena has been a fixture in the city for many years and with these improvements and upgrades, should continue to serve the sports community well into the future.”

“These upgrades will allow the Welland arena complex to service more people in our community and provide a high quality facility for local sports organizations”, said MPP Bradley. “Improving our arenas and recreation facilities provides a better quality of life for residents and sports enthusiasts from across Niagara and beyond our borders”.

The City of Welland made application six weeks ago under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program for funding assistance by the federal and provincial governments that would assist in giving the aging arenas a much-needed makeover.

“With the combined ages of our two areas – the Main Arena and Jack Ballantyne Memorial (Youth) Arena – being over 100 years old, the funds from the RInC Program will be put to good use in improving these facilities that have played a significant part in the history of sports in our community”, said Mayor Damian Goulbourne.

Rehabilitation work on the two arenas will include removal of barriers to improve accessibility for people of all ages and abilities; fire safety improvements; changeroom upgrades and installation of female changerooms, which currently do not exist; replacement and installation of deteriorating or missing exterior finishings; mechanical upgrades; new rink board systems; and improvements to the main entrance and lobby expansion to include two new sets of stairs leading to a second floor glassed-in viewing area overlooking the main arena.

Bill Fenwick, General Manager of Parks, Facilities, and Leisure Services for the City was also pleased to receive news that the application for funding under the RInC Program received positive response. “If it were not for this funding, the City would not have had the opportunity to make its arenas energy-efficient and operate cost-effectively as extensive upgrades and retrofitting is required to incorporate newer energy-saving, green technologies into the facilities”, he stated.

The central location of the City’s arenas make them a popular choice for year-round use for everything from sporting activities to community events. The scheduled improvements will ensure the facilities are available for use by all members of our community and the surrounding area for years to come.

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For more information contact:
Bill Fenwick, General Manager
Parks, Facilities, & Leisure Services
Phone: (905) 735-1700 ext. 2310

Karen Moncur
Office of Rick Dykstra, MP

Matt Robinson
Office of Jim Bradley, MPP

City of Welland
60 East Main Street
Welland, ON L3B 3X4