

# Empire Sportsplex grand opening on July 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2022

**Welland, ON** – The City of Welland, along with partners Empire Communities and Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities (Jumpstart) are proud to officially open the Empire Sportsplex at 11 Shaw Street, on Saturday, July 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The grand opening includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony with honorary speakers from all parties involved. In addition, there will be live entertainment, sports demonstrations by local sports organizations, drop-in sessions, sponsor activations, prizes, and more.

Situated next to the Welland International Flatwater Center (WIFC), this new, one-of-a-kind facility offers various sporting and recreational options, including:

- Six dedicated pickleball courts
- Three tennis courts (with line overlay for six pickleball courts)
- Five beach volleyball courts
- One full-size basketball court
- Two half-size basketball courts (for 3-on-3)

As a result of a further partnership with Jumpstart, the Sportsplex will feature an additional court facility – The Jumpstart Multi Sport Court. The Jumpstart Multi Sport Court offers a space for children of all abilities, with inclusive amenities such as cushioned court surfacing, adjustable height basketball nets, an adjustable height volleyball net for sitting and standing volleyball, shaded benches, high contrast colours, and a unique self-guided free play area.

Usage of the Sportsplex is free during non-rental periods, and a public open-access schedule will be posted on the City's [website](#). In addition, leagues and user groups can rent courts for training or games, securing their spot without concern of overlap. The Sportsplex is fully lit, operating from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. from May 1 to October 31 annually. Weather permitting, the courts could also be accessible in March, April, and November.

The on-site canteen focuses on health and wellness. In addition, food and beverages prepared fresh off-site will be available for sale to users of the facility, such as smoothies and wraps.

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## Media Release



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**Quotes:****City of Welland:**

“This facility transforms sport and recreation in the City of Welland,” said Rob Axiak, director of community services. “The partnerships with Empire and Jumpstart provide a facility for everyone, regardless of age or ability; this is an inclusive and well thought out facility.”

**Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities:**

“Through collaboration with the City of Welland and Empire Communities, and thanks to the generosity of local Canadian Tire Dealers Owen Billes, Patrick McMaster and Paul Medeiros, as well as donations from Canadian Tire Financial Services, CT Real Estate Investment Trust and Jumpstart Board Member Mary Turner, local kids of all abilities can participate in sport and play side-by-side, fostering a stronger, more inclusive and healthier community,” said Scott Fraser, President of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities.

**Empire Communities:**

“Empire strives to build communities that help to enrich the lives of its residents,” says Mark Tutton, President Low-Rise Ontario. “We pride ourselves on supporting community led initiatives with a focus on health and wellness, arts and culture and education. We are proud of our partnership with the City of Welland and Canadian Tire Jumpstart and are confident that by providing a world class facility for community sport and activity we will leave a lasting legacy for years to come.”

**About Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities**

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities is a national charity committed to ensuring kids in need have equal access to sport and recreation. With an extensive, national network of more than 1,000 grantees and 289 local chapters, Jumpstart helps eligible families cover the costs of registration, transportation, and equipment, and provides funding to selected organizations for recreational infrastructure and programming. Supported by Canadian Tire Corporation, Jumpstart has provided more than 2.7 million opportunities for Canadian kids to get in the game since 2005. For more information, visit [jumpstart.canadiantire.ca](http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca). Follow Jumpstart on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) to learn how the Charity is giving kids across Canada a sporting chance.

## Media Release



### About Empire Communities

[Empire Communities](#) is a residential homebuilder involved in all sectors of the new home building industry, including both low-rise and high-rise built forms. Celebrating over 28 years of building inspiring new places to live, Empire has an established tradition of creating prestigious award-winning new homes, communities and amenities and has earned a reputation for outstanding attention to detail and customer service. Since 1993, Empire has built over 28,000 new homes and condos. Today, Empire is one of the largest privately held homebuilders in North America with current communities in Toronto, Southwestern Ontario and the Southern United States. For more information, please visit [www.empirecommunities.com](http://www.empirecommunities.com) or connect on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Twitter](#).

### Quick Facts About Empire

- Founded in 1993
- One of the largest private homebuilders in North America
- Known for innovation and design in homebuilding for more than 28 years
- Built over 30,000 homes in 90 communities, in 9 regions across North America
- Locations include Toronto, Ontario, Houston, Austin and San Antonio, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; and Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Over 800 employees
- Over 200 industry awards -7 Builder of the Year, 14 Green Builder of the Year, and 20 Green Awards
- The portfolio of Southwest Ontario communities span from Brantford, Haldimand County, Kitchener Waterloo, and Niagara
- Empire Canals is the newest master planned community coming soon in the Niagara region in Dain City. Surrounded by parks, trails and the Welland Canal, the community will be home to over 4000 residents.
- The Empire Sportsplex opening this July is a partnership with the City of Welland, and Canadian Tire Jumpstart. Situated next to the Welland Flatwater Center (WIFC), this one-of-a-kind inclusive multi-sport facility offers six pickleball courts, three tennis courts, five beach volleyball courts, one full-size basketball court, and two half-size basketball courts. The inclusive multi-sport facility sports/parasports amenities will be open to everyone, including homeowners living in the new Canals community.