
DATE: September 13, 2011
FROM: P. Coulter **DIV:** **DEPT:** Community Services
TO: RPAC **DIV:** **DEPT:**
SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM AAA HIGHLANDERS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Director of Community Serviced dated September 13, 2011, and recommend that City Council approve the following:

- i. **That the Highlander AAA organization be thanked for their interest in bringing AAA hockey in part to Owen Sound and for the opportunities that this provides for youth, sport tourism and the growth of sport;**
- ii. **That the Highlander AAA organization be added as a Seasonal Organization who would pay the Youth rate with the youth from out of area paying the applicable non-resident fee;**
- iii. **That the Highlander AAA organization have their request for Ice for the 2012 season approved as outlined in the report dated September 13, 2011 in principle subject to the Community Services Department in allocating ice being able to meet the needs of the existing Minor sport organization and seasonal users (adults in the time slots that are earlier that 8 pm or in their time slot as grandfathered)**

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE:

RC # 5 The City should identify partners and stakeholders for the development of a regional multi-purpose recreation centre including aquatic facilities to meet existing and future demand.

RC # 6 The City should develop itself as a regional centre for recreation opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

The Request

As the City completed the review the Ice Allocation Policy for 2011, groups and organizations were encouraged to submit requests for ice and floor time for 2012 when the new Recreation Centre will offer an additional ice pad in the City. In response to this request, the AAA Highlander organization has submitted correspondence with a number of requests:

- **August and September practice time**
August practices for Highlander teams begin a few weeks in advance of the Labour Day weekend. The teams practice on Saturdays and Sundays during August and in September after Labour Day, the teams practice 2 – 3 times per week.
- **Monday Clinics**
During the season, the Highlanders offer Monday clinics that require 4.5 hours of ice time
- **Pre season Tournament**
A pre-season tournament prior to September 15th. This tournament would require 1 or 2 ice pads.
- **SCTA March Tournament**
League tournament with 9 teams from South Central league to select representative for Provincial championship
- **April tryouts**
6 teams – require five 1.5 hours time slots in the 14 day period beginning mid April.

Hockey Canada is the sole governing body for amateur hockey in Canada.

Each province is represented by a Branch of Hockey Canada.

There are a total of three Hockey Canada Branches that govern hockey in Ontario. The OHF has largest area of jurisdiction over the province of Ontario. The OHF operates within a structure that is comprised of seven Member Partners: Alliance Hockey, Greater Toronto Hockey League, Northern Ontario Hockey Association, Ontario Hockey Association, Ontario Hockey League, **Ontario Minor Hockey Association**, and Ontario Women's Hockey Association. Each operates specific programs to their area or jurisdiction, following Hockey Canada and OHF Regulations, Rules and Policies.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association, founded in 1935, is the largest minor hockey association in the world and oversees a participant base of 300,000 consisting of players, coaches, trainers, officials, hockey volunteers and parents across the province. The OMHA has 250 active member minor hockey associations and annually coordinates 31 leagues and approximately 600 development clinics throughout Ontario.

Both the AAA Highlanders and Owen Sound Minor Hockey are members of the OMHA. The difference is the ranking – Highlanders is AAA and Owen Sound is A. The Highlanders can have players from the Grey Bruce Owen Sound region with a maximum of 3 players from "out of area". Owen Sound Minor Hockey runs an A rep team, many Additional Entry (AE) teams as well as a growing house league program. Owen Sound, like the Highlanders have an area established by the OMHA where they can draw players and for the first time in 2011 are also permitted 3 "out of area" players.

Recreation Master Plan (see excerpt attached)

The City of Owen Sound currently has 2 ice surfaces and by the spring of 2012 the existing Coliseum Ice Pad will be replaced by the new Regional Recreation Centre with 2 ice pads for a total of 3 ice pads. One ice pad will remain in the facility year round.

In part the decision of the City to undertake the construction of the additional ice pad was to meet an unmet community need (the plan estimated a deficiency of 0.7 ice pads) as well as to provide opportunities to grow existing programs and provide for new programs and recreational opportunities.

In terms of the Needs Assessment, the 2007 Master Plan estimated that the demand by youth will decrease slightly over the next ten years (from 2006) however; use by adult recreational users is expected to increase over the same period. The Master Plan also notes that a third ice pad would allow for full accommodation of local youth ice organizations, increased tournament potential as well as increased usage by adults.

Ice Allocation Policy

The Ice Allocation Policy provides considerations for "New Organization or Emerging Sport":

When reasonable, the City will recognize a new ice organization or emerging ice sport and will make reasonable effort to allocate ice time to enable it to establish its programs and services in the City. Recognition and ice allocation will occur once the conditions and criteria outlined in this policy are met and if existing users will not be adversely impacted. New organizations/programs will be accommodated only to provide for unmet community needs. (p.13, section 8.4)

ANALYSIS:

There are some principles that provide the basis for consideration of the request by the Highlander AAA organization including:

- Is the request supported by the Policies of the City's Strategic Plan and Recreation Master Plan?
- Are the criteria established through the Ice Allocation Policy met? This includes consideration of scheduling, availability and impact on existing user groups.

The City's Strategic Plan looks to the City to be a regional centre with respect to recreation opportunities. Through the Economic Development committee, there is a group working on Sports Tourism. The opportunity to add a AAA Hockey to the existing recreational opportunities is consistent.

The Ice Allocation Policy has criteria for establishing a new ice organization as follow:

- i. Conditions and criteria outlined in this policy are met

The conditions for a minor sport group are provided in section 4.2 of the Policy and include:

- Non profit recreational group based in the City dedicated to minor sports
- An established provider of quality recreational programs, primarily for youth
- The main provider of its particular activity for youth in the City
- Membership in the group is dominated by residents of the City and its recreation partners
- The organization is recognized must have a constitution, be incorporated and have auditable financial statement and be affiliated with a recognized organization.

The Highlander organization can achieve many of these criteria; however, two may be problematic. The Highlander organization includes Grey Bruce and Owen Sound. While it is their goal to for the first time in their 18 year history to base a part of their program from the City, ice will continue to be used in Flesherton, Markdale, Ayton and Chesley. The membership of youth who participate on Highlander teams varies each year, but on average includes about 50% or more of youth from Owen Sound, Meaford and Georgian Bluffs. This varies by team and by year.

If the group could not be considered a minor sport group, they could be added as a seasonal organization. A seasonal organization is a group that uses an ice facility on a weekly basis for an entire season.

If the concern in designating the group is around the minor rate fee structure this would be addressed by either charging: a blended adult and minor rate or ensuring that the youth participants from out of area will have a non resident card. With the changes to OMHA rules for Owen Sound Minor Hockey, 3 "out of area" children are now allowed and these youth require non-resident cards.

ii. Existing users will not be adversely impacted

The impact on existing users is more difficult to understand. Minor groups and seasonal organizations have been encouraged to provide their "wish list" of time once the new centre opens. Few have taken an opportunity to do this; however, minor hockey has submitted a draft request.

With an expectation of earlier allocation for the fall 2012 season, it is anticipated that at least some of the Highlander request can be accommodated. It would be an approval in principle subject to the completion of the schedule for the fall which is to be completed this year in January/February for the fall and then subject to being able to accommodate existing minor and seasonal organizations.

It is important to note that seasonal groups, in particular adults will need to remain in the non prime hours that are not suitable for youth participants. If all users were allowed to move to prime time, the business plan for the facility will become onerous.

iii. New organizations/programs will be accommodated only to provide for unmet community needs.

There is no AAA hockey at this time in Owen Sound. The provision of a small part of the AAA program in Owen Sound will meet a community need that many families currently drive to participate in.

CONSULTATION:

In preparing this report, consultation has been undertaken with:

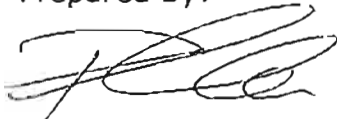
Brenda Dailey, Facility Booking Coordinator
Craig Ruppenthal, Manager of Facilities
Ruth Coursey, City Manager

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Provided the criteria of the Ice Allocation policy are met, the additional rentals will have a positive financial impact on the City. There will be support for local business as well.

The subsidized ice rental is addressed either by charging a blended adult youth rate or by having the out of town youth pay the non-resident surcharge.

Prepared by:



Pamela Coulter, BA, MCIP RPP
Director of Community Services

Submitted by:



A. Ruth Coursey
City Manager

c. Brenda Dailey, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Craig Ruppenthal, Manager of Facilities

new file

AAA Highlanders

Ice Request

August 8, 2011

Dear Pam,

I am writing to as a result of our meeting regarding AAA Highlander hockey and the city of Owen Sound.

I write this with bias, firstly as a proud Owen Sounder, sports and fitness promoter, and hockey fanatic. My family chooses to live in Owen Sound. We believe the new rec. centre will become a vital part of our community's future as it gets to be known as the gateway to Owen Sound. It has the potential to be a valuable tool to promote Owen Sound as a place to visit and live if it is properly managed and marketed.

I have been very involved with the Grey Bruce Highlander AAA Hockey organization since its inception more than 15 years ago. Our players reside through out the two counties with a good percentage from the Owen Sound area. The organization competes in the AAA category, which is the highest level of competitive minor hockey. The OHL draft the vast majority of their players from the AAA leagues. In the last 15 years the Highlanders are proud of the long list of graduates who have gone on to play junior hockey, college and professional hockey. This year sees two former players off to college on scholarship and three players to their first OHL camp.

The Highlanders play in the South Central AAA League (SCTA). The league is made up of Guelph, Halton, Brampton, Oakville, Burlington, Hamilton, St Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland. The organization begins practice mid-August with league play starting September 15. The teams play a 36 game schedule, which ends March 1. League Tournaments are held in March to determine the each representative for OMHA championships. Owen Sound has hosted 3 of these tournaments in recent years. By the weekend close to April 10 an Ontario champion has been

determined and the process of selecting teams for the next season begins.

During the SCTA tournament held here in March of 2009 I polled the managers to gather information on their spending habits when attending the event in Owen Sound. A rough calculation put the amount at \$90,000.

The Highlander teams weekly schedule includes two 1.5 hour practices and a 1.5 hour skills practice on Mondays. Home games are scheduled on Saturday and Sunday and are 2 hour time slots.

The Highlanders have demonstrated their commitment to player development through skill clinics and expanded practice time. The Highlanders' appetite for additional ice time has not always been met. Our scheduling and program planning time-lines are challenges for most recreation departments.

I suggest that the city consider providing the Highlanders with their August and September practice ice time, Monday clinics, a preseason Tournament, SCTA March tournament, and April tryouts. Also, there is the potential for the Highlanders to offer a minor atom program that could be a good fit for Owen Sound. The city would need to offer minor hockey rates to the Highlanders and the ability to allocate ice by the end of June for the following season.

Kindest regards,

Brian Warrilow

Pool design continues to evolve. The newest template is the multi-purpose pool, which can accommodate the traditional programs associated with a conventional competitive pool (e.g., lessons, laps, deep-water aqua fitness, competitive swimming, etc.) with the entertainment/fun elements of a leisure pool. The most successful indoor aquatic centres include a variety of features that are designed to accommodate all ages and abilities, with an increasing emphasis on the needs of the aging population.

It is clear that there is sufficient demand and interest for one publicly accessible aquatic facility in the City, however, the manner in which that facility is provided and managed (in combination with other potential components of a multi-use recreation complex) requires additional examination on the part of the City. To assist the City in advancing this initiative, a preliminary business case has been developed (see Appendix B) that identifies potential costs and operating scenarios associated with an indoor pool in Owen Sound.

f) Recommended Action Plans

3. The City should pursue the inclusion of an indoor aquatic facility as part of the proposed multi-use facility.

5.3.3 Arenas

a) Inventory

There are 2 ice pads at 2 separate locations (Coliseum and J.D. McArthur) within the City of Owen Sound for a current provision ratio of 1 ice pad per 10,800 City residents. An outdoor ice rink has also recently been developed in Harrison Park, which may help to alleviate some demand for public skating in municipal arenas. Details of each arena are presented in the following table.

During winter months these arenas are used for organized hockey, figure skating, and ringette as well as public skating and pick-up hockey. During summer months they are primarily used for box lacrosse and special events. It is important to note that the

Coliseum Arena accommodates part of an annual Fall Fair hosted by the Owen Sound Agricultural Society. The Bayshore Arena hosts large corporate events as well as concerts throughout the year; many events may be hosted without removing the ice surface.

Inventory of Municipal Arenas in the City of Owen Sound

Coliseum Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located at Victoria Park - contains 1 ice pad (190 x 90 ft.)
J.D. McArthur Arena (Bayshore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located at the Bayshore Community Centre - contains 1 ice pad (200 x 85 ft.), 5 dressing rooms, 2,640 seats (1,840 heated, 800 bleacher) and standing room for more than 500 spectators

By way of the recreation cost-sharing agreements the adjacent municipalities of Meaford and Georgian Bluffs have with the City of Owen Sound, residents of these communities are permitted the same level of access to local arenas (for minor sports) as are Owen Sound citizens and vice versa. As such, it is important to consider both the population of the surrounding area as well as its arena facilities (there is 1 ice pad in Meaford at the Meaford & St. Vincent Centre and 1 ice pad in Georgian Bluffs at the Shallow Lake & District Community Centre). In addition to these rinks, organizations in Owen Sound often rent ice time in Chatsworth, Desboro, Keady, and Williamsford Arenas when local rinks are not available; indoor natural ice rinks are also provided in Kemble and Kilsyth. It is understood that many of these arenas are operating at or near capacity during prime time hours.

b) Trends and Issues

The public consultation program and our analysis revealed the following to be the primary issues pertaining to indoor arenas:

CONDITION OF THE COLISEUM – The Coliseum is an older facility that is approaching a point in its lifespan that it will require considerable capital investment. Between 2006 and

2010, various capital projects are planned for the Coliseum (a new arena floor, replacing the Olympia Zamboni, the Roof Top Condensers, the sound system, improving accessibility at the front entrance, etc.), totalling nearly \$600,000. Although the ice plant is over thirty years old, capital funds for its replacement were not allocated within this time suggests that there are not enough dressing rooms to accommodate mixed teams of boys and girls and dressing rooms are too small and in poor condition.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RENT ICE IN OTHER COMMUNITIES –

The Owen Sound minor hockey organization last year rented 40 hours per week from arenas in the surrounding area to support their ice-time needs; arenas in Williamsford, Chatsworth, and Desboro were rented not only for practice but for tournaments as well. The Owen Sound Figure Skating Club also suggested that there was a lack of ice time as their participants are required to practice during school hours three times per week in order to sustain their curriculum.

LACK OF AVAILABLE ICE TIME – The 2003 Official Plan Background Study states “there is limited playing time with only two arenas in Owen Sound”. A review of the ice schedules indicated that the arenas are used to capacity during prime-time hours and there is only limited opportunity for additional late-night/early-morning rentals. Having two junior hockey teams further compounds the need for ice time as these two clubs are major users of prime time ice. A number of groups have requested additional ice time in the past – including, but not limited to, minor hockey, figure skating, the Owen Sound Greys, and a women’s hockey team – however, their requests could not be accommodated as all viable times were booked.

PARTICIPATION LEVELS & TRENDS – The Owen Sound Figure Skating Club experienced a slight overall increase in participation since 2000; this is the reverse of what is being seen in many other municipalities. Participation for minor hockey and ringette suggest that current registration levels in these organizations are similar to 2000 levels, although there has been some fluctuation within this period. There has been growth in girls’ hockey in

recent years (which is expected to evolve into interest in women’s hockey). Adult hockey participation is more a function of ice time availability, therefore, it is difficult to determine true demand.

DEMOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS – Owen Sound’s youth population is currently at a peak, suggesting that minor hockey, figure skating, and ringette ice needs may decline slightly in future years. Adult hockey, on the other hand, is a growing sport nationwide (particularly among the growing over-40 demographic), largely due to the aging of society. This does not necessarily mean that there will be more adult hockey participants than youth in the foreseeable future, however, it can be expected that there will be a greater proportion of adult hockey participants using Owen Sound’s arenas in the coming years.

SCHEDULING – Lacrosse draws participants from a wide area including Durham, Port Elgin, Kincardine, Lion’s Head, Meaford and Warton and points in between. Lacrosse try-outs at the beginning of season cannot be accommodated in either of the Owen Sound arenas if the ice is kept in for playoffs for any of the Junior Hockey Teams. If the ice is left in when lacrosse tryouts are scheduled, it is necessary to rent arena time at Shallow Lake, Meaford, Port Elgin, or Desboro.

Minor figure skating runs into similar scheduling conflicts in that they are not able to begin their season until the Fall Agricultural Fair is over and ice can be created in the Coliseum. Representatives of minor lacrosse and figure skating feel that an additional ice surface at the Coliseum would rectify these scheduling conflicts by allowing hockey playoffs and lacrosse try-outs as well as figure skating and the Fall Fair to occur simultaneously. Another option is to develop a separate building that could accommodate the Fall Fair’s indoor activities, instead of requiring the ice to be removed.

Lastly, the Owen Sound Men’s Rec. Hockey League would like scheduling priority over pick-up hockey groups as they have

liability insurance, support local businesses in Owen Sound and adhere to all other applicable rules.

REGIONAL DEMAND – To some degree, Owen Sound serves the arena needs of the greater Owen Sound service area. This may be particularly evident with respect to tournaments. Current and future ice pads needs should reflect demands placed on Owen Sound ice pads by residents of the City as well as by residents of surrounding municipalities.

MULTI-PAD ARENA DESIGNS – There is a strong desire for larger dressing rooms, better showers and washrooms, as well as high quality ice. As mentioned earlier, multi-purpose recreational facilities that contain two or more ice pads, swimming pools, libraries, indoor turf, etc. are also popular. Multi-pad facilities show greater operational efficiencies and revenue generation potential, whereas very few single pad arenas are fully self-supporting. Both the Bayshore and Coliseum have sufficient land that would allow for the development of a second ice pad.

c) Needs Assessment

Usage trends in other municipalities suggest that the demand for arenas is relatively steady, with some growth in the areas of female hockey and tournament markets and some declines in figure skating (the latter of which has not been seen in Owen Sound). The long-term outlook for arena demand is that facility needs will increase generally at the same pace as population growth occurs.

The need for a third ice pad in the municipality has long been discussed. During the public consultation process, arena users revealed substantial interest for an additional ice surface and suggestions were presented in favour of twinning the existing ice pad at the Coliseum Arena in conjunction with the development of a new multi-use recreation facility. The need for additional arenas received moderate support through the leisure guide survey and the community workshop.

Because both demographic profiles and ice sport participation rates can vary from place to place, it is more appropriate to determine arena needs based on rates of participation rather than on a per capita basis. A provision standard for ice pads is generally in the range of one per 400 to 700 participants in smaller urban areas. Larger centres (e.g., Greater Toronto Area) can often achieve a standard around one ice pad per 1,000 participants (largely due to the ability to draw from a much larger population base for demand well into the early morning hours).

The number of youth participants and adult league winter-based participants are not currently able to expand due to the lack of available ice time, indicating that the arenas are being used at capacity. The current number of ice pads in Owen Sound results in a ratio of approximately one ice pad per 690 participants. With these factors in mind, a provision standard of 1 ice pad per 500 participants for a community the size of Owen Sound is deemed to be reasonable and should be used to project future needs. This standard includes all organized and casual users of the local arenas, including both youth and adult, with the general exception of weekday daytime users (there is generally ample ice available at this time of day and, therefore, there is no substantial shortage of supply). This standard reflects a continued effort to schedule youth needs within prime time and to provide sufficient blocks of ice time to the two local junior clubs.

By extrapolating the current number of participants per league with the projected age cohort population data, we have estimated the demand for areas in the next five (2011) and ten (2016) year periods. This methodology relies on age cohort population forecasts and current participation rates; as such, it assumes that participation rates will remain steady into the future. As mentioned previously, adult and girl's hockey has experienced considerable growth in the recent past and may present a potential growth area in the future; some allowance has been made for this in our methodology. The following table illustrates the application of the recommended provision standard.

Projected Demand for Ice Pads / Arenas

2010 898 =

	2006	2011	2016
Youth Participants (4-18)*	911	863	832
Junior Team Participants**	(43)	43	43
Adult League/Casual Rental Participants (19-49)***	410	414	436
Additional Participants that Cannot Currently be Accommodated (e.g., women's hockey team) – estimated	20	25	30
Total Participants	1,384	1,345	1,341
Supply (# of ice pads)	2	2	2
Demand (1 per 500 participants)	2.8	2.7	2.7
Surplus (Deficit)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.7)

* Includes Minor Hockey, Figure Skating and Ringette

** Includes Owen Sound Attack (Jr. A) and Owen Sound Saugeen Shores Greys (Jr. B)

*** Includes Owen Sound Men's Recreation, Men's Puffers Hockey Leagues, and typical weekly pick-up hockey participants (estimated)

Note: A certain amount of caution should always be taken when reviewing any data projections – it generally holds that the longer the projection period is, the less accurate the forecasts become. As such, it is suggested that the City continue to monitor arena registration figures to ensure that they compare favourably with the projections and that the projections be revised within the coming years if necessary.

Using a provision standard of 1:500, and assuming Owen Sound will continue to provide ice time to the residents of the abutting municipalities, there is a deficit of 0.8 ice pads at present. The City, however, is currently experiencing a peak in demand as the number of youth is expected to decline slightly over the next ten years (mostly those in their older teens). Although the greatest pressure for ice is being felt in 2006, ice pad deficits are also expected in 2011 and 2016. Based on current participation trends and population projection data, the total number of ice users is expected to decrease by 3% over the next ten years. Because lack of ice time

was a significant complaint identified in the public consultation process, the current and anticipated deficits reflect the inability of the two arenas to support more participants.

Without the existence of arenas in surrounding communities, most notably Shallow Lake, Chatsworth, Keady, and Williamsford, the City of Owen Sound in partnership with the abutting municipalities could easily support a third ice surface. These arenas (and others), however, are heavily used by local ice groups and, therefore, are easing the pressure on Owen Sound's rinks. If it is the intention of the City to serve all of its residents and a

portion of those living within the cost-sharing municipalities, then a third ice pad can be justified now.

The level of current usage and unmet demand is generally at a level that would permit a total of three rinks to operate near capacity during prime time hours (generally 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. weekend), however, usage outside these hours may be limited. That being said, a third ice pad would allow for the full accommodation of local youth ice organizations, increased tournament potential, as well as the likelihood for increased usage by adults during prime time or shoulder hours. Furthermore, while system-wide ice revenues may not increase by 50% with a third ice pad (due to less usage during non-prime hours), operating costs would not increase by 50% either due to the efficiencies associated with the operation of a double pad arena. Given site constraints the only feasible option for consideration would be to consider adding one ice pad to the Coliseum as the development of a new single pad arena is not recommended. Planning for this facility should be

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undertaken in conjunction with the proposed multi-use recreation centre.

In the interim, options for maximizing usage of the City's existing rinks are recommended. For example, although the Minor Hockey organization rents considerable ice time outside of the City, an examination of current arena schedules suggests that there is some capacity within existing arenas (largely at later hours that would only be suitable for adult rentals). Furthermore, there are approximately 8 hours per week (mostly between the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. that are rented to adult groups) that should be made available to youth leagues, should these organizations be able to justify the rental. One way to make this happen is to update the City's Arena Allocation Policy, which was established in 1992 and revised in 1996.

The intent of the Arena Allocation Policy is to allow for fair and equal access to groups within the City and municipalities participating in the cost sharing formula. The policy gives priority (In order) to Jr. "A" Hockey, Jr. "B" Hockey, youth, public skating, school/community groups, and adults. Designated times for youth and adult activities are also specified. While the principles of the policy appear to be appropriate, it lacks the detail necessary to properly assign ice time between user groups based on true needs (e.g., number of participants) and for new groups to become established. It is recommended that the City update this policy to allow for the more efficient and effective allocation of City's ice time. In consultation with user groups, as a preliminary measure to relieve demand pressures, consideration may also be given to extending the youth times from 9 p.m. at night to 10 p.m. to accommodate the older age divisions (e.g., bantam, midget, juvenile).

A preliminary business case has been developed (see Appendix B) that identifies potential costs and operating scenarios associated with a twin pad arena in Owen Sound.

d) Recommended Action Plans

4. If it is the intention of the City to serve all of its residents and a portion of those living within the cost-sharing municipalities, a third ice pad should be provided in Owen Sound if appropriate partnerships can be reached. The City should consider twinning the Coliseum as a new stand alone single pad arena is not recommended. Planning for this facility should be undertaken in conjunction with the proposed multi-use recreation centre and the improvements required to the existing ice pad at the Coliseum Arena.
5. Revise the City's Arena Allocation Policy to allow for the more efficient and effective allocation of City's ice time.
6. Seek partnerships with the Agricultural Society to examine the feasibility of constructing a separate building (e.g., pole barn) that could accommodate the Fall Fair's indoor activities, as well as other community activities throughout the year.

5.3.4 Fitness Facilities

a) Inventory

At present there are four non-municipal fitness facilities operating within or near the City of Owen Sound: the Owen Sound and Area Family YMCA, Stone Tree, Sport Makers, and the Women's Health and Fitness Centre. There is also a Curves for Women in the community, however, this operation has a slightly different focus than a traditional fitness centre. Between these four facilities, there is a current provision ratio of approximately one fitness centre to 5,400 residents.

The fitness centre at the Owen Sound and Area Family YMCA is public (accessible with a membership or a day pass), while the fitness centres at Stone Tree, Sport Makers and the Women's Health and Fitness Centre are private (members only) service providers.