

## **Recreational Amenities Under Consideration**

As a base programme, Council had previously determined that the new facility will include:

- An aquatic centre with a 25-metre pool, leisure pool and therapy pool
- A double gymnasium that can accommodate two International Basketball Association-sized courts (as a minimum), as well as additional support spaces.

The list below is a list of amenities that Council will consider for inclusion in addition to the aquatic centre and double gymnasium.

### **Three Lane Walking/Running Track**

Judging from facility tours in other municipalities, it was evident that the provision of an indoor walking/running track is quite successful in attracting a wide range of users. This is seen as a complementary component to any recreation facility and would further promote affordable wellness opportunities for all ages and abilities.

As is the experience of many other municipalities, this component generates moderate revenue. However, as an added amenity to the building it could enable staff to market the facility to a larger segment of the population.

### **Fitness Centre**

The Partnership Pillar Working Group of the Recreation Facilities Committee was tasked with seeking partners who could add a mutual benefit to the development of recreation facilities in Orillia. Specifically, a monetary or land contribution that could be made in the timeframe identified for the project was the main focus of the discussions with the potential partners.

Overall the groups/organizations recognized and supported the need for additional recreational facilities, and in particular the need for aquatic and gymnasium space. However, the vast majority did not have land or money to support the project directly at this time.

But regardless of site, a potential partner has identified that the addition of a fitness centre would result in a value-added partnership resulting in a monetary and or land contribution. While there is the jeopardy that the inclusion of a fitness centre will affect private enterprise, the additional revenue potential provided by this component would help offset the overall operating cost of the entire building and lessen the impact of the operating deficit. This amenity would also allow staff to better market the entire building for use and allow for the promotion of some all-inclusive activity packages that can be bundled using all of the building components.

## **Preschool/Babysitting Room**

Judging from facility tours in other municipalities, the inclusion of a preschool room is an important component to possibly include in a community recreation space. In addition to being a good revenue generator, this room could provide the recreation complex with specialized facilities focused on the specific programming needs of preschoolers. This space will provide an alternative for parents with preschoolers that are looking for opportunities that are not water-based or take place in a large gymnasium.

This room will provide a very specific environment that is safe, is cleaned to proper preschool standards, and can provide diversity in programming. Ensuring, as part of the facility services, that there is an area provided for the care of preschool-age children could go a long way in providing a focused area that provides preschoolers with the opportunity to have some energetic play time while their parents/caregivers take part in recreational activities of their own.

## **Four-diamond Baseball Complex with Support Amenities**

In 2002, a multi-use recreation facility feasibility study identified the need to increase the inventory of baseball diamonds within the City by two. In addition, the report identified that the 2 baseball diamonds located at Kitchener Park were due for replacement and for efficiency purposes could be replaced at the same location as the two additional diamonds. As a result, very little investment has been made in the baseball diamonds located at Kitchener Park. These diamonds are undersized based on current baseball standards. And due to the current location of the diamonds in relationship to the soccer pitches, scheduling of games is difficult depending on use, and only minimum technical field standards are met.

This same need for ball diamond infrastructure was identified by the Recreation Advisory Committee in 2011 and again through the Recreation Facilities Committee needs-identification process.

## **Shuffleboard Court/Skateboard Park**

Additional complementary outdoor components should be considered based on space and layout. As established through a 2002 multi-use recreation facility feasibility study and the most updated needs assessment completed by the Committee's pillar groups, staff recommend that the shuffleboard court and/or the skateboard park be considered for addition to either the base recreation facility design or the site design for a proposed baseball facility, if space accommodates. Although both of these amenities are not revenue generators, the benefit to the community outweighs the modest operating costs associated with them.