



YMCA

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strong families, strong communities.

December 15th, 2009

Family Y Announces Capital Campaign Team for Regional Recreation Centre

Long time aquatic centre advocate Dr. Tom Rice and YMCA veteran Sonya Mount have agreed to spearhead a 10-person team to raise \$5 million in local contributions toward the recently-announced, \$38 million, regional recreation centre planned for Victoria Park in Owen Sound.

“To make this work for our community we all need to pull together,” Owen Sound Family Y CEO Gayle Graham said, announcing key Campaign Cabinet members, Monday (Dec. 14). “A lot of volunteer and staff work has been going on behind the scenes and a group of excellent community leaders has stepped forward to lead the fundraising campaign,” Graham said.

Owen Sound city council approved final financing arrangements, Dec. 4, for the regional centre which is to include an eight-lane, 25-metre, competition-sized swimming pool and two NHL-sized ice rinks. It’s part of a joint project among the city, the neighbouring municipality of Georgian Bluffs, other area municipal governments and the Owen Sound Family Y.

“The multi-use, recreation centre will be a tremendous asset for our whole region,” Rice said in a statement. “It will not only create jobs now and in the future but will ultimately make us a healthier community,” he said.

Under a memorandum of understanding reached in August, the city is to operate the ice rinks and the Y is to manage the remaining recreation centre facilities. They include the aquatic centre with both a 25-metre pool and a warm water pool for therapeutic and instructional use as well as multi-purpose rooms, a gymnasium, a fitness and conditioning centre and a walking/running track.

Project costs are to be funded two thirds by economic stimulus payments from the federal and provincial governments and one third from local municipalities and the Family Y. With final approvals in place, Rice and Mount have assembled a wide-ranging

Campaign Cabinet under direction from the Family Y Board of Directors to develop and implement a plan to raise money locally.

A resident of Georgian Bluffs, Rice is an Owen Sound dentist with a long, personal history of involvement both at the Family Y and in fundraising for improved aquatic facilities for residents of the Owen Sound area. Mount, who lives in Meaford, is an Owen Sound-based insolvency and restructuring professional and has been a Y member for more than 30 years.

Together, Rice and Mount head a volunteer group chosen for community knowledge and to represent a variety of potential recreation centre user groups as well as regional interests in planning the fundraising effort. They include Y Board chair Evelyn Dean, Owen Sound restaurateur and former Attack hockey club owner Brian Johnson, as well as Owen Sound businessman Bill Van Wyck.

Other members are: skating coach Denise Reid, community activist and former Grey Bruce Health Centre Foundation chair Elizabeth Warren, Owen Sound economic development committee chair and President of the Warren Group, Michael Warren. Retired community services branch police officer and hockey and ringette coach Ron Reid as well as retired Sun Times reporter Jim Algie are also members.

"We appreciate the many people who have volunteered to help. Planning is well underway and further announcements will be forthcoming in the new year," Rice said.

In addition to the Campaign Cabinet members identified above, many other community members have volunteered to get involved.

"The help and enthusiasm of local volunteers has been amazing to date and we will continue to bring further community expertise on board as this project proceeds," Graham said.

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