



REGIONAL RECREATION CENTRE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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May 19, 2010

Ringette Organizers Join Rec Centre Campaign

Owen Sound Extreme Ringette Association has contributed \$20,000 to the continuing community drive for funds for the new Regional Recreation Centre.

Among the Rec Centre's earliest supporters, ringette association president Kendra Vermilyea and treasurer Susan Long presented the cheque recently to fund raising co-chair Sonya Mount. The presentation was made before a crowd of players and parents during season-end ceremonies at the Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound.

"Basically, Owen Sound ringette is doing it for the future of winter sport in Owen Sound," Vermilyea said of the association gift in an interview. "It's for the kids, is basically why; promoting fitness and keeping them active," she said.

"Thank you very, very much," Mount told participants during the event. "This is a truly wonderful donation," she said.

"We're really excited about the new home we're going to have for you," Mount said of arena space in the new rec centre. "Wait 'til you guys see what we're building for you," she said.

The ringette association organizes teams for youth between four and 18 years of age. During the 2009-2010 season, Owen Sound registered six teams and more than 70 players.

They play most home games at the ageing, city-owned arena, The Coliseum, which is to be replaced by a double-rink, NHL-sized arena in the new centre. Time pressure on existing ice facilities in Owen Sound means that most ringette teams must travel to arenas in outlying communities for practice time.

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Ringette is a fast-paced, team sport played on ice skates and first introduced 40 years ago in North Bay, Ontario. It has since grown across Canada and internationally. Developed originally for girls, the sport now includes players of both genders. Players use a straight stick to pass, carry and shoot a rubber ring to score goals.

Construction began in early March on the \$38 million, 125,000 sq. ft. recreation centre at Victoria Park following federal and provincial government grants totaling \$22 million. It will house two new arenas, a health and fitness centre and two pools.

The city of Owen Sound has stepped forward with more than \$8.6 million and contingency financing. The Owen Sound Family Y has pledged \$1.35 million and leads the campaign to raise \$5 million in community contributions.

For more information, contact the campaign office directly at 519-376-0484, ext. 222.

For further comment, contact Y CEO Gayle Graham at 519-376-0484 x204.

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