



REGIONAL RECREATION CENTRE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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May 13, 2010

Better Pool Group Kicks Off Rec Centre Fund

Owen Sound's Better Pool Committee has agreed to support the new Regional Recreation Centre with continued fund-raising and an upfront donation of \$311,644.

Rec Centre fund-raising co-chairs Dr. Tom Rice and Sonya Mount announced the donation recently.

Better Pool activists have supported the basic concept of improved aquatics facilities in Owen Sound for more than 20 years. Income --mainly from regular bingo games in the city -- has helped fund feasibility and marketing studies for the project to date. Members of the group agreed unanimously to provide an initial capital donation following a meeting with fund-raising co-chairs to discuss detailed plans for the new Rec Centre.

"People will be totally impressed when they see this," Better Pool chairman Al Nightingale said of the new recreation centre in a statement. "I think it's going to be awesome."

"We had a mandate when we started to build an eight-lane, 25 metre competition pool and that's exactly what we're getting," Nightingale said. A handful of activists led by Doug Seaman began raising funds for a new pool more than 20 years ago because they saw a need for better facilities for competitive swimming.

"The Better Pool Committee's objective has always been to help build a public access pool that will meet the needs of the local community," Seaman said in a statement. "With the aquatic facility being built at the Rec Centre, I believe that goal will be accomplished," he said.

It's the first major donation to be announced by project fund-raisers seeking total community contributions of \$5 million. In addition to the initial donation, Better Pool workers have agreed to continue their efforts in support of improved aquatics facilities. Currently, the group's efforts yield monthly income of between \$400 and \$500.

Better Pool Group Kicks Off Rec Centre Fund Press Release

“I think the whole community should thank the Better Pool people,” Mount said in a statement. “Without their vision and dedication we wouldn’t be building this centre.”

“The Better Pool committee has for 20 years held on to a vision of a better aquatic facility for our community. We thank them for the dedication and years of fund-raising which has enabled them to make this gift,” Mount said.

Construction began in early March on the \$38 million, 125,000 sq. ft. Rec Centre in Victoria Park. The centre will house two new arenas, a health and fitness centre and two pools.

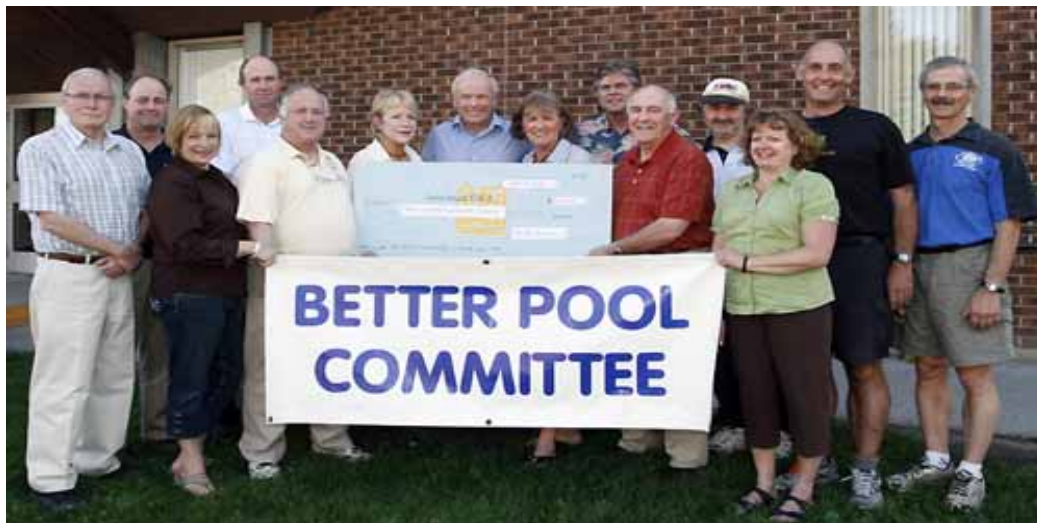
Aquatic facilities in the new centre triple existing pool space at the Owen Sound Family Y, which is a partner in the project with the city of Owen Sound, provincial and federal governments and with the municipality of Georgian Bluffs. The centre includes two, wheel-chair accessible pools: a 25-metre, eight lane, competition-sized pool and a separate, 1,650 sq. ft., warm water leisure and therapy pool.

A Y-led, fund-raising campaign seeks a total of \$5 million in community donations to complete project funding. To date, fund-raisers have concentrated on developing strategies for the campaign, identifying major potential donors and beginning contacts with those donors.

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

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For use with accompanying photo of Better Pool Committee:

IN PHOTO:

Back Row, Left to Right:

Rod McEachnie, Peter Hughes, Harold Kloeze, Tom Rice, Peter van der Meer, Martin Soder, Al Nightingale, Ed deLaplante

Front Row, Left to Right:

Val Prettie, Doug Seaman, Mary Lou Strimas, Jenny Burbidge, Lloyd Stewart, Deb Nightingale

Committee Members absent from Photo:

Henry Havekes, Alton Cunningham, Lynda Hoffemeyer, Bruce McDonough, Greg Nicol, Marion Gibson, Ann Lennox Brindle, Les Robertson, Derek Smith, Jack Doherty, Judy Robinson, Peter Struthers, Otto Visser, Gayle Graham, Mark Avery, Brenda Kerr, Dave Kerr, Mark Beaton, Lynn Beaton