

## **FRIENDS OF THE COLLINGWOOD CENTRAL PARK PROJECT**

### ***WHAT IS “FRIENDS OF THE COLLINGWOOD CENTRAL PARK PROJECT”?***

The Friends of the Collingwood Central Park Project is a rapidly growing group of Collingwood residents who want Council to build a community recreation centre that will be a source of pride for decades to come. We want Council to “Do It Once and Do It Right!” – build a centre in one location and wait until the funding is in place to do so. Residents have spoken loud and clear – they want a central meeting place where we can be active and build a sense of community pride and cohesion.

### ***WHY IS A “FRIENDS OF CENTRAL PARK” GROUP NEEDED?***

The Council of the Town of Collingwood charged a Steering Committee to develop a design and costs of a community recreation centre at the Central Park site. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Council endorsed the proposed facility unanimously pending a successful funding formula. To date Council has not fully completed the recommendation of the Steering Committee and instead has asked staff to compare the costs (operating and capital) of putting a temporary building around the outdoor pool at Heritage Park, building a single pad arena at Central Park and making repairs at Eddie Bush arena. The estimated cost of these temporary facilities has been reported at more than \$10M dollars.

We fear that if Council spends millions of dollars on temporary solutions, we will never get what is needed for this community. Friends of Central Park, Collingwood want residents to engage on this issue and let Council know how important the recreation centre is to us!

### ***WHAT DO RESIDENTS WANT COUNCIL TO CONSIDER WHEN BUILDING A COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE?***

1. **Do it once and do it right!** – If Council chooses to spend millions of dollars on temporary solutions, they most likely will not deliver on the vision of a community centre in one location.
2. **It’s our tax dollars; consult us** - Get back to the public on this issue and do not make a decision in isolation. All options must be weighed by the public before a decision should be made.

3. **We deserve the best, so figure it out** - Collingwood's recreational infrastructure is inadequate - current and future generations deserve a full recreation community centre on one site. Council represents the public and must consider their needs.

4. **There is no real urgency, stay the course** – Many communities in Ontario have similar recreation centres and have thought bigger by embracing a community vision. We are asking Council to think big and make certain that we are ready to build once an infrastructure program is announced. There is no rush, stay the course.

### ***WHEN WILL COUNCIL DISCUSS THIS ISSUE?***

A summary report comparing 2 options (one centre in Central Park and the temporary option of covering the outdoor pool, repairing the Eddie Bush Arena and building an arena at Central Park) will be discussed on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. We are urging community members to come out and let Council know that we want them to represent our long term recreational needs.

### ***HOW CAN PEOPLE LEARN MORE?***

Access our website:

<http://collingwoodcentralparkproject.weebly.com>

Like us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-Collingwood-Central-Park-Project/187424814717298>

### ***WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO?***

Contact Town Council and make your voice known. The only way to make our collective voices heard is to relay a consistent message. Email Collingwood Town Council today at [scooper@collingwood.ca](mailto:scooper@collingwood.ca).