



YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

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Town of Collingwood
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To the Mayor and Town Council of Collingwood,

As you know the YMCA has been providing services to community of Collingwood through our facility in Central Park since 1982. Over 4,000 children, adults and family use these services to learn new skills, stay healthy and engage in their community. Since May 2011 the YMCA has been involved with discussion related to the development of additional facilities at Central Park.

Recently it was brought to my attention that there is some feeling in the community that the YMCA has backed off our desire to be part of the vision that has been created at the Central Park site. I wanted to communicate to council that the YMCA is 100% committed to the redevelopment of services at the Central Park and has spent over 3 million dollars in the last few years ensuring that we have the facility and infrastructure that is needed to make an addition to the pool viable.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd was quoted at the July 16th meeting as saying that Council wanted to support more recreation facilities for the Town and that they were prepared to pay for their operation, but today was not the day when Council could afford the capital cost to build them.

I believe that the capital costs for these projects are really not the issue. I would like to point out to Council that the estimated operating costs of a pool run between 300 and 400K per year. Considering that the YMCA spent over 2 million just to renovate our lockers rooms I would estimate a capital investment of between 4 and 6 million dollars is required to renovate the outdoor pool. This puts the towns' total investment in capital and operations at approximately 16 million dollars over the life of the pool.



In my opinion this makes the construction of an additional tank on the YMCA as the best and least expensive alternative over the long term. A pool connected to the existing YMCA creates an aquatic complex with both a warm water therapy tank and a 25 metre six lane pool for instruction and training. I see two scenarios that could be considered.

Town Builds the New Pool

For an investment of 6 million, the town gets a new pool, a therapy pool and substantially lower operating costs over the 40 year life of this type of facility. This amounts to between 6-8 million in saved tax dollars.

Town Loans the YMCA Dollars to Build the New Pool

An alternative scenario would be for the town to loan the YMCA money to build the pool at their best rate. They would then contract the YMCA to operate the pool over the life of the loan at the same yearly projected operating loss they would have with a rejuvenated outdoor pool. The contract payment to the YMCA from the town would then be used to pay off the loan. The city has no capital debt and is making payments equal to what they would pay on the operational loss of a 45 year old pool with no therapy or warm water tank.

In both these scenarios, not only is the tax payer saving money but we have not spread out the aquatic user base of the town over two centres. Something neither of our organizations can afford.

Clearly, based on these two scenarios alone, there are alternative, creative strategies that need to be considered before any decisions should be made about Central Park.

It is my request that Council continue with the transparent process that has been put in place to explore further ideas around funding for the long term success of Collingwood.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Armstrong'.

Rob Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka