

**GROUP COMES TOGETHER TO FORM**  
**“FRIENDS OF THE COLLINGWOOD CENTRAL PARK PROJECT”**

Local community members have come together to form a group known as “Friends of the Collingwood Central Park Project” (FCCPP). This group represents a growing number of local residents that wish to see a community recreation centre and central meeting space built in the Town of Collingwood. The group came to fruition after residents felt the need for a better source of information on the project and a way to show Council that a new centre is needed.

“Friends of Central Park is an increasingly ACTIVE voice in the community as we want to see some movement on this project,” stated Paul Cadieux, a member of FCCPP. “We are urging other like-minded community members to speak-up and let Council know that we want them to do it once, and do it right! - not avoid the issue and provide costly, temporary solutions for our recreational facilities. We need to look at the long-term needs of our community!”

While Council endorsed the proposed facility unanimously (pending a successful funding formula) on March 19, 2012, they have not fully completed the recommendation of the Steering Committee. Instead they have 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 to Eddie Bush Arena. FCCPP fears that if Council spends millions of dollars on temporary solutions, the community will never get the multi-use facility they so critically need.

FCCPP wants Council to take a few things into consideration when it comes to Central Park. Do it once and do it right - don't waste money on temporary solutions when you can strive to a permanent solution that will benefit residents more. Consult the public on the issue and don't make a decision in isolation - it's our tax dollars so we should be consulted. Collingwood's recreation infrastructure is inadequate - current and future generations deserve a full recreation community centre on one site. There is no real urgency so stay the course - Council should think big and make sure that we are ready to build once an infrastructure program is announced.

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The Town of Collingwood created a blog ([www.collingwoodcentralpark.blogspot.com](http://www.collingwoodcentralpark.blogspot.com)), which has previously provided information on the consultation process and a forum for public feedback. FCCPP has developed both a website (<http://collingwoodcentralparkproject.weebly.com>) and a Facebook page (found under "Friends of the Collingwood Central Park Project"). They post everything from Council meeting agendas and minutes, meeting dates and reminders, reports from the Steering Committee, entries from the Town Blog, as well as all relevant news articles found from local newspapers and radio stations.

FCCPP is urging community members to contact Council and come out to show their support for the Central Park Project. Supporters can email Mayor Cooper at [scooper@collingwood.ca](mailto:scooper@collingwood.ca). Residents are also urged to come out to the Council meeting on Monday August 27th at 5pm in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, where Council will be presenting a summary report comparing the Central Park Project to the cost of the temporary fixes outlined above. As FCCPP states, it's time to show Council that Collingwood residents want their long term recreational needs represented.

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