

Municipality of South Huron

Community Hub / Recreation Centre

Project Description January 2019

The need to enhance the quality of recreation facilities and community well-being was first identified in the **Community Services Master Plan** of 2009 and further acknowledged as priorities in the Municipality's **Corporate Strategic Plan**, 2015-2019.

In 2017 Council appointed a Community Hub/Recreation Centre Steering Committee to engage the community and gather insights and opinions regarding the recreation needs of South Huron. By conducting resident and professional consultations and studies the Steering Committee will ensure a plan going forward responds to the needs of the community today and for the future. The current recreation facilities are at the end of their lifespan and in need of capital investment. Increased capital maintenance costs as a result of aging recreation facilities, combined with a projected twenty-one per cent increase in population, (16,700) by the year 2031, suggest now is the time to build a new Community Centre and Arena.

A new Community Hub/Recreation Centre is all about building a facility that is the right size and reflects the community's interest. The new facility is an investment that will attract new residents and businesses, improving the long-term sustainability of South Huron.

Strategically located in the Town of Exeter, on the site of the current Recreation Centre, the proposed new Community Hub/Recreation Centre will feature the following membership-based components:

- A indoor pool
- A multi-purpose gymnasium and fitness centre
- An indoor walking/running track
- Community meeting rooms

And a:

- Single Pad Arena (85' x 200') with option for 2nd pad

The proposed 61,500 square foot multi-purpose facility will become a hub of community activity promoting healthy active lifestyles where residents, families and neighbours can gather and interact.

Financial Impact

The funding formula for the new Community Hub/Recreation Centre will be comprised of a Municipal commitment, debentures or conventional financing and a community capital campaign. The Municipality is committed to having minimal impact on the overall taxpayer and will extensively explore and respond to all available provincial and federal funding opportunities, to further offset the construction costs.

The total cost of the new recreation facility is projected to be \$19 million.

Proposed Component Cost

Community Hub Components	\$7.5 million
Indoor Pool	
Gymnasium Fitness Centre	
Meeting Room Common Space	
Arena	\$11.5 million
Total Cost	\$19 million

Proposed Sources of Funding

Municipality of South Huron	\$7.5 million
Federal/Provincial Funding and Conventional Financing	\$4.5 million
Community Capital Campaign	\$7 million
Total Cost	\$19 million

Proposed Timeline

Fundraising Feasibility Study	Feb. 2019
Community Fundraising Campaign Begins	Fall 2019
Construction Start	2020
Occupancy	2021

Through the successful completion of the community capital campaign, South Huron will have an outstanding new Community Hub/Recreation Centre where residents of all ages will gather, learn and play with their family and neighbours, for generations to come. A new multi-use recreation facility will have something for everyone and further advance the community as family-oriented and a desirable place to live, work and do business.