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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**December 13, 2005**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Carol Macomber, Acting Director of Recreation, Tourism and Culture

**DATE:** December 5, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Ringette

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

Halifax Regional Council meeting of June 12, 2001, Item 10.1.1, Councillor Mosher - Ringette

### **BACKGROUND**

At the June 12, 2001 meeting of Halifax Regional Council, Councillor Mosher served a petition from residents requesting that HRM create more ice facilities to support the sport of Ringette in Halifax. The Councillor asked that the petition be forwarded to staff for a report. In November 2001, staff released the HRM Arena Capacity Study Final Report to Council which dealt with this issue among a range of other issues related to arena usage in HRM.

## **DISCUSSION**

On November 29, 2001 the final report of the HRM Arena Capacity Study was released. Among its goals, the study was commissioned by HRM staff to determine levels of usage of existing arenas, future trends of registration for various groups who use arenas, and the capacity of existing facilities to meet current and future demand. The study employed a variety of information gathering tools and data analysis including user and stakeholder consultation through focus groups, questionnaires, and interviews as well as a review of participation statistics, demographic and planning information, and projections of future trends in recreation.

In 2001, there were nine ringette associations located within the boundaries of HRM. In 2005, the same nine are still active and no new associations have been established. Seven of these nine associations participated in the consultation for the Arena Capacity study, as well as Ringette Nova Scotia Provincial Teams and the NS Junior Provincial Ringette Team. The primary issue presented by the ringette associations was a lack of access to ice time and subsequent un-met demand for the sport. In 2001, there were 841 participants among the HRM ringette associations with a projected additional future demand of approximately 130 new participants. The anticipated additional ice time required to meet the demand of all associations was a maximum of 32 hours per week. Comparative figures for other arena user groups were: Minor Hockey - 50 hours per week, Adult Hockey - 10 hours per week, Figure Skating - 15 hours per week, and Speed Skating - 1 hour per week.

Based on the total anticipated demand for ice time presented by all arena users who participated in the study, the report identified a need for more available ice time in HRM to satisfy unmet demand of all user groups, including ringette. The report recommended that one additional ice surface would be sufficient to address identified demand. Although there are still demands for more ice time among many competing groups due to population growth in HRM, the addition of one new ice surface in St. Margaret's has alleviated this concern. Moreover, the potential addition of another new ice surface in Bedford could further ease the pressure to meet existing and future demand of all user groups.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct budget implications as a result of the material discussed herein.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

There are no recommended alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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