




PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5, Canada

**Item No. 2**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**March 9, 2010**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

**DATE:** February 22, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program

---

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

This report was initiated by staff as follow up to the July 7, 2009, Council report on projects for funding applications under the RInC program and subsequent funding announcements on December 14, 2009, and February 21, 2010.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On May 11, 2009, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) announced the new Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program to support upgrades and repairs of existing recreational infrastructure asset or capacity. Projects must be completed prior to March 31, 2011. The following projects were approved by Council for funding application under the RInC program:

1. Centennial Pool Retrofit
2. Completion of East Region (Burnside) Artificial Turf Field Support Amenities
3. Bedford Lions Outdoor Pool Upgrades
4. Halifax Wanderers Grounds Field House
5. Various Sports Court Upgrades
6. Halifax North Common
7. Lake Banook Improvements
8. Various Trails Development
9. Various Major Facilities Upgrades

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on approved projects and funding under the RInC program. In total, HRM has received \$2,230,000 in funding from the RInC program.

### **Centennial Pool Retrofit** (Announced August 2009)

Total - \$3,000,000 (HRM \$1,000,000 - Province \$1,000,000 - RInC \$1,000,000)

The renovations for this facility will ensure an enhanced training facility at Centennial Pool for aquatic athletes and the community. The facility, located in central Halifax, was built for the 1967 Canada Games and has not had any significant upgrades since its construction. Due to the age of the building's equipment, the facility is not energy efficient and will be undergoing a number of energy efficiency retrofit projects along with other renovations.

### **Halifax Wanderers Fieldhouse** (Announced December 14, 2009)

Total- \$900,000 (HRM \$485,000 - Rugby Fundraising \$115,000 - RInC - \$300,000)

The renovation of the building formerly known as the "Dry Canteen" will provide amenities in association with the Wanderer's Grounds and enhance opportunities for sport, leisure and recreational usage. The Halifax Rugby Football Club has made a formal commitment to partner with HRM in the rehabilitation of the building, to develop a business plan for the on-going operations of the premises, and to enter into a Facility Management Agreement once the property is operational.

The initial proposed cost-sharing for the project included \$100,000 from the Province. During the assessment of the application, it was determined this funding could not be secured within the timeframe of the RInC program. As a result, ACOA increased their contribution from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

### **Bedford Outdoor Pool** (Announced December 14, 2009)

Total - \$480,000 (HRM \$320,000 - RInC \$160,000)

Renovations and improvements to the Bedford Lions outdoor pool are needed to address significant life cycle upgrades - including plumbing/filtration systems, fencing, electrical, building upgrades, site accessibility, and the structural integrity of concrete pool elements.

In the case of this project, more detailed costing was undertaken during the application review process which resulted in the need for an additional \$130,000 to complete the necessary upgrades and leverage additional funding from ACOA. As a result, ACOA cost shared 1/3rd of the

funding gap (\$43,333) with HRM contributing 2/3rds of the remaining amount (\$86,666) in the 10\11 capital budget.

**Various Sports Courts** (Announced December 14, 2009)

Total \$772,000 (HRM \$500,000 - Provincial and Community cost sharing \$15,000 - RINC \$250,000)

These upgrades will address life cycle refurbishment of our multi-use sport courts including tennis, basketball, and ball hockey courts. The courts are Larry O'Connell Tennis, Bedford Teachery Tennis, Creighton Park Tennis, Timberlea Village Basketball, Portuguese Cove Park Tennis/Basketball, Colby Village Tennis, Salmon River Bridge basketball.

In the case of this application, ACOA contributed \$250,000 for a decrease of \$7000 from the original application. This decrease does not impact the work program.

**Dartmouth Sportsplex - Major Facilities** (Announced February 21,2010)

Total \$960,000 (HRM \$640,000 - RInC \$320,000)

Due to the age of the Dartmouth Sportsplex, the facility is not energy efficient and requires a number of energy efficiency retrofit projects. Renovations include: new arena boards, dressing room upgrades, pool filters, air conditioning, full plant heat recovery system, and a desuperheater. These upgrades will extend the “life” of the building and result in operational savings.

**Portland Hills Trail - Various Trails** (Announced February 21, 2010)

Total \$600,000 (HRM \$400,000 - RInC \$200,000)

Improvements to the Portland Hills trails will connect one of the Municipality's densest residential areas year round with Bus Rapid Transit, shopping areas and schools. By this time next year the trail, will also be connected to the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail and The Dartmouth Ferry and Downtown Dartmouth and Halifax. This provides a key active transportation connection which encourages transit and bicycle use. The improvements will allow for increased use by a wider number of people and for winter use.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications as a result of this report. All budget amounts related to 2009 have already been included and approved in previous years budgets. All amounts related to 2010 will be included in the 2010 capital budget as part of the capital budgeting process.

**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.

**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.

Report Prepared by: Margaret Soley, Coordinator, Infrastructure Partnerships, Infrastructure & Asset Management  
490-5591

Report Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Gallagher, Manager, Facility Development, 476-4067