



MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New recreation facilities slated for King Township

A multi-use community recreation facility is on the horizon, thanks to King Township and Seneca College reaching an agreement that would see one built on the college's King City campus.

King Township council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Seneca at Monday night's council meeting. An MOU is an agreement used to establish official partnerships.

Some of the features that could be part of a new community centre include an arena, indoor pool, gymnasium, multi-use space and a number of outdoor fields.

"This is tremendously good news for King Township," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini. "Thanks to the partnership between King and Seneca, we'll be able to deliver a first-class recreation centre for all King Township residents."

The partnership would see Seneca lease 25 acres to King Township for 60 years at a nominal rate. The parcel of land is located on the King campus' southeast corner near the 15th Sideroad and Dufferin Street. King would be responsible for the capital costs of the new facilities as well as ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

"Identifying a site large enough to accommodate a new community recreation facility would have been challenging, if not impossible, due to the high cost of land in King's villages," said Susan Plamondon, CAO of King Township. "This partnership removes that challenge and gets us on the way to building a multi-use facility that can be enjoyed by all residents of King."

Many of the details of the new centre still need to be worked out. The MOU only identifies the site for the proposed facility. A considerable amount of work still needs to be done, including developing a servicing plan, a financial plan and detailed design work.

As part of the agreement, King will waive any payments associated with the township's sanitary sewer connection bylaw that apply to Seneca. That payment is currently less than \$1 million. However, the 25 acres Seneca will lease to King at a nominal rate is worth around \$1 million an acre. Also, even with Seneca's current expansion plans, the college will not be connecting to King's sanitary sewer system.

"The financial terms are very favourable to King," said Mayor Pellegrini. "Not only are we getting a large parcel of land in a prime, central location, we're getting it at a rate providing excellent value for money."

Staff expects to have the agreement with Seneca completed by October 31 of this year. No formal estimates on the cost or timelines of the new recreation facilities have been made yet.

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Lying in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, King Township is located within York Region, one of the fastest growing and diverse economies in Canada. More than 60 per cent of the Holland Marsh, also known as Ontario's salad bowl, lies within King Township. Though predominantly rural, most of King Township's 20,000 residents live in the communities of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Residents and visitors are drawn to King because of its rural lifestyle, village atmosphere and quality of life.

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