



Sports Complex Renovation Update

Challenges and delays, under control



The main lobby will feature a cosy gas fireplace, modern lounge, pro shop & full-service snack bar.

Due to the extreme cold, and for safety reasons, much of the work is currently being carried out behind tarps and security partitions where it is not obvious to residents. But work continues to move ahead.

That's not to say there haven't been challenges. In the west end of the facility, we exposed the structural components and found unexpected issues with the roof line and supporting walls. This required us to have the plans re-engineered, and new roof trusses had to be ordered, manufactured, and delivered to the site.

Challenges under control

In the lobby that links the two arenas, we encountered a similar problem. The original arena is 40 years old, and was not

built to today's code so when we exposed the structure we found issues we needed to deal with.

"These unexpected issues are not uncommon during renovation," said Gary Shropshire, director of parks and leisure services. "When you peel back the outer layer of a 40 year-old building, you can expect to run into things you couldn't have anticipated. It has caused delays, but it's all under control."

Many of these challenges could be dealt with faster if the building were empty. However, we have kept it open and functioning at the request of our user groups, to help them keep their programs operating and without having to rent ice somewhere else at great cost to them.

"We've all been working as a team to get the job done and manage the challenges we've

encountered," said Maram Building Corp. project manager Geoff Diffey. "We appreciate the needs of the user groups and we've been able to keep the building open so skaters can continue to safely enjoy their programs."

Why didn't we just build a new arena?

If the renovation of an older building is so challenging, why didn't we just build a new one? The answer is simply that a single pad with change rooms and lobby would have cost in the neighborhood of \$9 million. This full renovation, with a new ice surface, new change rooms, modern lobby and west end community centre addition, is only costing \$3 million, of which the provincial and federal governments are paying two-thirds under the stimulus finding program.



Gary Shropshire & Geoff Diffey: regular site inspections keep the project on track.

WHERE WE STAND NOW

- The east ice pad and spectator seating are complete.
- The dressing rooms, lobby, snack bar, upper level meeting space and elevator are scheduled for completion by the end of March.
- The link between the two ice pads, including a portion of the lobby and the west entrance area, should be complete by the middle of March.
- For safety reasons, joining the west addition cannot begin until the centre lobby is finished. If this is complete by mid-March, the west addition should be finished by the end of April.
- We hope to keep the overall delay of completion to about 4 weeks.



Watch for newsletter updates at the Sports Complex, or visit the Town website at www.eastgwillimbury.ca

Did You Know?

- The east ice pad is not only moved, it is a much better ice surface.
- The east pad benefits from a more efficient operating system, which makes it a better playing surface.
- The new lobby is going to be beautiful, with modern conveniences including a gas fireplace, a lobby, and snack bar.
- There will be enough dressing rooms for each ice pad to adequately handle the demand.