
Excitement builds as Orillia Recreation Centre takes shape

For immediate release (July 24, 2019) – Construction of the Orillia Recreation Centre at 255 West St. S. continues to progress at full-speed. With 60 to 80 workers on site daily, the new 132,801 sq. ft. facility is transforming a once vacant brownfield site into a modern, state-of-the-art recreation facility in the core of the city.

“Residents have every reason to be excited and eager for the Orillia Recreation Centre to open. We understand the construction is taking longer than expected, but we want to make sure this once-in-a-lifetime project is done right; and it really is shaping up to be an amazing project. We do not want to sacrifice the quality of work for speed and would like to thank the community for its patience,” said Mayor Steve Clarke.

The building is closed in, with the exception of a few remaining windows. The east wall above the main entrance is the final wall to receive brick veneer. Landscaping has started throughout the 36-acre Foundry Park site, including a new paved, lit pathway that will connect the site to the Lightfoot Trail System. The City is tracking numerous construction milestones and anticipates a late fall 2019 opening.

The \$55.5 million project is on budget. The City has also been proactively planning for the opening of the Orillia Recreation Centre by gradually phasing in the operating costs of the facility over the past several years. This means there will be no large, single-year tax increase when the facility opens as the operating costs have already been built into the City’s budget.

A complete construction update is available in the attached document: **“Progress Report: Behind the Scenes of Construction.”**

“City staff are busy gearing up for the opening of the new Orillia Recreation Centre. This includes recruiting and training lifeguards, developing new recreation programs, consulting with facility user groups, ordering equipment and much more. Excitement is certainly building as we enter into the final stage of this project,” said Ray Merkley, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

The City of Orillia is still recruiting lifeguards and swim instructors to work at the Orillia Recreation Centre. The City needs to hire approximately 70 lifeguards and swim instructors for when the facility opens. For more lifeguarding information and training opportunities, visit orillia.ca/lifesaving.

Keep up-to-date on the Orillia Recreation Centre construction project at orillia.ca/recreationfacility. To learn more about the Orillia Recreation Centre user rates, job opportunities and more visit orillia.ca/ORC.

The City of Orillia is a city of 31,000 people in the heart of Ontario’s Lake Country on the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. Visit our website at orillia.ca.

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Document attached: Orillia Recreation Centre Progress Report: Behind the Scenes of Construction

Photo cutline: The east wall above the main entrance of the Orillia Recreation Centre, located at 255 West St. S., is the final wall to receive brick veneer. The 132,801 sq. ft. facility is transforming a once vacant brownfield site into a modern, state-of-the-art recreation facility in the core of the city.