

## **A Community Center for Scarborough? We Hear You.**

By John Cloutier & Paul Johnson

We were pleasantly surprised that so many residents responded to the Adhoc Community Center Survey. There was an aggressive goal of receiving 1,000 responses, but almost 1,800 surveys were turned in. This data will provide a solid foundation for the work that lies ahead.

Final results will be released by the committee soon, but we can report on a few highlights:

- 77% percent of respondents said that they supported the construction of a Community Center which, at a minimum, would include fully accessible flexible community space for meetings, parties, etc.; space for seniors, teens and childcare, and a multi-purpose gymnasium.
- The MOST important amenities to include in the Community Center were identified as:
  - Swimming Facility
  - Multi-purpose gymnasium
  - indoor walking track
  - fitness space with equipment
  - Childcare room (before and after care)
- Most respondents favored a funding model that would subsidize resident user fees with property taxes:
  - 1) 35% supported Low Fees with up to a .30 increase in the tax rate.
  - 2) 36% supported Moderate Fees with a small impact on the tax rate
  - 3) 13% supported High Fees with no impact on Property Taxes
  - 4) 16% did not support a Community Center

The team will utilize many of the insights gained from this survey work as they proceed to understand, with the Developer, how the most desired Community Center components could be added to the design of The Edge Recreational Facility. The Edge Recreational Facility would be privately owned and operated and is expected to include an ice rink and indoor turf field. The Community Center Committee is evaluating the practical and financial viability of incorporating Scarborough's Community Center, which would be operated by the Town, into this Edge Recreational Facility. After some of the key design elements are complete, a sub-committee will begin working on the costs and potential revenue streams associated with this Community Center. It is fair to say that

step one (survey) out of a three step process (survey, design, financial analysis) has been completed.

The Community Center Committee meets weekly on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. These meetings are open to the public. Please check the [Town Calendar](#) for more details. You can also follow along via a new section of the Town's website devoted to the [Community Center Discussion](#) and you are welcome to share your feedback directly with the Committee using the group email: [communitycenteradhoccommittee@scarboroughmaine.org](mailto:communitycenteradhoccommittee@scarboroughmaine.org).

We look forward to the work ahead, and keeping you informed along the way. It's an exciting opportunity that is worthy of this effort to explore further. Your feedback and continued engagement will be critical to a decision that makes sense for Scarborough.