



# **I.J. Coady Memorial Arena Events Committee**

Community Services Committee Meeting of July 8, 2013

Presented by Steve Bastien

Good morning Mr. Chairman and City Councillors. I am here on behalf of the I.J. Coady Memorial Arena Events Committee as well as the community of Onaping Falls. My name is Steve Bastien. I am a resident of Onaping and have played and coached hockey at I.J. since it was built. I also work at Xstrata Nickel in Onaping.

I would like to address the Arena Renewal Strategy Report and the low usage this Report claims of the I.J. Coady Memorial Arena as well as what our Committee and community are doing to increase this usage.

To begin, here are a few facts about our community. We do not much as far as services go but one thing is for sure, a lot of tax money comes from our community through the mining of nickel, copper and precious metals. We have three major mining companies operating out of Levack & Onaping. They are Vale Inco, Xstrata Nickel & KGHM International. These three companies employ thousands and create thousands of other jobs through contracting, suppliers, trucking, etc. This, in turn, generates millions in tax dollars for the Greater City of Sudbury.

We also have a ski hill, golf course and curling club. These recreational facilities have been here before amalgamation and continue to survive on their own. Since amalgamation, we have been disturbed by the closure of our high school which became the elementary school and the destruction of the elementary school building in the centre of Levack which continues to be an eye-sore. Ultimately, the kids suffer for this. If our arena closes they again will suffer. As tax-paying citizens of the Greater City of Sudbury we feel a trend starting for the complete closure of all services in our area and find this to be unacceptable.



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## Arena Renewal Strategy Report

At the January 21<sup>st</sup> Community Services Committee meeting an Arena Renewal Strategy Report was presented by Real Carré, Director of Leisure Services, and Ray Mensour, Manager of Arenas. As other residents, as well as myself, sat in this meeting we grew increasingly frustrated with the information being presented as we could only listen and were unable to speak. Today, we appreciate this opportunity and thank you, Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

After the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, I obtained a copy of the Report and started doing homework. I found that the I.J. Coady Arena was the target for closure throughout the Report based on low usage. Obviously, low usage means low cost recovery and I wanted to know why this was.

The more I looked into this; many areas came up as to why the usage was down. People started approaching me and informed me that they have tried to rent ice time through the City and were told it was unavailable.

In December, I was talking to one parent from the 'AAA' Bantam team playing out of the I.J. Coady Arena. On certain weekends they host three games, two on Saturday and one on Sunday. This parent informed me their son's ice time was moved to another arena for unknown reasons by the "City's Management." They lost two Sundays playing at the I.J. Coady Arena but were able to return due to the dressing room contract.

I, personally, called in February and tried to book ice time from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and could not rent at the I.J. Coady Arena at that time but was told I could get it at the Chelmsford or Capreol Arenas. When I went online, there to, I could not get it.

The Report also shows some numbers about the I.J. Coady Arena that do not make sense. A couple that come to mind are \$25,000 for dressing room benches and clothing hangers and \$15,000 for an Air Conditioning Unit. I, personally, measured the biggest dressing room for benches and hangers and came up with a cost of UNDER \$8,000. As far as the \$15,000 Air Conditioning Unit, I could not find it. It does not exist! Arenas with halls to rent have Air Conditioning units.

This leads me to another problem with the Report. Usage of Arenas is also based on hall rentals which we do not have. I wonder where we would stand in the Report with ice usage alone.



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There are 11 ice pads in the City of Greater Sudbury that are older than the I.J. Coady Arena.

As Mr. Carré was quoted by the Sudbury Star as saying, "Capital-wise, Jim Coady is not at the top of the list for that." The Chelmsford Arena, built in 1959, requires new floors, boards and bleachers.

With this said, I would like to talk about the online survey as well. If the Arena Renewal Strategy Report was a waste of tax-payers money then the survey which is based on the Report should be of no use as well for basing a TRUE, HONEST, INFORMED DECISION to close our Arena.

## Now, our Committee's plan

We have started a Committee to find ways to increase usage. Through events and donations we are looking to buy more ice time through our Onaping Falls Minor Hockey Association. Approximately, one hour of extra ice time for each minor hockey team per week. We are also looking at more public skating and advertising to increase the awareness of the ice time available at I.J. Coady Arena.

We are currently selling T-shirts to raise money and we are hosted a dance on Saturday, June 22nd at the Onaping Curling Club. We did not use the I.J. Coady Arena because it was too expensive to rent, even though we are trying to save it. On Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a golf tournament at our local golf course on Windy Lake, the Onaping Golf & Beach Club. We have donations from local businesses and have received memorabilia from our local NHLer's. Troy Mallette, who played out of the I.J. Coady Arena and Dave Taylor. Mr. Taylor forwarded two autographed prints of himself and the Triple Crown line he played with all the way from Los Angeles. We are currently in the process of obtaining a lottery license to raffle these two autographed prints.



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## Recommendations

We have some recommendations that were discussed at a meeting with Ray Mensour, Rick Lebouthillier and the Manager of the I.J. Coady Arena, Mark Taylor on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our recommendations are:

1. To be able to book ice time directly through the Manager at the I.J. Coady Arena.
2. To change the online booking information to show the Arena ice time as being "available" and show the direct line to the I.J. Coady Arena and a quotation saying for more information or to book ice time to call the Arena.
3. Have an incentive program where if a team books five ice times at the I.J. Coady Arena then the sixth booking is free.
4. We will also be meeting with the Onaping Falls Minor Hockey Association to discuss moving certain ice times for the minor hockey teams to allow more of the "prime" ice time to be available to book on weeknights. We will also discuss an increase in the registration fee in order for the teams to have that one extra ice time included for the season.

We understand it must be challenging to run a City of Sudbury's geographical size. Thousands of people travel to our community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Therefore, it should be no problem for others to travel here to use our rink facilities as we are a part of the Greater City of Sudbury. And let us not forget, priority #1, our children. They are the reason we are here fighting to keep our arena open. They are the ones who will suffer.

Mr. Chairman, City Councillors, on behalf of the people of Onaping Falls and the I.J. Coady Memorial Arena Events Committee, I thank you for listening.