

QEP Community Centre Update

A unique multi-purpose recreation, arts and culture facility

July 7, 2010

QEP Community Centre rental rates

Dear Cultural Group representatives,

As I indicated in my letter of last week, we would like to follow up with all group representatives regarding the proposed rental rates for Queen Elizabeth Park Community Centre (QEPCC). To that end please find included in this package some background information, issues and concerns raised at the June 21st meeting as well as a questionnaire for each group to respond to before July 15, 2010.

Background

During consultations in early 2010, stakeholder groups provided the consultants with information on their current spaces and rental rates. There is a significant discrepancy between the rates that groups are currently paying. In addition, many have “package” deals where they pay one price for a variety of rooms of different sizes and frequency of use.

Based on the information provided the consultants prepared a rough estimate of what groups are currently paying for rooms similar in size and technical capacity to QEPCC. This formed the basis of the “affordability” benchmark. Based on size and technical capacity the consultants developed a six tiered rate structure. Projecting to 2012 and assuming most groups would see increases to their current rates in the intervening two years, the consultants arrived at recommended rates for opening in January 2012. This draft rate proposal was presented to the arts and cultural organizations on June 21 2010.

- Individual Music Rooms \$5
- “Quartet” Music Rooms \$8
- Ensemble Music Rooms \$10
- Classroom-sized rooms \$15
 - Art studios (clean, dirty, fibre arts)
 - Multi-purpose/Music Rooms
 - Breakout rooms
- Equipped classroom-sized rooms \$20
 - Digital Arts Studio
 - Recording Studio
 - Dance Studio
 - Pottery Studio
 - Woodworking Studio
- Black Box Theatre and Rehearsal Studio \$45

Check us out on

facebook

QEP Community Centre

QEP Community Centre Update

A unique multi-purpose recreation, arts and culture facility

The proposed rates for QEPCC are significantly less than the rates charged to other non-profit groups for similar sized and equipped space in other Town of Oakville operated Recreation and Culture facilities. The consultants were therefore asked to calculate what the escalation factor would be to bring these rates in line with other Town facilities within five years. Assuming that the town's Recreation and Culture rental rates will continue to rise at 3% per annum, increases of between 12% and 30% would be required at QEPCC in order to achieve parity with other facilities by 2017. It is projected that the Town's subsidy of QEPCC will be roughly \$2.5 million per year.

Issues and Concerns Raised

At the stakeholder meeting on June 21, 2010 there was general concern about the escalation factors as for many, if not most, this would render the space unaffordable. Participants are also anxious to know whether, once rates were settled, these rates would be guaranteed for three or five years.

Next Steps and Questions

Feedback is an important part of this process. It would be greatly appreciated if one representative from each group could respond to the questions on the attached questionnaire. All information will be shared with the consultants however individual responses will not be shared publicly.

Sincerely,

Nina de Vaal,
Director, Recreation and Culture

Check us out on

facebook QEP Community Centre