

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**DARTMOUTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE /
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

FINAL REPORT

January 20, 1999

Davis-Jamieson & Associates

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January 20, 1999

Mr. Ralph Hawley, Chair
Dartmouth East Community Centre/ Boys and Girls Club
Needs Assessment Study
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Hawley:

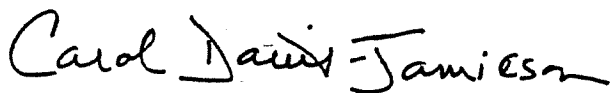
The consulting firm of Davis-Jamieson and Associates, in partnership with Dr. Brenda Robertson of Leisure Experience Associates of Canada, is pleased to present to the Dartmouth East Community Coalition Association, the final report for the Dartmouth East Community Centre/Boys and Girls Club Needs Assessment Study.

We are very grateful to the citizens, service providers, community groups, and agencies who have shared their time and experience with our study team. The assistance and guidance provided by the individual members of the steering committee has been invaluable.

Thank you to the individual staff of the Municipality's Recreation and Leisure Services (Parks Planning Division) and Planning Services for providing information for the facility inventory and demographic profile. A special thank you to Allison Funnell for her assistance in the community consultation portion of the study.

This study is an overview of current public opinion and provides suggestions and considerations to DECCA should it decide to continue in its pursuit of finding a "home" for community programs, services, and events in Dartmouth East.

Yours truly,
DAVIS-JAMIESON AND ASSOCIATES



Carol Davis-Jamieson

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In September of 1998, Halifax Regional Municipality and the Dartmouth East Community Coalition Association ("DECCA") contracted the services of Davis-Jamieson and Associates to determine the need and optimum siting for a facility which would combine a community centre and Boys and Girls Club to serve the east Dartmouth community. A steering committee of representatives of participating agencies was established to oversee the project.

The study area was defined as that part of Dartmouth East bordered by Montebello Road, Braemar Drive, Oakwood Avenue, Mount Edward Road, and the Kennedy Drive and Caledonia Road area.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- ♦ assess and verify the need for a community centre/boys and girls club to serve the community of Dartmouth East;
- ♦ determine, based upon verification of the need, the type of facility and the function it should provide to the community; and
- ♦ recommend the optimum siting for the facility.

The consultant tasks included:

- ♦ completing a demographic analysis of the designated area;
- ♦ identifying existing indoor and outdoor recreation facilities within the study area boundaries;
- ♦ reviewing all existing literature and documentation;
- ♦ conducting a community consultation program that would include interviews, focus groups, and a public meeting;
- ♦ prepare a final report to be presented at the January, 1999, meeting of the Dartmouth East Community Coalition Association.

The study area of Dartmouth East is a diverse community from a socio-economic perspective. The community is actually a collection of three very distinct neighbourhoods: commercial, high density semi-detached houses and apartments, and detached single family homes. There is no physical or spiritual centre to the community and this has led to a general malaise of community pride and spirit. The community association was formed in 1995 and saw as its central mission to pursue the development of a community centre.

At the same time the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club was seeking a permanent home for its operation. Their facility on Caledonia Road was constructed over 17 years ago and was never meant to be a permanent structure. After they became involved in the initiative, the Boys and Girls Club has partnered with DECCA to work toward developing a joint facility.

Other organizations have also recognized the need for some sort of initiative for the area. For example, in June of 1998, the Dartmouth Community Health Board, in its report *Building Partnerships in Health: A First Health Plan For The Community of Dartmouth*, recommended that a community centre be opened in Dartmouth East. The report recommended that the centre's purpose would be

to provide a space where organizations could be open at night to support activities for youth. The centre could also be a neighbourhood meeting place and provide space for a much needed parent resource centre in the area.

Many of the social services and recreation programs utilized by area residents require that they actually go out of the community in order to become involved. Over the past few years a number of community initiatives have been undertaken to address the need for additional services and/or the coordination of existing services in order to provide some framework for community development.

This study is an overview of current public opinion and provides suggestions and considerations to DECCA should it decide to take a lead role in planning future initiatives in Dartmouth East.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

A major component of the study was the community consultation process. This included a combination of face-to-face interviews, phone interviews, focus groups, and a public meeting.

The steering committee provided a list of approximately 85 individuals either residing in or providing services to the Dartmouth East area. Names appearing on the contact list were chosen as either:

- a) representatives of a broad range of sectors of the community;
- b) key stakeholders in this initiative; or
- c) those considered to have the most information to provide on the issues being considered.

Each individual was contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire designed to assess need, suggest a site, and discuss functional and management guidelines for a potential new community facility. Of the 85 individuals on the contact list, 15 were to be interviewed in person, 25 were to be interviewed by telephone and 45 were invited to participate in three focus group sessions. Additional input was to be solicited at a public meeting.

The public participation aspects of the study were conducted primarily between October 15 and November 26, 1998 with the following key dates:

- ▶ October 27 to November 24: face-to-face interviews
- ▶ November 5 to November 19: telephone interviews
- ▶ November 3: youth focus group
- ▶ November 10: community organizations focus group
- ▶ November 17: professionals focus group
- ▶ November 26: public meeting

The focus group sessions were organized to facilitate discussion around issues relating to youth, community organizations and professional services being offered in Dartmouth East. Participants at each session were asked to individually complete specific sections of the questionnaire followed by a facilitated discussion on each section as it related to the particular focus topic (e.g., youth concerns relative to need, management, financing, etc.)

The final activity of the community consultation was a public meeting held at the Ian Forsyth School on November 26. Participants in the public meeting were afforded an opportunity to complete the questionnaire and/or participate in the group discussion facilitated by the steering committee.

3.0 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The demographic information analyzed for this study encompasses a broader area than identified for the study. It includes information gleaned from the combination of two census tracts (as per the 1996 Census) as provided by the Planning Services Division of Halifax Regional Municipality. This created some difficulty in acquiring accurate information specific to the designated study area. However, the following information does give a good representative "snap shot" of the community in the following sectors:

Population

11,700 (male - 49 per cent female - 51 per cent)

Age

Some 37 per cent of the population is under 24 years of age, another 51 per cent is between the ages of 25 and 64 , with the remaining 12 per cent being over 65 years of age.

Families

There are about 3,500 families living in the study area. Of these family units, 2,800 (79 per cent) are two-parent families with an average of two children, and 650 (19 per cent) are single-parent families with an average of one child. The remainder (2 per cent) are common-law couples with an average of one child.

Dwelling units

There are a total of 4,100 dwelling units with the following distribution:

- ▶ single detached house - 59 per cent
- ▶ semi-detached house - 16 per cent
- ▶ row house - 3 per cent
- ▶ apartment, detached duplex - 2 per cent
- ▶ apartment building, 5+ stories - 4 per cent
- ▶ apartment building, 5- stories - 16 per cent

Income

The average family income is approximately \$53,000. Approximately 30 per cent of the families have an average family income under \$30,000 and the rate of unemployment is 10.5 per cent. The primary labour force sectors are retail trade industries, health and social services, and government service industries.

Education

Of all individuals completing some level of high school or higher, the breakdown is as follows:

- ◆ less than grade 9 - 5 per cent
- ◆ grades 9 to 13 - 33 per cent
- ◆ trades certificate - 3 per cent
- ◆ non university education - 28 per cent
- ◆ university education - 30 per cent

The general profile of an individual living in the study area is an adult between the ages of 25 and 64, married with two children, living in a single detached house, with a post secondary education, earning approximately \$50,000 per annum and working in the retail, health/social services, or government service industries.

4.0 CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS

The key stakeholders in terms of existing community facilities within the study area are the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Halifax Regional School Board, the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club, the I.W. Akerley Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College and several churches that promote the use of their church halls for community use. Each of these organizations owns and manages property within Dartmouth East and each will affect or be affected if an additional community facility is developed. A brief overview of their current service levels to the community follows.

4.1 Halifax Regional Municipality

The Municipality currently provides program and facility management services. Facility management primarily focuses on several outdoor recreation properties and open space land holdings. The programming division of Recreation and Leisure Services coordinates programs at a number of schools and church halls in the area. The Municipality does not own and operate any type of indoor recreation facility in the area (other than a small, vacant building on Lakecrest Drive). Community use of municipally-owned outdoor properties (i.e. Beazley Field) are coordinated through a central booking office administered by Recreation and Leisure Services.

It appears that the Municipality is currently redefining its role in programming. The plan is to stabilize current service levels for direct programming and move to a more community-based approach to program development. This provides an excellent opportunity for DECCA to become proactive in meeting the recreational needs of the community. At the same time this means that DECCA will be asked to take on more responsibility for the recreational opportunities being offered to its constituents.

4.2 Halifax Regional School Board

There are five schools within the study area with another three in close proximity. It is the philosophy of the School Board that all school facilities operated by the Board should be made available to the entire community. To this end, the Division of Community Collaboration and Partnerships administers the *Policy on Use of Board Facilities* (Appendix "D"). There appears to be a perception in the community that not all schools in the area are as accessible as the Board's philosophy would imply.

As a follow up to this study there is an opportunity for DECCA to work in partnership with the Board to ensure that every effort is being made to make more effective use of the activity space available in the area's schools.

4.3 I.W. Akerley Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College

The community college has a pool, gymnasium, and arena that is made available to the community outside of regular college use. It is our understanding that the college is currently in discussions with the Dartmouth YMCA regarding the possibility of partnering with that organization on a management agreement that would facilitate the operation of the college's pool and gymnasium by the YMCA.

4.4 East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club is one of nine that are currently operating within the province and has been an active organization in Dartmouth East for a number of years. As stated in its mission statement,

Boys and Girls Clubs, with families and other adults, offer children and youth opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and values they seek to become fulfilled individuals.

The base for the Boys and Girls Club administration and programs is their facility on Caledonia Road. The Club constructed the facility about 17 years ago on property leased from St. Thomas More Church. The facility was never meant to be a permanent facility and its present condition does not warrant further investment in capital improvements. Other sites utilized by the Boys and Girls Club for programs include Caledonia Junior High, Ian Forsyth School, Stevens Road Baptist Church, St. Thomas More Church, Kinhouse, and the community college.

4.5 Local churches

Specifically St. Thomas More and Stevens Road Baptist churches are heavily utilized by the community for activities for children, youth, and seniors.

5.0 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

5.1 Profile

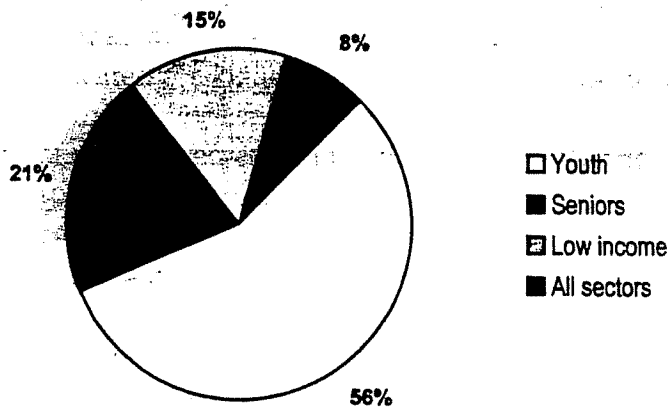
Useable data were collected from 68 members of the community. The focus groups yielded 15 completed questionnaires (22 per cent). Personal interviews were conducted with 30 community leaders (44 per cent). Questionnaires were completed by 18 individuals completed questionnaires at the public meetings (26 per cent). The origin of five questionnaires (seven per cent) was not reported by the individual.

Care was taken to ensure that all sectors of the community had an opportunity for input into this data collection process. Respondents represent a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives including concerned citizens, youth, parents, seniors, various socio-economic groups as well community service providers who offer services including health, education, recreation, social services, religion, and youth. As well, the business community and government (local and provincial) were represented.

5.2 Need

Of those completing the surveys, 97 per cent expressed the belief that the recreation facilities presently available in Dartmouth East are not adequately satisfying the needs of the local residents. In particular, residents are concerned about the lack of programs and services for youth. In all, 56 per cent particularly expressed that this should be the main priority. Concern was also expressed over lack of programs and services for seniors (21 per cent) and low income families (15 per cent). There were eight per cent who indicated that an increase in recreation opportunities for all sectors of the community was desirable.

Figure 1 Primary need



In 75 per cent of cases, the individual expressing the need was not a member of the group for whom he or she felt that a need existed. In most cases, this was true of those who indicated that the need for youth services was greatest. These people were concerned residents (19 per cent), community service providers (16 per cent), teachers (9 per cent), community association representatives (7 per cent), Boys and Girls Club affiliates (7 per cent), and government employees (4 per cent).

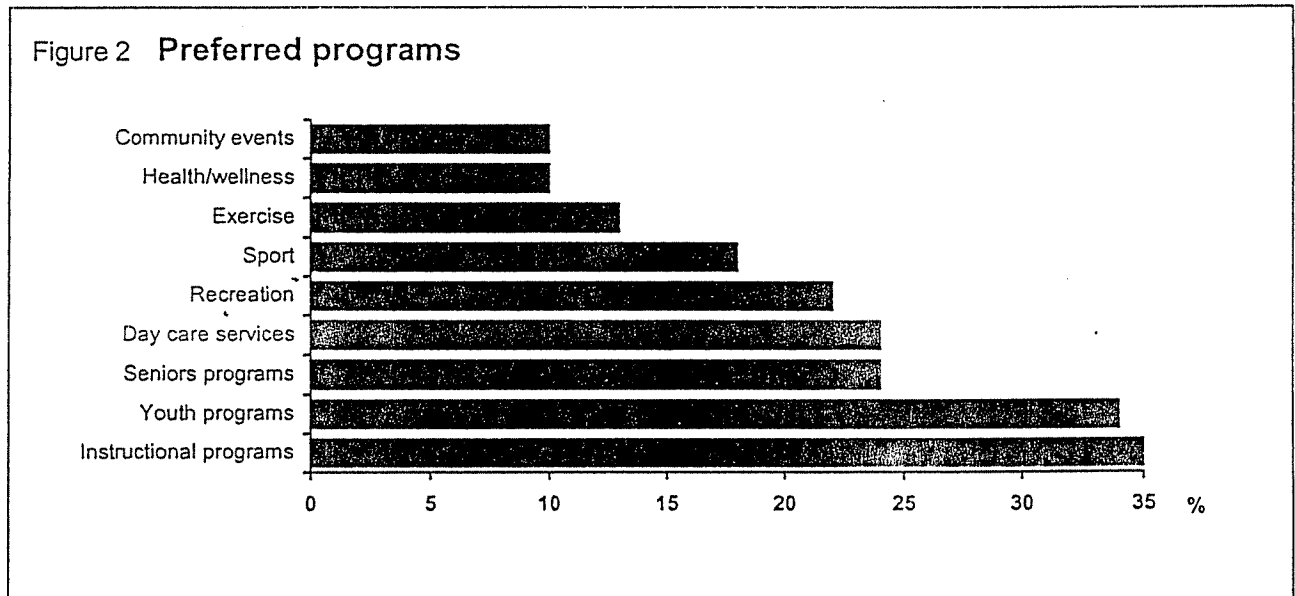
When asked whether a new facility was necessary in order to satisfy the recreation needs in Dartmouth East, 67 per cent indicated that a new facility was required. The primary supporting reasons for this claim were that no adequate space existed at present (76 per cent), and that if existing spaces were used, not only would they not be adequate but the community would be unable to develop a sense of ownership for such a venue or the services that would be offered there (18 per cent). There were 17 per cent who felt that existing space may exist within the community but they were not necessarily aware of the exact location.

5.3 Programs and services

When asked what specific programs and services were needed to meet the needs of the community, respondents identified a wide variety. Participants were asked to carefully consider what specifically would address the needs of the community. They were not given a list from which to select programs and services, rather they were asked to identify those that they felt were important.

The most frequently identified programs were instructional classes for all age groups (35 per cent) and programs that would engage the youth population (34 per cent). Some expressed that sport programs in particular would be beneficial (18 per cent), while others indicated a broader selection of recreation based opportunities (22 per cent). There were nine per cent who mentioned self-improvement programs specifically. A variety of seniors recreation programs were mentioned (24 per cent) as being important to offer for residents of the area. Day care services (24 per cent) and after school programs for children (9 per cent) were priorities for a number of respondents. Exercise programs for various age groups were identified by 13 per cent, while 10 per cent expressed that a need existed for health/wellness-related programs and services for all ages. Certain respondents (10 per cent) saw a need for community-wide special events while a further 10 per cent expressed interest in family based recreation offerings, especially ones that would be accessible to income-challenged families.

In addition to these programs, respondents expressed a desire for services such a meeting space which could be booked (15 per cent) and access to resource information (18 per cent). Finally, the need was expressed for designated office space to be incorporated into a community recreation facility including offices for the Boys and Girls club (20 per cent), social services offices (15 per cent), and office space for community based agencies (3 per cent).

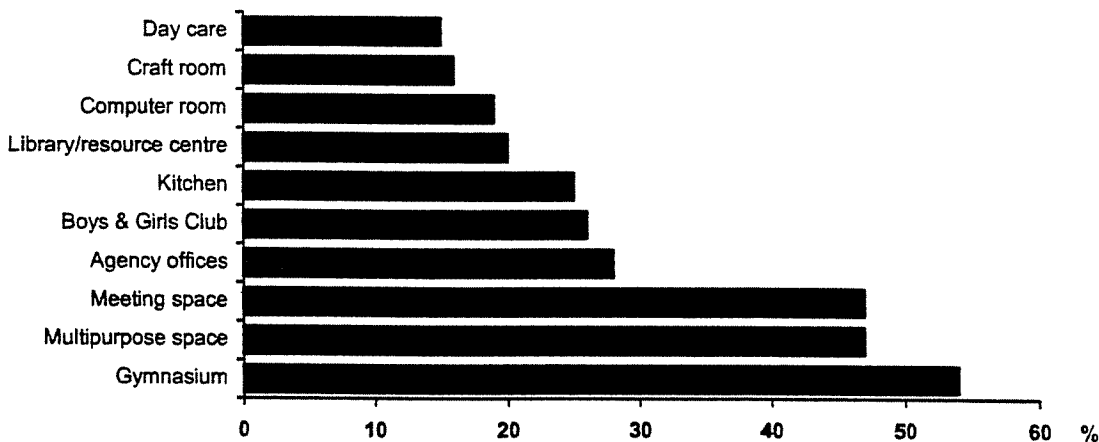


5.4 Facility characteristics

Given that strong support was expressed for a community facility that would provide the aforementioned programs and services, following is a list of the nature and type of spaces considered necessary to include in such a facility. It is important to note that respondents were asked to identify the required spaces, not select them from a pre-determined list.

The venue identified by the greatest number of respondents was a gymnasium (54 per cent), followed by a large multipurpose area (47 per cent). These areas do not necessarily need to be mutually exclusive. There was support expressed for meeting rooms (47 per cent), community agency office space (28 per cent), and Boys and Girls club room(s) (26 per cent). Kitchen facilities (25 per cent), library/resource room (20 per cent), and day care space (15 per cent) were considered to be priorities by certain participants. Although important to some, the need for activity-specific spaces was not as broadly expressed: computer room (19 per cent), craft room (16 per cent), seniors room (9 per cent), exercise room (6 per cent), music room (4 per cent), swimming pool (4 per cent), sports fields (4 per cent), and games room (3 per cent).

Figure 3 Preferred facilities



Respondents were generally in agreement about aspects related to the operation of such a facility. When asked to rate the importance of certain facility characteristics, the following was reported. The percentages represent those who indicated a strong level of agreement with each:

Open late at night	69 per cent
Located on a bus route	94 per cent
Low cost service to participants	94 per cent
Located near a school	81 per cent
Sense of community ownership	100 per cent
Located adjacent to an existing facility	58 per cent
Incorporated into an existing facility	47 per cent
Centrally located	94 per cent
Food services available	71 per cent

5.5 Benefits

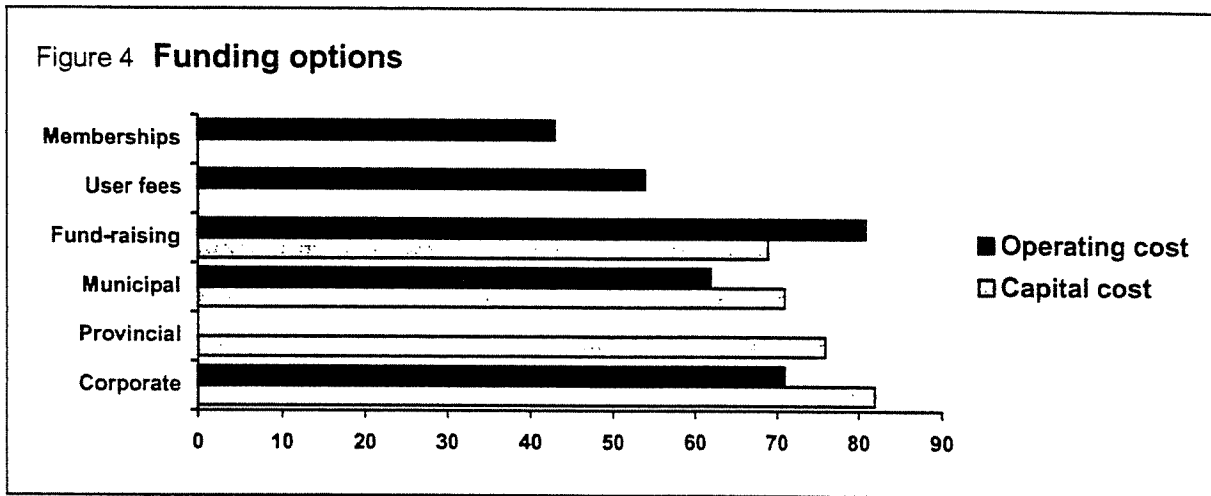
Respondents believe that a number of benefits would result from building a new community recreation facility to service the needs of Dartmouth East. In particular, such a facility is seen as a focal point and gathering place for the entire community. The community will benefit from having safer streets and less vandalism and crime, and individuals (youth in particular) could gain a sense of belonging to the community and a sense of ownership for the facility and its services. A number of respondents expressed concern that the community is without 'soul' and feel that this type of a venue located in the heart of the community could bring people together so that a community identity, sense of belonging, and pride could start to develop.

Numerous respondents expressed concern that if an initiative such as this is not undertaken, residents will be forced to leave the community to access meaningful recreation opportunities, create their own activities which may not be socially acceptable or beneficial, or simply continue to live a de-moralized existence as is the case at the present time.

5.6 Funding

There was little agreement as to what the primary source of capital funding for such an initiative should be. Most felt that funding from a variety of sources will be necessary in order to build a new recreation facility. Corporate donations was identified most often as a primary source (82 per cent), followed by provincial assistance (76 per cent), municipal grants (71 per cent), and community fund-raising efforts (69 per cent).

With reference to operating costs, ongoing community fund-raising was seen as a primary source by most (81 per cent). Other viable sources of operating funds included corporate donations (71 per cent), municipal grants (62 per cent), user fees (54 per cent), and annual memberships (43 per cent).



5.7 Management

Various models for management for the facility were identified through this study. The most commonly suggested management model was one in which residents of the community would have control through the creation of a community board (56 per cent). Certain individuals, in particular those presently associated with the Boys and Girls Club, felt that the Boys and Girls Club should be responsible for management of the facility (27 per cent). A further 16 per cent indicated that the municipality should manage the facility.

5.8 Location

There was considerable agreement on the desired location for such a facility. Fifty-five percent indicated that on or near the site of the Kinhouse/rink pad, adjacent to Caledonia Junior High School (30-34 Caledonia Road) would be the ideal location. A further 33 per cent did not suggest a specific site but did indicate that it be centrally located. There were five per cent who suggested it be built on the site of the existing Boys and Girls club facility, and four per cent who indicated that it could perhaps be built in conjunction with the community college on that site.

5.9 Advice

A number of the respondents offered advice to those involved in this project. The nature of the advice offered by most was that if this is to be a community initiative, the residents need to be consulted (and listened to) in all aspects of the planning process. Many expressed appreciation at having had the opportunity for input and generally applauded the work of the steering committee in taking on this initiative. The other piece of advice was that given the costs associated with a project such as this, that care must be taken to do the necessary fact gathering and explore all available options before making any decisions.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Need

It does appear from the data collected that there exists an expressed need for a recreation-based community facility to be located in the Dartmouth East area. Although the need for programs and services for young people was expressed most frequently, other sectors of the community including families and seniors were also identified as groups with needs that are presently unmet as a result of lack of access to suitable facilities.

Certain individuals, although few in number, expressed concern over the high costs associated with construction of new facilities and suggested strongly that all existing venues be considered for suitability and availability prior to undertaking a major infrastructure initiative in the form of a community recreation facility. In particular, it does appear as though a number of gymnasiums exist within schools in the local area. Such venues appear to be under-utilized by the community at the present time despite the School Board philosophy of community use. There does exist a perception by many area residents that access to schools for community use is not as available as the School Board policy would imply.

It was suggested by many participants in the study that the steering committee investigate all such options rather than focusing solely on the development of a new facility. Exploring options could and should include negotiation with organizations such as the School Board that could potentially provide access to existing facility space at a fraction of the cost of new facility construction. Many respondents involved in the data collection process from a variety of sectors noted the need to keep costs to the individual residents of the area at a minimum, both in terms of capital and operational funding. The majority of the residents are in a financial situation that would not enable them to contribute financially.

6.2 The facility

Based upon the results of the data collection, it would appear that in order to satisfy the general needs of the community the facility should have flexible multi-purpose spaces rather than activity specific areas. In particular, the facility should include a large multi-purpose room suitable for games as well as large gatherings of people, a room or rooms designed to accommodate groups in a meeting or lecture format, and a smaller room or rooms that could house small groups of individuals in either a passive activity or meeting format.

Each of these rooms should include suitable storage space for regular users to store equipment and resources. For example, the large multi-purpose room could have locked storage closets where a regular user such as a Boy Scout troop could store their flags, project equipment, and camping equipment. The meeting room could have locked cupboards where they could keep association minutes, gavel, and secretarial materials that are required for each meeting.

Also, the facility would house office and service space for designated community groups. In the case of a group such as the Boys and Girls Club, this could be a designated space, appropriately identified as the headquarters for that association. These groups should be identified prior to completion of facility designs in order that their designated spaces are designed to be functional for their specific needs. Such spaces would be rented to the group or agency under a long term lease agreement.

A second option would provide for a designated office/service space to be shared by a number of community groups. For example, Child and Family Services may have a representative work out of a space one day a week, a public health nurse another day of the week, and a representative of the Dartmouth Family Resource Centre could work out of the space another day or evening a week. This would provide space in the area for agencies that would like to provide direct services to the residents of Dartmouth East but on a part-time basis. It is important for the steering committee to identify and contact agencies to determine their level of interest in leasing space within the facility prior to embarking upon a facility design.

The other type of space that should be incorporated into the facility would be appropriately sized washrooms, a child minding area, coat room, and food service facilities. The extent to which such areas of the facility are developed must reflect the projected use of the facilities. For example, if the facility is to be used for fund raising events such as receptions, dances or bingo, provision must be made to accommodate the associated needs of large groups.

6.3 Facility location

The preferred location of the facility, according to respondents is the public land presently occupied by the rink pad and Kinhouse on Caledonia Road. This site was identified as being desirable as it is centrally located, on existing bus routes, and near amenities such as schools and commercial establishments.

6.4 Management

According to the data, the most desirable form of management for the facility would be a community-based board of directors. Such a board would represent the various constituents of the area such as primary tenant agencies, facility users, area service providers, key financial partners, the municipality, and area residents. Ownership of the facility is an issue that has to be resolved. A model of ownership by the municipality with management by the community in the form of an incorporated body, similar to that in place in Dartmouth North, should be explored.

A related issue is that of staffing. Prior to addressing staffing issues, decisions must be made regarding the role and responsibilities of the management board. For example, the role of the board could be as a facility manager only, or could include a direct programming function in order to address the need for service identified through the data collection process. Provision of a facility alone will not ensure that the programming and service needs identified through the study will be appropriately addressed.

6.5 Funding

Capital

Corporate Donations - The corporate community was identified as the primary source of capital funding. A commercial profile of the immediate community did not reveal any one corporate entity that was an obvious source of major capital funding. The steering committee will need to canvas the corporate community to assess and to foster support.

Provincial Assistance - The second most frequently identified source of capital funding was provincial government grants. At present a capital construction assistance program is available through the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission. The maximum contribution for the construction of a new facility is \$90,000. Recent allocation priorities of this program have been conservation of existing facilities, trail development, and community use of schools.

Municipal Assistance - Although not identified as the primary source of capital funding, the Municipality could be a major financial partner. The Municipality does have a mandate to provide recreation opportunities to the residents of the municipality. The steering committee must provide evidence to the Municipality that adequate recreation opportunities do not presently exist in Dartmouth East and cannot exist without construction of such a facility.

Community Fund Raising - The demographics of the area indicate that major pockets of the community lack adequate disposable income to financially support the construction of a major facility. Further this community generally is without a history of working collaboratively on major fund raising initiatives. As such, at this time there is little evidence to support the concept that the community in general has the means to generate the necessary capital. The potential does perhaps exist for local service clubs to contribute to the capital construction should they deem this to be a viable project.

Federal Assistance - Although there is no infrastructure program in place presently through the federal government, such programs are announced from time to time. Usually these programs are designed to support projects similar to this in co-operation with municipal government. The steering committee will need to advocate for this project's inclusion in future infrastructure funding programs.

Operating

Community Fund Raising - This was identified as the primary source of operating funding. Most likely this would take the form of events run through the centre (i.e. dances, bingos). If this is the case, prime time within the facility will need to be committed on a regular basis for such events and amenities such as appropriate kitchen and washroom facilities will need to be incorporated into the design of the facilities. Staffing will also need to be in place to organize and conduct such events.

Corporate Donations - Although this was the second most frequently identified source of potential operating funding, access to such funds on an ongoing basis is difficult to establish. Such funding generally takes the form of sponsorship that takes considerable resources to access. If this is to become a significant part of the funding formula, the steering committee will need to consider how the human resources required to attract and satisfy corporate sponsors will be acquired.

Municipal Grants - Municipal support toward the operation of a community recreation facility can happen in one of three ways:

1. If the facility is owned by the municipality and managed by a community-based Board, a management agreement is developed and an operating subsidy could be negotiated.
2. Although historically not a practice in the urban core, many rural communities have instituted area rates to create capital and operating funds for recreation facility development.

3. A third option is to apply for funding assistance on an annual basis through the municipality's Grants and Taxes Committee.

User fees/Memberships - As a means of operating funding, direct fees by participants was not rated as highly as the previously mentioned funding sources, mainly due to the personal economic situation of many residents in the area. Those who are most in need of the programs and services are least likely to have the resources to pay for them. It is probably inevitable that some form of user-pay system will need to be implemented should the facility be built. The steering committee will need to carefully access fee levels that will not exclude those most in need of the services.

Rental fees - Rental fees are a source of funding that should be considered carefully by the steering committee. Such fees can be collected in two ways:

- a) from tenants of the building who use designated office and service space such as the Boys and Girls club; and
- b) from those wishing to rent specific areas of the facility such as the multi-purpose room for private functions.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The data collection process identified that the recreation-related needs of residents in Dartmouth East are not being met by existing programs and services. Respondents expressed that lack of a suitable community recreation facility was a major contributing factor to this state. As such, there was strong support voiced for development of a facility to be developed on the site of the old arena rink pad on Caledonia Road.

Less clear from these data is detail as to how such a facility would be funded or run, although there was a strong call for community-based management and control over the facility. Before proceeding, the steering committee must give serious consideration as to who would own such a facility, how it would be financed, and who would be responsible for management. In doing so, many factors must be considered including the structure, tradition, and experience that the community has in working co-operatively. Also, care must be taken to address the needs of the diverse sectors of this community.

The issue of what organization will be responsible for the facility is key. At present, the structure to carry out a community-based initiative such as this does not exist within Dartmouth East. Once established, the organization must be able to establish effective working partnerships with a variety of community based agencies including the Boys and Girls Club and the Halifax Regional Municipality.

A final issue that must be considered is that of who will provide the programs and services once the facility is built. The results of the data collection process indicated that there is a strong desire for specific types of programs and services. Provision of the facility does not ensure that appropriate programs and services will be developed and offered. The steering committee must therefore consider who will provide the programs and services called for by respondents in the study.

APPENDICES

- A. Facility inventory
- B. Questionnaire
- C. Proposed site map
- D. Policy on use of School Board facilities

APPENDIX 'A'
FACILITY INVENTORY

Municipal Property

Recreation (outdoor)

- 1 - Paul David Court
Type: undeveloped open space
- 2 - Prince Andrew Field
Type: sports area and passive park
Size: 1.16 hectares
- 3 - Kennedy Drive playground
Type: playground and passive park
Size: .2 hectares
- 4 - Mount Edward Road tennis courts
Type: sports area
Size: .35 hectares
- 5 - Main Street - corner of Woodlawn Rd and Main St
Type: passive park
Size: .15 hectares
- 6 - Beazley Field Recreation Area (Caledonia Road)
Type: sports area, playground, passive park
Size: 4.11 hectares
Included in this property holding is -
 - a) 30 Caledonia Rd. (site of the Kinsmen facility known as "Kinhouse") size - 1,220 square metres (13,115 square feet)
 - b) 31 Caledonia Rd. (site of the old Kinsmen Arena, currently utilized as a lighted outdoor basketball facility) size - 4,185 square metres (45,000 square feet)
- 7 - Main Street Ballfield (Main Street)
Type: sports area, playground, passive park
Size: 0.64 hectares
- 8 - Greenough Ballfield (Mount Edward)
Type: sports area and passive park
Size: 0.51 hectares
- 9 - Red Bridge Pond (Waverly Road Millers mt.)
Type: undeveloped areas

10 - Oakwood Court Playground (Oakwood Ave.)
Type: playground and passive park

11 - Khun Road Land Assembly (Khun Rd)
Type: undeveloped lands

Schools (within study area)

12 - Prince Andrew High & Grounds
Type: school (gymnasium [double], theatre)
Size: 6.39 hectares

13 - Ian Forsyth School & Playground (Glencoe Drive)
Type: walkways and playground
gymnasium

14 - Mary Lawson School (Valleyford School)
Type: elementary school (gymnasium)

15 - Admiral Westphal School (Fourth Street)
Type: junior high school (gymnasium)

16 - Caledonia Junior High School (Caledonia Road)
Type: junior high school (gymnasium)

Schools (bordering study area)

17 - Brookhouse School (Christopher Ave)
Type: elementary school (gymnasium)

18 - Michael Wallace (Andover)
Type: elementary school (gymnasium)

19 - Ellenvale Junior High School (Bellavista Drive)
Type: junior high school (gymnasium)

Churches

- 20 - St. Thomas More - Caledonia Road
 - St. Thomas More leases a portion of its property to the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club
- 21 - Stevens Road United Baptist Church - Stevens Road
- 22 - St. Andrew's Anglican Church - Locks Road
- 23 - St. Luke's Anglican Church - Veterans Avenue
- 24 - Dartmouth Seventh Day Adventist Church - Lakecrest Drive
- 25 - Port Wallis United Church - Waverley Road
- 26 - Woodlawn United Church - Woodlawn Road
- 27 - New Apostolic Church - Strath Lane

Provincial Property

- 28 - NS Community College - I. W. Akerley Campus (Woodlawn Road)
 - Type: school (gymnasium, pool, arena)

Other (Private or Public)

- 29 - 95 Caledonia Rd (Leo Saba commercial building)
 - ♦ space may be available within this facility to house a multi-use space of approximately 6000 square feet.

The following three facilities could not be fully identified:

- 30 - municipally owned building (vacant) - Lakecrest Dr.
- 31 - abandoned church - Admiral St.
- 32 - unidentified church - Tobermory Rd.

APPENDIX 'B'

Questionnaire

**DARTMOUTH EAST NEEDS ASSESSMENT - COMMUNITY
CENTRE/BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

NAME (OPTIONAL): _____

The Dartmouth East study area is bordered by Montebello Road/Braemar Drive/Oakwood Ave/Mount Edward Road/and the Kennedy Drive - Caledonia Road area.

1. Do you feel that the community facilities currently available in Dartmouth East are adequate to satisfy the needs of all area residents? YES _____ NO _____

If you answered "**yes**", can you suggest any changes or improvements to any of the existing facilities that might enhance the delivery of programs and/or services to area residents?

Thank you for your time and assistance.

If you answered "**no**", please continue with the survey...

6. Describe the programs and services that could be offered at the facility that would best address the needs of the Dartmouth East community.

7. What benefits would be realized by having such a facility:

a) for individuals:

b) for possible user groups:

c) for the community in general:

8. What will the impact be on the community if this facility is **not** built?

9. Describe what you perceive will be the primary users of the facility during the following times:

Weekdays during school hours:

Weekdays after school:

Weekday evenings:

Weekend days:

Weekend evenings:

14. If a new facility were to be constructed in the Dartmouth East area, how important would each of the following be on a scale of 1 to 6 with 1 = not important and 6 = extremely important?

	Not important			Extremely important		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
a) open late at night	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) located on a bus route	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) low cost to participant	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) located near a school	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) sense of community ownership	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) adjacent to existing facility	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) incorporated as part of existing facility	1	2	3	4	5	6
h) in a central location	1	2	3	4	5	6
i) other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5	6

15. How important would it be to have the following amenities as part of the facility with 1 = not important to 6 = extremely important?

	Not important			Extremely important		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
a) food services available	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) child care services	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) instructional programs offered	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) agency satellite offices (i.e. recreation, police, etc)	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) activity specific areas (crafts, computer, etc)	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) meeting rooms	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) multi - purpose rooms	1	2	3	4	5	6
h) other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5	6

PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTRE SITE



A - 30 Caledonia Road (Kinhouse site)

B - 34 Caledonia Road (rink pad site)

POLICY ON USE OF BOARD FACILITIES

PREAMBLE

SCHOOL FACILITIES AND OTHER FACILITIES OPERATED BY THE BOARD SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

1. Schools will have the first priority for the use of the facilities
2. Authorization for the use of the facilities will be obtained by applying to the Division of Community Collaboration and Partnerships
3. Fourteen days notice should be given by schools for the cancellation of community activities due to unscheduled school use. Exceptions must be authorized through the Division of Community Collaboration and Partnerships
4. All labs (ie. Computer, Science, Industrial Tech, Home Economics, etc.) must be booked and authorized through the Division of Community Collaboration and Partnerships
5. Supervision of the activities involved must be fully assumed by the organization authorized to use the facilities
6. The applicant is responsible to re-imburse the School Board for any damage arising from the applicant's use of the facilities.
7. A damage deposit may be required for certain activities as identified by the Coordinator of Community Program and Services.
8. Smoking in the school buildings or on school grounds not permitted.
9. The use or possession of illegal drugs is not permitted on school premises at any time.

10. Alcohol for special events may be permitted provided authorization, in writing, is obtained from the Director of Community Collaboration and Partnerships and the necessary license obtained.
11. If the school is closed during the day due to inclement weather, all evening activities held in the school will be canceled.
12. Fees for the use of school facilities shall be in accordance with the fee schedule (Monday to Friday only during the academic school year) and shall be administered through the Division of Community Collaboration and Partnerships - See Schedule of Fees
13. All groups using school facilities on non-school nights, holidays and week-ends are required to pay an hourly rate which will be pro-rated based on the number of groups in the school.
14. There shall be no third party sub-leases of Board facilities.
15. School-based organizations (Home and School, P.T.A., etc.) may use the school for two fund-raising events per year free of charge.