

**Dartmouth East - Prince Andrew High School, January 14/04**

Residents of this area of HRM have reasonable access to Cole Harbour Place, Shearwater and a number of meeting spaces in churches, the canoe clubs, and a community college. There are arena facilities in the area however they tend to be run down. What they do not have is a local community centre. As with other neighbourhoods in HRM, many participants in this meeting felt that a local recreation centre would provide a focal point for their community.

Participants noted that this area is not of a homogeneous demographic character. It is a mix of middle, upper middle and lower income families, of younger families, and mature adults. This mixed neighbourhood character suggests that while some can afford to travel to facilities outside of the immediate area and pay user fees or membership fees at the rates common in the major facilities, others cannot. In this context it was noted that the trend in facility development within HRM seems to be that areas that can raise "seed money" for new facilities are the ones where new facilities get built. Less affluent areas that cannot raise a million dollars or more are getting left out when it comes to recreation facility development.

Many of those attending the meeting felt that a community centre that offered meeting/activity spaces for groups such as Guides, Cubs, seniors and other community groups should be provided. The centre would include small meeting rooms for groups of 10 to 20 people and a larger community space suitable for social events in the 80 to 100-person range. A good location for such a facility would be in the area of Prince Andrew High School.

On a larger scale there were suggestions that included an indoor soccer facility and indoor pool. There was also a suggestion that a Teen Drop In Centre be considered for the area. In this context it was noted that there is a fire hall in the area that may become available in the next five years.

There were several suggestions related to programs or improvements in program delivery that are needed in the area. These included nutrition programs for young mothers, provision of mini basketball equipment, a review of gymnasium scheduling policy which has adults tying up the early evening hours that are better suited to children's programming because "they had those hours last year" and a schedule of user fees that subsidizes children's activities.