



## City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee  
**From:** Kate Sparrow  
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
**Re:** Richmond Oval - Community Program Update

**Date:** February 16, 2006  
**File:** 01-0103-60-PFOP1/2006-Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That this report be received for information.

*Kate Sparrow*

Kate Sparrow  
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
(4129)

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY			
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Richmond Olympic Business Office .....		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Major Projects.....		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>DW</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>
			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>AE</i>
			NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

In August 2004, the City of Richmond was awarded the right to construct the long track speed skating oval for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The City took on this project with the understanding that the facility would be build as a long term community legacy facility that would be able to accommodate the long track speed skating events in 2010.

A number of questions have been raised about the community component of the program and potential community use of the Richmond Oval.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the program that has been developed to date for the purpose of facility design and outline the types of community grassroots activities that potentially will be accommodated in the facility.

### **Findings Of Fact**

The City of Richmond undertook the Richmond Oval (the Oval) project and committed resources to this project as a way of meeting long standing community recreation, sport and wellness needs. As far back as the Commonwealth Games Bid, these types of facilities had been envisioned for Richmond.

The Oval project was an opportunity to capitalize on significant capital contribution from outside sources to help the community realize its current and longer term needs. The capital contribution from VANOC is \$60 million, approximately one-third of the total capital costs. To this end, the City has worked diligently to protect approximately two-thirds of programmable space for community use and programs.

The City is also working with potential high performance sport organizations to determine an optimum high performance sport program to realize significant legacy funds to help offset operating costs, another significant benefit to the community.

As part of the design phase for the Oval, the City developed a detailed program for post-games use of the facility. In an effort to ensure the most significant legacy, the City consulted with many individuals and organizations for advice and potential interest in using the facility once the 2010 Olympic Winter Games are completed. The goal was to ensure a facility that is designed with the flexibility to be used for a wide range of activities.

Based on the initial consultation, Council approved a programming vision for the Oval to have a Sports and Wellness focus (with long track speed skating capability), supported by the ability to host a wide range of events.

### **Pre Games**

Pre-Olympic Games, the Oval will primarily serve as a long track speed skating training and competition venue from its opening in 2008 through late 2009.

During this time, there will be the ability to program some community activities. These options will be further explored. The Oval will be used exclusively by VANOC from December 2009 through February 2010 to prepare for and stage the Olympic speed skating competition. The need to provide Canadian athletes with an advantage by training and becoming familiar with the ice and the facilities is paramount to Canada's success at the 2010 Games.

### Post Games

A primary mission of the program is to enhance the quality of life for Richmond through sport and wellness. Post-Games, the Oval will become a multi-use facility focussing on sport, recreation and wellness activities, including sport programs and competitions from local to international level, cultural and special events (with long track speed skating capability).

The facility and its programs will create new opportunities in sport, wellness and events in Richmond. It will create a new venue for local sport clubs and organizations to use.

The main hall will accommodate three activity zones to include two Olympic-size ice rinks; a hardwood gymnasium area to include 8 gymnasiums; and an athletics / multipurpose floor area with a 200 metre indoor track. The facility will also include a wellness area for fitness and other lifestyle programs, sports medicine and sport sciences, a number of multipurpose and meeting rooms as well as some retail services. There are a variety of meeting rooms for community use and amenity areas to support use of the facilities including childminding, food services, resource centre, lobby and viewing areas.

Programming inside the Oval will be augmented by special events and other activities on the waterfront plaza surrounding the Oval and rowing programs on the river.

Attachment 1 outlines the types of activities and uses that could be accommodated within the facility in its post-games configuration.

The City of Richmond envisions approximately two-thirds of the legacy program being dedicated to community use and one-third to high performance sport use. In terms of scheduling, it is anticipated that a significant amount of the high performance training will take place in daytime hours, which is very complementary to community use, which tends to be primarily late afternoon/evenings and weekends.

### Community Consultation

The City of Richmond has conducted a wide range of consultation with community groups, local, provincial and national sporting groups and other potential users. In February 2005 a request for Expressions of Interest for Programming Uses was circulated to a large number of local groups as well as provincial and national sporting organizations. A total of 39 submissions were received and the information received was used in the development of the program for facility design purposes.

A series of Open Houses have been held to get feedback and a Stakeholder Committee was established by Council.

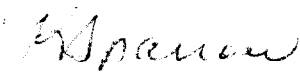
In early the 2006, the next phase of Community Engagement will be rolled out. A strategy to engage representatives from community stakeholder groups including sports, cultural, social service, health, business and other community groups is being drafted for discussion with the Oval Stakeholder Committee.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact to the recommendation.

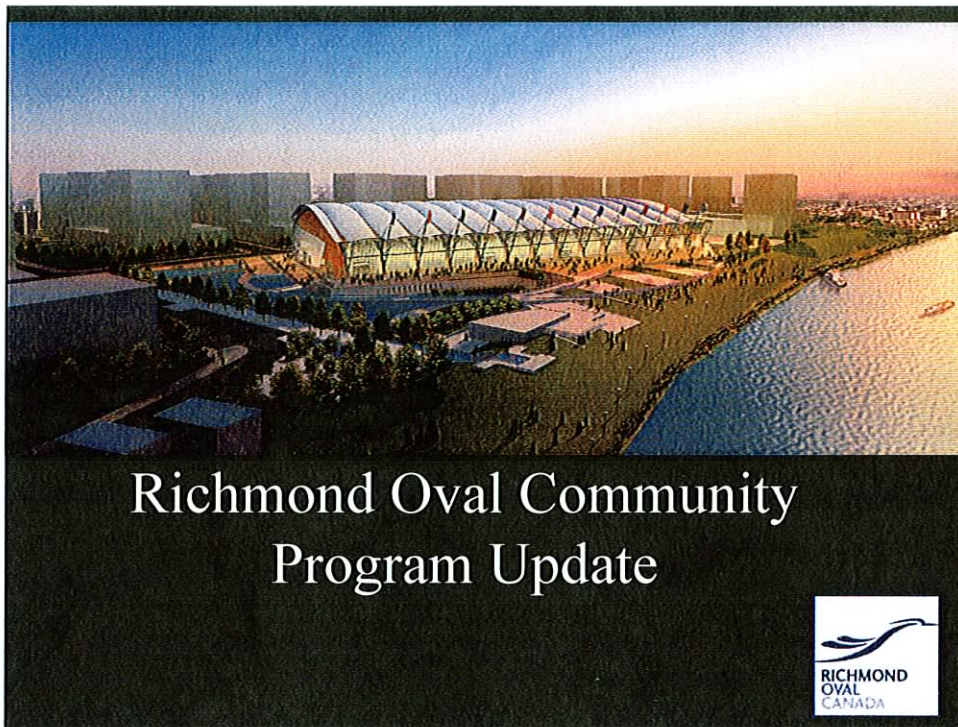
### **Conclusion**

The City of Richmond is committed to ensuring that the post-games legacy use of the Oval meets both community needs as well as the commitment to high performance sport. Consultation with stakeholder groups to date has provided input for use in the design of the facility to ensure maximum flexibility of use. Further input and consultation will be required with all stakeholders.



Kate Sparrow  
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
(4129)

Attachment: 1



## Richmond Oval Community Program Update



### The Vision

*A Unique destination that serves as a dynamic international gathering place and an outstanding centre of excellence for sports and wellness at the heart of an exciting urban waterfront.*



- ✓ Delivery of a world class speed skating facility
- ✓ Quality of Life through sport and wellness
- ✓ High performance sport legacy
- ✓ Dynamic urban core
- ✓ Shared community vision
- ✓ International City
- ✓ Economic sustainability

## Our City's Mission

"To protect and enhance the City's liveability and economic well-being for current and future generations."



## Our Goal – Create a place for:

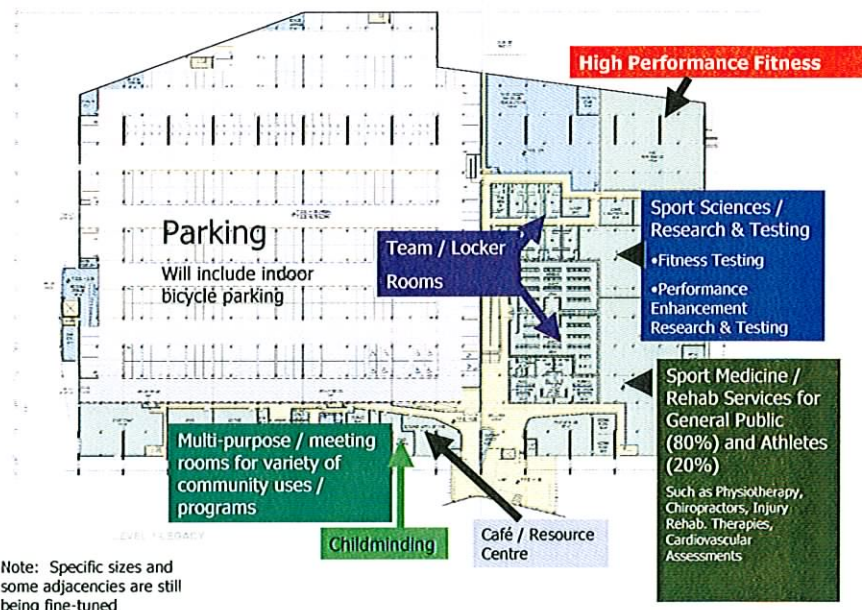
- Local residents and athletes to be the best they can be
- Inspiration, motivation and achievement
- Access for all ages & abilities
- Sport and physical activity for life
- Celebrating healthy, active living
- Community gathering & celebrations

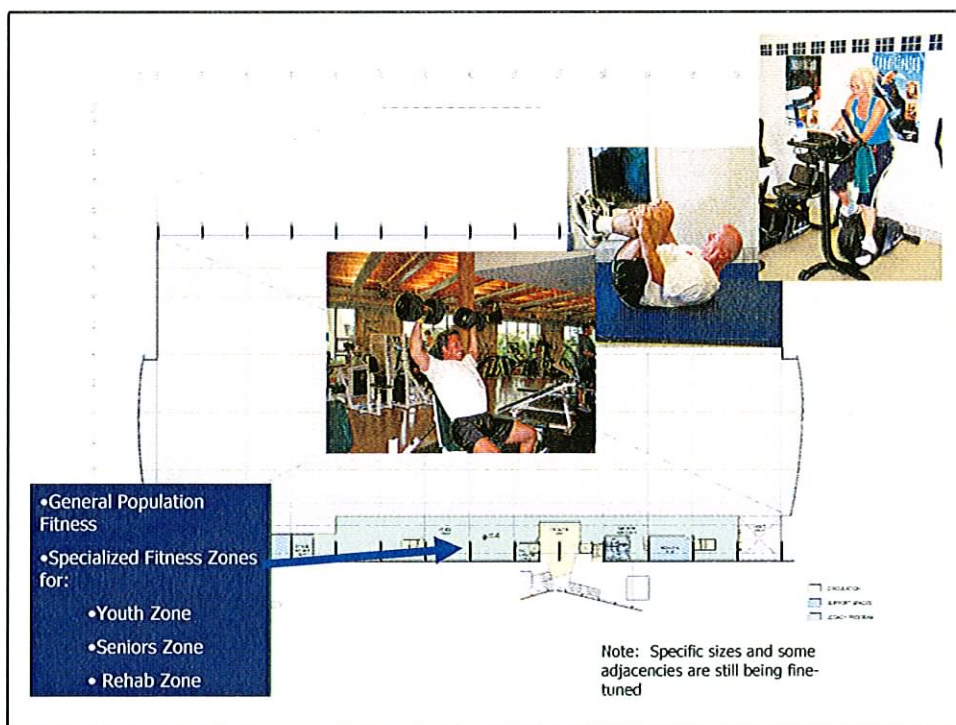
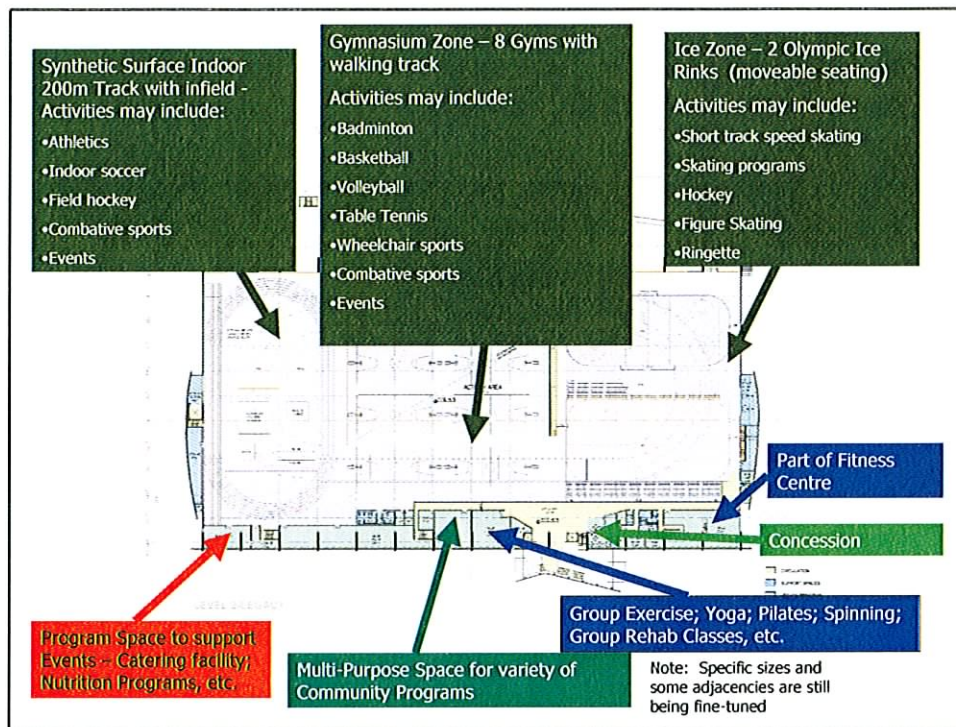




## Legacy Program

- Sport – “Everyone Can Play”
  - Community
  - High Performance
- Wellness
  - “Active for Life”
- Events
  - “A community Gathering Place”









A wide range of both indoor and outdoor events and festivals will be available. The Outdoor Plaza will have the capability of holding up to 8,000 participants at any time and it will be possible to hold events that run both inside and outside the facility. Events may include festivals / concerts, sporting competitions, community events and trade shows that are compatible with the vision and program for the Oval.

**Note:** Details of the Outdoor Plaza are still being designed.

## Legacy Program Goals

- Appropriate blend of community legacy (2/3) & high performance sport legacy (1/3) that is sustainable
- Accessible sport & wellness opportunities for all ages and abilities
- "Profit centres"
- Developing coaches & athletes



