


HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 14.1.8
Halifax Regional Council
February 16, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 

John Traves, Q.C. Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 

Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 11, 2016

SUBJECT: New South Peninsula School - Proposed Gym Enhancements

ORIGIN

January 26, 2016, Halifax Regional Council motion:

Motion passed by Regional Council that Regional Council request a staff report by February 16, 2016 regarding costs and opportunities for the possible enhancement of the proposed new South End School/Le Marchant-St. Thomas gym to be bigger in order to better accommodate adult use and different usage and configurations.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Section 79(1): Council may expend money required by the Municipality for: k) recreational programs; (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose; (y) furnishing and equipping any municipal facility; and (ah) ... ice arenas and other recreational facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to inform the Halifax Regional School Board and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that Halifax Regional Municipality will not be participating in a gym enhancement for the new South Peninsula P-6 School.

BACKGROUND

On December 23, 2013, the Halifax Regional School Board received notice of approval from Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) of two capital construction projects, with funding anticipated to begin in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The announced projects were:

- Eastern District P-12 school (replacement school for Duncan MacMillan High, Sheet Harbour Consolidated Elementary, Eastern Consolidated Elementary and Lakefront Consolidated Elementary schools), and
- South Peninsula P-6 school (replacement for Le Marchant-St. Thomas Elementary school).

This report provides Regional Council with background, discussion and recommendation regarding the latter school announcement – the new South Peninsula P-6 school.

Six months following the announcement, on June 5, 2014, a staff information report entitled, “Gymnasia Analysis – Peninsula Halifax” was submitted to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee. The same report was circulated to Halifax & West Community Council on June 17, 2014.

The key findings of that report were as follows:

1. Regional approach through the update of the Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP) will identify the gymnasia needs of all HRM citizens and provide recommendations to address any deficiencies;
2. Based on the current demand and usage of Peninsula gymnasia, there appears to be no immediate need for construction of additional gymnasia inventory for the purposes of traditional court uses. There is over 200 hours of prime time gym space available and, as noted, more rental opportunities will be available as user groups relocate to the new facilities being constructed throughout the Region;
3. There should be consideration given to a long-term solution for gym space for groups of primarily adult floor/ball hockey and indoor field hockey users. This type of use is not permitted in all facilities as a result of the equipment used; and
4. Although the current availability of prime time hours in gyms in the region identifies that there is not an overall requirement for additional gymnasia inventory on the Peninsula at the present time, there is a requirement for a more effective model or mechanism for accessing, scheduling and allocating gym time to better utilize the total available hours. This will be explored through the update of the CFMP and as part of staff’s review of the HRSB Service Exchange Agreement.

With the release of the tender for design work on the new South Peninsula P-6 school, Regional Council passed a motion requesting an immediate staff report on costs and opportunities for the possible enhancement of the school gym. In order to fully assess the costs and opportunities, a needs assessment that includes consultation with key stakeholders and the local community would be completed consistent with the other recent requests for community enhancements of new schools. However, Regional Council’s motion directed that the report be provided for the next meeting. That timing did not allow for the proper needs assessment to be completed and, as a result, this report provides a summary of relevant information to aid Regional Council in its decision.

DISCUSSION

The new Peninsula South School is currently being designed to meet educational needs for elementary students. Under the standard design components for an elementary school, the non-enhanced school gymnasium would be expected to be 5264 square feet. The new standard gymnasium would be more than twice the size of the existing school gym at Le Marchant-St Thomas, which is 2501 square feet. While the existing school gym size is small and not ideal for certain types of activities, it is still currently booked by both basketball and baseball teams. There is also capacity in the gym, as not all of the

available time is booked. Currently, there remains 11.5 hours/week free access available to be booked at the school during week night evenings.

The new standard elementary gym size would be appropriate for many recreational youth and adult sport and leisure activities and its size is consistent with many of the existing gyms on the Peninsula. However, its size would not provide for all types of adult programming, nor would it be sized to permit bleachers along the sides.

Current Usage

Current community gymnasium usage at the existing school is approximately 8.5 hours per week, all of which take place between Monday and Friday when custodial staff are at the school. No gym rentals tend to occur on weekends, as there is no custodial coverage at the school at that time. As a result, there are additional costs to use the gymnasium related to the required custodial coverage which is seen as a barrier. The current Halifax Regional School Board rates for weekend use average from a cost of approximately \$82.50 per hour for a four-hour block, to \$120.00 per hour for a two-hour block. This results in groups paying approximately \$240 for reasonable weekend access.

The following charts from the 2014 “Gymnasia Analysis - Peninsula Halifax” illustrate the amount of available gymnasia inventory:

Table 1 Public Gyms - Peninsula

Public Gyms				
Type of Gym	Number of gyms	Total “Prime Time” hours available weekly	Total “Prime Time” hours booked weekly	Total “Prime Time” hours NOT booked weekly
HRSB School Gyms	15*	44 hours per week x 15 gyms = 660 hours/week	235	425
HRM Gyms	4	4 hours per week x 4 gyms = 176 hours/week	140	36
Total	19	836 hours/week	375	461
“Prime Time” is generally defined as weekdays from 6 pm to 10 pm and weekends from 8am-8pm				

*One of the HRSB gyms is not available for use, reducing the total number

Most of HRSB peninsula schools are located within a 3 km radius from the site of the proposed South Peninsula School with the closest at 650m and Citadel High School (with the maximum school gymnasium capability) at 1.9km.

In addition, there are eleven privately owned gymnasia that provide varying degrees of public access that supplement the above public gymnasia. These privately owned gyms are utilized regularly, but data on the exact usage was not available.

Table 2 Private Gyms - Peninsula

Private Gyms		
Facility Name	Number of gyms	Usage Information
Dalhousie University	8	Studley, Daltech, and Dalplex (with 6 gyms) are all available to the public, and provide various levels of community access.
Saint Mary’s University	1	Homburg Centre provides limited access to public.
Department of National Defense	2	DND Stadacona and DND Dockyard Gyms are both heavily used by the public.

While there are certain days and times for which demand is high for peninsula gyms, the analysis determined that there are a significant number of hours available to be booked. While some of those hours are not attractive as a result of additional custodial costs, many low/no cost hours remain available. Bulk booking by some users also limits availability for all users, and staff has engaged HRSB in a review of gymnasium booking processes, similar to that completed for arena bookings, to provide more balance and fairness in the accessibility of gyms.

Three groups were identified in the Gymnasium analysis as difficult to meet their needs, as they are non-traditional hard-court users such as ball-hockey, lacrosse, and roller derby. Under the current HRSB policies, none of these sport groups are permitted to use the HRSB gyms as a result of concerns regarding potential damage caused by their equipment. As such, those groups tend to have a difficult time finding space to adequately meet the needs of their participants.

While the timing of this report has not enabled staff to update of the data in the 2014 assessment, there is some additional information that is relevant to support a decision in this matter.

Maritime Muslim Academy

During the completion of the work on the 2014 "Gymnasium Analysis - Peninsula Halifax", the gymnasium at the Maritime Muslim Academy was not yet opened. Since then, it has been completed and is now available for booking. The gymnasium is able to be configured to accommodate a volleyball court, basketball court, 4 badminton courts or 8 table tennis spots.

YMCA Halifax/Dartmouth Project

On March 20, 2012, Regional Council approved a municipal planning strategy amendment to enable the new YMCA development on the corner of Sackville and South Park Streets. That application included the provision of additional height for the development pursuant to the public benefit consideration under HRMByDesign. The inclusion of a recreation facility, including gymnasium space, was determined to provide the public benefit as it alleviated the need for additional public recreation space on the Peninsula. While the previous YMCA gymnasium ceased to be available when the building was demolished for the new project, a new gymnasium will be included as part of the new YMCA recreation facility. The YMCA proposes to build a 9,000 sf gymnasium and indoor track that will be able to accommodate a wide variety of activities with flexibility provided by the use of curtains to enable it to be divided into smaller spaces. HRM's Design Review Committee recently approved the project and it is anticipated that construction will occur in the near future. HRM needs to be cognizant of providing services that directly compete with its partners, thereby increasing challenges to their success. Provision of an additional enhanced gymnasium space on the Peninsula will likely serve to dilute the demand for the not for profit YMCA.

Halifax Forum Renovation and Expansion Project

Regional Council approved the delivery of a renewal and expansion of the Halifax Forum as part of the Long Term Arena Strategy on July 29, 2014. The Forum Community Association submission also contemplates a gymnasium as part of that overall design, and indicated that it is specific to meeting the needs of the underserved groups that are challenged for space as a result of their equipment impact on the gymnasium.

Citadel High School

During the development of the community enhancement to the Citadel High School, second floor space was left undeveloped with the expectation that HRM would complete the space once future recreation needs were determined. Detailed assessment and design of the space has not yet been completed but could also provide future space for programming and rentals. That space is allocated for HRM use as it was included in the community enhancement.

In addition to the undeveloped second floor space, Citadel High School has two large gymnasiums which can be configured into 4 spaces. HRM has full access to one gym and some weekend access to the other gymnasium allocated to the school. While the HRM gym is used for recreation programming and booked by the community for basketball and badminton, there is still time availability for other bookings.

St. Andrew's Centre

In 2016/17, staff will be undertaking design consultations for the renovation/rebuild of the St. Andrew's recreation centre. As a former elementary school, the existing facility has a gym that provides opportunities for programming and bookings. At this time, it is anticipated that a revitalized St. Andrew's Centre will continue to house a gymnasium.

St. Thomas Aquinas Martyrs Parish

The potential sale of the St. Thomas Aquinas Martyrs Parish is expected to result in the loss of the gymnasium space currently available at that site. Information on that gymnasium was not known during the 2014 "Gymnasiums Analysis - Peninsula Halifax" and, as a result, it was not included in the analysis. Therefore, while the potential closure will reduce the number of gymnasiums on the peninsula, the analysis indicated that there is available capacity to be able to offset that reduction.

Joint Use Agreement/HRSB School Gymnasium Usage

There are two avenues that enable both HRM and community use of HRSB schools. HRM has a Service Exchange Agreement (SEA) with HRSB that outlines community use of the majority of HRSB schools. As well, when HRM provides funding towards a community enhancement at a school, HRM and HRSB enter into a school specific Joint Use Agreement (JUA) which outlines HRM and community access at that school as a result of HRM's funding. While there is expectation related to increased access to a gym through the joint use agreement, there are still challenges related to cost of access and shared use of the space with educational requirements.

Access to HRSB school gyms is provided to HRM and the community under the SEA. Pursuant to that agreement, when gyms are available and custodians are in the building, community access is provided at low or no cost to users. Currently, community access is available at the existing Le Marchant-St Thomas school under the SEA agreement. The proposed South Peninsula School gym would also be available for community use under the SEA.

In schools where HRM funds a community enhancement, a JUA is negotiated which provides HRM with an amount of community access. The amount of community access is typically reciprocal to the amount of funding provided by HRM. Currently, there is a varying degree of successful implementation of JUAs in schools. In JUA schools where HRM has a level of oversight and staff located at the site (i.e. Porter's Lake, Bedford Hammonds Plains, Citadel), implementation of the JUA and community access is far better than those in which HRM has no role at the school site (i.e. Cole Harbour, Graham Creighton). The proposed South Peninsula School would be one in which HRM would not have a permanent role at the school site.

Current usage trends indicate that of the 44 available prime time hours per week per gym, it is likely that a maximum of only 20 hours per week will be utilized by community – weeknights only, with only limited bookings on Friday evenings and minimal utilization of the 24 prime time weekend hours as a result of the additional costs for weekend access to HRSB schools. Accessing most of HRSB gyms on weekends is prohibitive for most community groups and citizens, due to a cost of approximately \$240, to the point that the analysis completed in 2014 indicated that there was over 450 hours of prime time hours available for usage each week, on the Peninsula.

Under both SEA and JUA agreements, HRSB weekend fee structures are still challenging. Under direction from Regional Council, staff has been attempting to negotiate improvements to the current agreements and weekend accessibility of school gyms. To date, staff has not been successful but

continues to explore options with HRSB toward improving community access to the HRSB network of schools.

Costs and Options for Enhanced Le Marchant-St Thomas School Gymnasium

The current cost of enhancing school gymnasias is estimated at \$350.00/sf. If Regional Council chose to enhance the gymnasium at the new South Peninsula school, the next incremental size would be a junior high school sized gymnasium. Based on design templates for that type of school, the gymnasium size could be 6580 sf which is the standard junior high school gym size or 7500 sf which allows for more capability as shown in Attachment 2.

For maximum configuration options, expansion to enhanced high school gymnasium size would be required. At 10,528 sf, that size would essentially double the space being constructed as part of the standard gymnasium configuration and require HRM funding in the amount of estimated \$1.84M. Any expansion of the gymnasium would also require confirmation of necessary space within the design and on the site.

Table 3 below provides a summary of size and cost options:

Gym	Size	Increase in Size	Estimated HRM Share
Standard Elementary	5264 sf	0 sf	\$0
Standard Junior High	6580 sf	1316 sf	\$460,000
Enhanced Junior High	7500 sf	2236 sf	\$782,000
Standard High School	8,400 sf	3136 sf	\$1,097,000
Enhanced High School	10,528 sf	5264 sf	\$1,842,000

Information on the various gymnasium capabilities and configurations was provided by the Province of Nova Scotia and is outlined in Attachment 2. Given the numerous configuration and size options and significant variance in associated costs, it is important to understand the needs of the community in order to optimize any municipal investment for an enhanced gymnasium. Due to the tight timeline required for this report, staff was unable to consult with stakeholders/community to understand the specific service gaps that may not be able to be met from the existing gymnasias inventory. Therefore, staff is unable to advise Council within this report regarding the optimal gymnasium enhancement should Council wish to invest in the school project.

No costs have been allocated in the current proposed capital budget for a community enhancement of the new South Peninsula school gym. Therefore, current proposed capital funding for projects would need to be redistributed/removed in order to consider funding any gym expansion and still meet Council's current budget direction.

Based upon discussions with provincial staff, HRM staff has learned that other possible enhancements are being discussed by the School Advisory Committee, such as the cafeteria, library, music room, etc. Details on those possible enhancements are not yet decided and it is not known whether HRM will be requested to consider supporting any other enhancements. It should be noted that the building footprint at the site is constrained and there are limitations to number and type of enhancements that the design will support.

Summary

Based upon the updated information regarding peninsula gymnasias presented in this report, staff can find no reason to change its previous advice in the Peninsula Gymnasias Analysis (Attachment 1) provided to Halifax West Community Council in June, 2014. Therefore, staff is recommending that Regional Council forego the opportunity to enhance the gymnasium currently proposed for the new South Peninsula school.

Staff estimates that citizens will take advantage of the approximately 20 hours per week of prime time gym access that will be available in the new South Peninsula school gym, regardless of whether it is enhanced or constructed in the new standard size. Further, staff's analysis indicates that it is likely that the usage will come from groups already served by existing gymnasiums. The groups identified in the 2014 "Gymnasiums Analysis - Peninsula Halifax", as underserved (ball-hockey, lacrosse and roller derby) would not be permitted to utilize the new space regardless of the enhancement due to HRSB usage policies.

Staff wishes to emphasize, however, that the recommendation provided in this report has been made without the benefit of a community needs assessment as was undertaken in support of previous school construction project recommendations such as Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, and Sheet Harbour.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with staff's recommendation.

The costs to expand the South Peninsula school gymnasium could range from an estimated \$460K to \$1.84M depending on the size of the enhancement. No funds are currently allocated in the proposed capital budget for this purpose. Therefore, should Regional Council direct that HRM fund a gymnasium enhancement, funding would have to be reallocated within the current draft 2017/18 capital budget. Based on the current school construction timeline, it is expected that the Province will not require funding sooner than 2017/18, and could be delayed further.

It should be noted that during Parks and Recreation COW budget presentation, staff heard significant concerns from members of Council regarding the ongoing deferral of state of good repair projects required for existing recreation assets such as St. Andrew's Centre, St. Mary's Boat Club and Beazley Field to name but a few. Given the significant increased investment in recreation infrastructure planned over the next 5 years with 7 new ice surfaces and a major rehabilitation of the Dartmouth Sportsplex totaling over \$100 million, there is very limited capacity within the current capital budget allocation to absorb additional recreation projects without further delaying state of good repair work or decreasing investments in other municipal assets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No engagement was completed for this report. However, extensive public consultation was completed for the other projects and initiatives outlined in the report. Regional Council and staff also received letter from user groups supporting a community enhancement of the new South Peninsula school.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified

ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative 1: Should there be interest in exploring this issue further it is recommended that Regional Council defer an immediate decision on the enhancement options and direct staff to request that the Province extend the current RFP closing in order to consult with community stakeholders. With a better understanding of the potential needs, staff can validate any specific service gaps and recommend an optimum approach to Council to service the gaps.
- Alternative 2: Regional Council could approve a community enhancement of the gymnasium at the new South Peninsula P-6 School and direct staff to reallocate funding in the draft 2017/18 capital budget to accommodate funding for the enhancement. Should Regional Council opt to approve the enhancement of the gymnasium, further direction should be provided such that HRM's funding for the gymnasium enhancement not be provided until a satisfactory Joint Use Agreement is negotiated, approved and signed by HRM, HRSB

and Provincial representatives. Due to the tight timeline required for this report, staff is unable to advise on the optimal gymnasium size based on community need as there was insufficient time to meet with stakeholders/community to understand the specific service concerns and the capabilities that may not be able to be met from the existing gymnasium inventory.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Gymnasias Analysis – Peninsula Halifax 2014

Attachment 2: Gym Court Comparisons

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Betty Lou Killen, Recreation Planning Specialist, Parks and Recreation,
902.490.4833

Report Approved by: _____
Denise Schofield, Manager, Program Support Services, 902.490.6252

Report Approved by: _____
Jane Fraser, Director, Operations Support, 902.490-7166

Report Approved by: _____
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation, 902.490.4933

Financial Approval by: _____
Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance and Information Technology/CFO,
902.490.6308

Original Signed



Gymnasia Analysis - Peninsula Halifax

Attachment 1

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Data Analysis - CFMP	2
Framework and Methodology	3
Background Documents	4
Peninsula Region Community Profile and Context	4
Current Peninsula Gymnasia Inventory.....	5
Peninsula Gymnasia Usage	8
Gymnasium Usage Types	14
New Regional Gymnasia Update	15
Pending Displacement	16
Regional Approach	17
Key Findings.....	17
Conclusion	18

Introduction

On May 14, 2012, Peninsula Community Council requested a report on the status of the Peninsula gym requirements in light of the closure of the St. Pat’s Alexandra School, and the pending implications resulting from the planned closure of St. Pat’s High School (Quinpool Education Centre), and the Bloomfield Centre gym. Since that time, the YMCA has also announced the temporary closure of their South Park Street facility, which also includes a gymnasium. Figure 1 outlines the two Peninsula gym closures since 2011 and the pending closure of the Bloomfield and YMCA South Park Street gym, at the time of writing of this report.

Figure 1: Peninsula Gymnasium Closures

Peninsula Gym Closures		
Closed	June 2011	St. Pat’s Alexandra School
Closed	June 2013	Quinpool Education Centre (St. Pat’s High)
Pending	May 30, 2014	YMCA South Park Street
Pending	June 30, 2014	Bloomfield Gymnasium

This document is an analysis of available data in order to determine the need for additional gymnasia inventory in this geographical location, potential relocations and the impact of the closures.

Data Analysis - CFMP

The Community Facility Master Plan (CFMP) was approved in principle in May of 2008 and is scheduled to be updated during the current fiscal year. The CFMP provides regional strategic direction for maintaining, enhancing, and revamping current facility infrastructure and building new infrastructure. It is integrated with all relevant HRM plans and strategies, includes socio-demographic research, best practices research, identified trends, and reflects a substantive community consultation component.

The CFMP presents guiding principles, implementation models for making decisions about existing and future facilities, and site-specific recommendations. It was built on several key themes:

- Integrated Planning – to serve the needs of the citizens the work is done collaboratively with the community, Council, and other HRM Business Units
- Distribution of Facilities – facility planning and development that takes into account the needs of the population and its distribution within HRM
- Activity Coverage – provision of a range of recreation opportunities for HRM residents and design facilities that promote participation
- Community Based Arts and Culture – ensure program opportunities are built into facilities whenever feasible
- Communities Building through Asset Management – evaluate models other than municipally operated recreation facilities

- Balance New Assets against Lifecycle Obligations – balance between investing in new assets and existing facilities

The CFMP outlines that the most effective approach for infrastructure assessments is to review recreation needs on a regional basis. The request to examine only one geographic area in HRM and the service delivery impact to those specific residents is not consistent with the CFMP and, as a result, does not provide a complete and optimal assessment of gymnasia inventory. However, this document outlines the findings of the assessment on the one geographic area in order to be able to provide Council with an initial assessment. A complete assessment of gymnasia facilities will be undertaken as part of the review of the CFMP in order to provide Regional Council with complete and appropriate data to make an informed decision on the future requirements for gymnasia service delivery.

Framework and Methodology

As a result of the motion of Peninsula Community Council, staff have reviewed gymnasium needs on the Peninsula. Specifically, this information is related to potential displacement of user groups as a result of the closure and pending closure of three gymnasiums on the Peninsula. The work was carried out in order to determine the following:

- whether current gymnasia user groups would be impacted negatively as a result of the closures;
- whether appropriate access for all of the current user groups could be created by reviewing and making potential changes to schedules and types of users in gyms; and
- whether a recommendation of planning should take place for construction of additional gym inventory on Peninsula Halifax.

The Gymnasia Needs Assessment was a data-driven analysis. The following key information was collected:

- number of gyms on the peninsula;
- types and sizes of gyms;
- types and numbers of user groups; and
- level of current usage of gyms on the peninsula.

Demographic and key stakeholder information included:

1. Demographic Information
 - a. Total HRM demographics including population numbers and ages;
 - b. Peninsula demographics including population number and ages;
2. Inventory of facilities
 - a. Identification of existing inventory;
 - b. Usage rates for typical weekly usage year-round; and
3. Regional New Gymnasia Update
 - a. Information related to several new gyms recently approved by Regional Council.

4. Interviews with gymnasia scheduling staff to obtain inventory and understanding of level of usage at existing facilities including: Inventory and:
 - a. Number of hours per week; and
 - b. Evidence related to whether there is capacity in the community to provide appropriate service delivery for HRM mandate requirements.

Background Documents

The following documents and resources were used to retrieve data for the analysis:

- Community Counts Statistical Information;
- Proposed Regional Plan (RP+5);
- Facility booking data;
- Community Facility Master Plan; and
- Peninsula Recreation Facility and Services Review.

Peninsula Region Community Profile and Context

Districts included in the Peninsula Region for the purpose of discussion in this report include:

- District 7 Halifax South Downtown
- District 8 Halifax Peninsula North
- District 9 Halifax West Armdale

The communities located on Peninsula Halifax are diverse. Defined by three municipal electoral boundaries, each district represents approximately 1/3 of the total population of the overall Peninsula. While public transit and active transportation play key roles in traffic flow for residents on the Peninsula, there is also a high degree of vehicular access to the Peninsula by citizens who travel from suburban and rural areas to work, visit or study on a daily basis.

Based on 2011 Census data, the population and dwelling counts along with their respective percentages are outlined in Figure 2.

Figure 2: District Populations

District	Population	Dwelling Units	% of total HRM population	% of total HRM dwelling units
7	23,910	16,183	6.1%	8.4%
8	25,111	14,616	6.4%	7.6%
9	27,173	13,545	6.9%	7%

Overall, the Peninsula Region represents 19.4% of the overall population, and 23% of the dwelling units in HRM.

Figure 3 provides a visual depiction of the total age group breakdown for the Peninsula Region.

Figure 3: Age Groupings

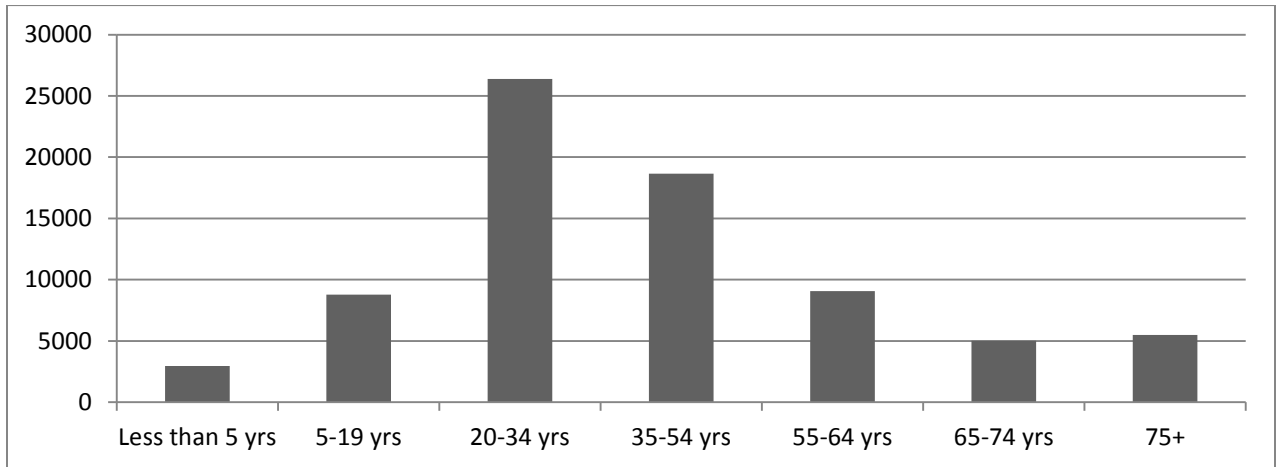
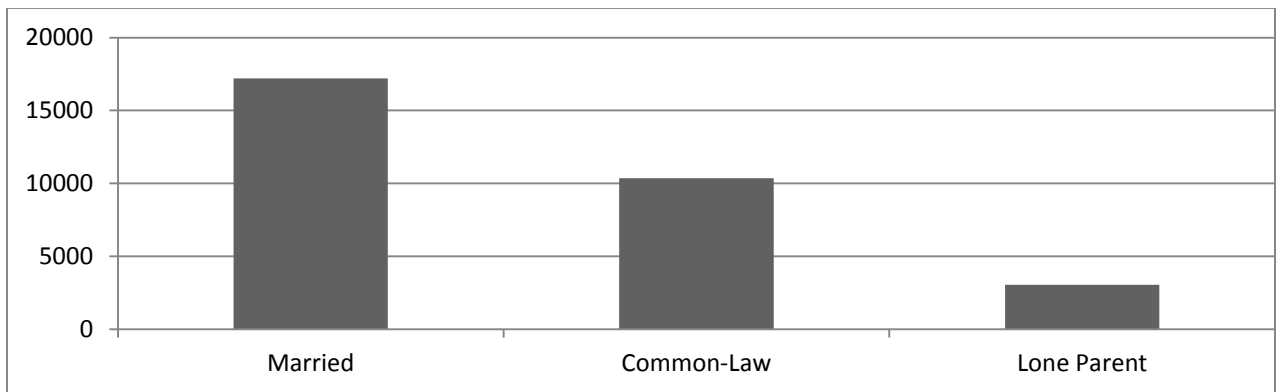


Figure 4 shows the family structure as broken down by married, common-law and single parent within the Peninsula Region.

Figure 4: Family Structure



Although Peninsula Halifax is the specific geographical area under review, not all user groups are based in that particular geographic neighbourhood. As a result, consideration was also given to new gyms recently approved by Council and new schools the province as they will have an impact on citizen user groups overall, including Peninsula Halifax gym users.

Current Peninsula Gymnasia Inventory

Currently, there are 31 gyms available for public access rentals on the Peninsula. Of the 31 gyms on the Peninsula, 4 are owned by HRM, 15 are owned by the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), 10 are owned by Universities, and 2 are owned by Department of National Defence (DND). All of the HRSB gyms (except Citadel High and Citadel Community Centre) are scheduled by HRM Facility Scheduling staff, and gyms located in HRM community centres

are scheduled by each individual community centre. The Universities and DND schedule their own facilities. Figure 5 provides the listing of these gyms.

Figure 5: Current Inventory

Name of Facility	Size (square feet)	Ownership
Needham Centre	4280	HRM
George Dixon Centre	3375	HRM
St. Andrews Centre	5100	HRM
Citadel Community Centre	8400	HRM
St Mary's Elementary*	2706	HRSB
Sir Charles Tupper Elementary	2623	HRSB
St Agnes Junior High	5919	HRSB
St Catherine's Elementary	2580	HRSB
St Joseph A McKay Elementary	2626	HRSB
St Stephen's Elementary	3902	HRSB
Cornwallis Junior High	4675	HRSB
Gorsebrook Junior High	5605	HRSB
Highland Park Junior High	2626	HRSB
Inglis Street Elementary	4100	HRSB
Joseph Howe Elementary	4150	HRSB
LeMarchant St Thomas Elementary	2501	HRSB
Oxford school	4109	HRSB
Westmount Elementary	5251	HRSB
Citadel High School	10,500	HRSB
SMU Homburg Centre (2gyms)	16,046 (2 gyms)	St. Mary's
Dalhousie Dalplex (6 gyms)	50,000 (total fieldhouse)	Dalhousie
Dalhousie Studley Gym	4300	Dalhousie
Dalhousie Daltech Gym	Not confirmed	Dalhousie
DND Stadacona Gym	Not confirmed	DND
DND Dockyard Gym	Not confirmed	DND

*Not utilized due to absence of caretaker

The analysis excludes the three gyms that were the catalyst for Peninsula Community Council's motion. Further, the YMCA Peninsula gym has not been included in the analysis due to the announcement of its pending temporary closure. The YMCA has been examining their programs and developing an interim programming strategy for their user groups, so it is difficult to determine the impact at this time.

The 31 gyms included in this analysis provide an overall per-capita (all ages) service provision on Peninsula Halifax, of one gymnasium for every 2458 citizens. When the same per-capita calculations are reviewed based on ages 0-54 years, the per-capita service provision on Peninsula Halifax increases to one gymnasium for every 1828 citizens.

These service rates are somewhat similar to the overall service provision of gymnasia in HRM, of one gymnasium for every 2065 citizens overall (all ages), or one gymnasium for every 1524 citizens ages 0-54 years. This information is assessed using Stats Canada age groupings. Since the Statistics Canada data includes areas that are outside the Peninsula (i.e. Fairview, Armdale, etc.), ratios of gym service provision have also been determined using the draft RP+5 population analysis. Since the RP+5 population specifically represents the Peninsula proper, assessment using that population provides gymnasia ratios specific to the boundary outlined for the Peninsula Community Council.

Using the draft RP+5 population, the provision of gyms to citizens is one gymnasium for every 2032 citizens (all ages). This is comparable to the overall HRM distribution of one gymnasium for 2065 residents. While the ratio for the 0-34 year category is not as close to the HRM range as the other ratios, the population distribution on the peninsula in this age category tends to be weighted towards the higher end of the population with a larger portion of young adults than youth residing on the peninsula. The mobility of this group, along with the prevalence of transit, walkability of neighbourhoods, and close proximity between facilities means that it is generally easier for users on the peninsula to access gyms than it is for users in more rural or suburban areas. In less dense areas, the distance between facilities can be significant often making it necessary for users to drive to facilities. As a result of these factors, gymnasia on the peninsula can be considered easier to reach and therefore more accessible for users. While the data shows similar ratios in some categories, those categories in which the ratios are lower than HRM overall are not as problematic on the peninsula as they would be in other areas due to the prevalence of density, proximity, transit and sidewalks which allow for easier access to these facilities than in other areas.

Figure 6 outlines all of the various gymnasium service provision per-capita ratios.

Figure 6: Per-capita Gymnasium Service Provision

Gymnasia Supply Comparison: Per Capita							
	Stats Can 2011		Total HRM Gyms	HRM Gyms Per Citizen	Peninsula Population**	Total Peninsula Gyms	Peninsula Gyms per Citizen
HRM Population	Total	390,308	189*	1:2065	76,194	31*	1:2458
	0-34 years	168,992		1:894	0-34 yrs	38,134	1:1230
	0-54 yrs	288,029		1:1524	0-54 yrs	56,685	1:1828
Proposed RP+5 Peninsula Population	Total	62,998					1:2032

*Does not include 23 small HRBS gyms, church gyms, Quinpool Education Centre gym, or Bloomfield gym.

**Stats Canada census information for Peninsula as indicated in the following areas:

a) Peninsula South-Downtown; b) Peninsula North; and c) Peninsula West – Armdale.

Peninsula Gymnasia Usage

While supply comparison throughout the region speaks to regional equity, the primary determinant of future need should rely upon facility availability (i.e. usage). Within the 31 Peninsula gyms included in the analysis, there are in total 44 hours of prime time available for usage, each week. Due to the variations on ownership and usage of the 31 gymnasia, there is no consistent usage in all facilities. As several of the gymnasia are located in schools, they are used for educational purposes during daytime hours, so daytime community access is limited. However, other facilities such as municipal, DND, and military inventory is available for various levels of public usage during the non-prime time hours. The available usage varies across the facilities but all offer prime time access. For this reason, and the fact that prime time usage is the highest demand usage, “prime time” access was used as the basis of the analysis.

Prime time for this analysis is defined as:

Monday to Friday 6:00pm – 10:00pm
 Saturday 8:00am – 8:00pm
 Sunday 8:00am – 8:00pm

It should be noted that currently the definition of prime time is not consistent across all gymnasium owners and schedulers. The definition of Prime Time above is a best practice, and is used for analysis purposes. Using this definition, Figure 7 provides a summary of the usage hours for the peninsula gymnasia.

Figure 7: Current Gymnasia Usage Summary

Public Gyms				
Type of Gym	Number of gyms	Total “Prime Time” hours available weekly	Total “Prime Time” hours booked weekly	Total “Prime Time” hours NOT booked weekly
HRBS School Gyms	15*	44 hours per week x 15 gyms = 660 hours/week	235	425
HRM Gyms	4	44 hours per week x 4 gyms = 176 hours/week	140	36
Total	19	836 hours/week	375	461

“Prime Time” is generally defined as weekdays from 6 pm to 10 pm and weekends from 8 am to 8 pm

Private Gyms		
Facility Name	Number of gyms	Usage Information
Dalhousie University	8	Studley, Daltech, and Dalplex with 6 gyms are all available to the public, and provide various levels of community access.
Saint Mary's University	1	Homburg Centre provides limited access to public.
Department of National Defense	2	DND Stadacona and DND Dockyard Gyms are both heavily used by public.

*One of the HRSB gyms is not available for use, reducing the total number.

Rental Fees

Figure 7 is an illustration of the amount of available prime time usage, as well as unused gymnasia inventory on the peninsula. For the most part, the inventory that is not used during prime time includes school gyms that do not normally have custodial staff coverage during those times. Approximately 230 of the weekly available prime time hours are on Saturdays and Sundays. The remaining hours are during weekday evenings. While these hours are available, due to the lack of custodial staffing, there is an increased cost to user groups to book them. Generally, user groups have indicated that the vacancies exist due to the additional costs required by the HRSB staffing models. Figure 8 outlines the HRSB rental fees (effective 2013).

Figure 8: Halifax Regional School Board Rental Rates

Not-for Profit Youth	Adult	Corporate or For-Profit
\$0.00/hour	\$44.00/hour	\$74.00/hour
Additional fees	Additional fees	Additional fees
Operations Rate: \$60.00/hour Door Monitor Rate: \$13.00/hour Open/Close Rate: \$90.00/hour	Operations Rate: \$60.00/hour Door Monitor Rate: \$13.00/hour Open/Close Rate: \$90.00/hour	Operations Rate: \$60.00/hour Door Monitor Rate: \$13.00/hour Open/Close Rate: \$90.00/hour

By comparison, rental rates for HRM gymnasia range from \$0.00 to \$104 per hour, depending on factors such as day of week, time of day, age of group and profit versus not-for profit status. Due to the staffing models in HRM facilities, the additional fees outlined in the HRSB rates are not required for HRM gym rentals. As a result, while the hourly rates between HRM and HRSB gyms are comparable, there is a significant difference caused by the additional fees charged associated from custodial and/or door monitor staff for the usage of HRSB gyms, particularly during the weekend hours when the open rate is charged. Since the majority of HRSB gym rentals during the week are not-for profit youth and the rental fee is waived, the impact of the additional fees tends not to be as prohibitive as it is for other groups.

While the costs for the usage of HRSB can be a deterrent, HRM and HRSB have a Service Exchange Agreement (SEA) which provides free access to 10,000 hours at HRSB gymnasia for HRM to provide recreation programming for the community. While the SEA outlines the access to the HRSB gyms, the SEA has not been consistently administered across all HRSB schools and

as a result, HRM has not been successful in being able to consistently access all schools, resulting in challenges for HRM to fully use the hours provided. The current SEA has been in place for several years and needs to be updated in order to better need both HRM and HRSB needs. HRM is currently reviewing the SEA along with community needs in preparation for negotiation of a new agreement with HRSB.

User Groups

Figure 9 identifies the groups usage hours in the HRSB gymnasiums

Figure 9: HRSB Gym User Groups

HRSB School Name	User Group	2013 – 2014 Weekly Usage (Hours)
Gorsebrook Junior High	Osprey Basketball	9
	Halifax Sport and Social Club	1
	Norwood Knights Basketball	4
Halifax Central Jr. High (Cornwallis)	Osprey Basketball	10
Highland Park Junior High	Special Olympics	3 (Jan – April)
Inglis Street Elementary	Canadian Martyrs Basketball	21.5
	Norwood Knights Basketball	3
	Real Life Church	5
Joseph Howe Elementary	Starlite Strutters	2
	Community YMCA Basketball	13.5
	West End Steelers Basketball	4
	Halifax Sport and Social Club	3
	Halifax Assoc for Community Living Sports	2
LeMarchant – St. Thomas Elementary	Canadian Martyrs Basketball	13
	Osprey Basketball	1.5
Oxford School	Canadian Martyrs Basketball	4
	Starlite Majorettes	2
	Osprey Basketball	3.5
	Special Olympics	2
Sir Charles Tupper Elementary	Osprey Basketball	9
	Norwood Knights Basketball	4
	Free access to users	3
St. Agnes Junior High	West End Steelers Basketball	16
St. Catherine’s Elementary	Free access to users	12
	West End Steelers Basketball	3
	Atlantic Stars Academy	2

HRSB School Name	User Group	2013 – 2014 Weekly Usage (Hours)
St. Joseph’s – Alexander McKay Elementary	Community YMCA Basketball Softball N.S.	3 3.5 (Jan – June) 12
	Free access to users	
St. Stephen’s Elementary	West End Steelers Basketball	5.5
	Halifax Sport and Social Club	1
	Canadian Martyrs Basketball	2
	HRM Programming	3
	Adult Recreation Basketball	1.5
	N.S. Female Lacrosse Provincial Team Training	2 (Bi-weekly)
Westmount Elementary	West End Steelers Basketball	12
	Westmount Basketball	3.5
	Special Olympics	2
	Metro Basketball	Weekends: Sat: 9-5 Sun: 9-6

As noted above, Saint Mary’s gym is not available for community access. The gymnasia at Citadel High School include both a school gym and a community gym. The data usage for Citadel High School and the HRM owned gymnasia are listed in the next 4 tables. Figure 10 includes hourly usage of the Citadel gyms.

Figure 10: Citadel School and Community Gym Usage

Gym – School Year	User Group	2013 – 2014 Weekly Usage - Hourly
Bob Douglas (Community Centre)	Citadel High School	40
	Hfx City Soccer	12
	Cdn Maryters Basketball	2
	Sackville Badminton Club	1.5
	Hfx South Soccer	4
	Inner City League	3
	Ultimate Frisbee	2
	Tigers volleyball	2
	Youth Basketball	2
	RCMP	8

Gym – School Year	User Group	2013 – 2014 Weekly Usage - Hourly
Bob Douglas A	HRM Programs	4.5
	Men's Basketball	1.25
	Sackville Badminton Club	2
	Cdn Maryters Basketball	1.5
	Adult Wheelchair Basketball	3.5
Bob Douglas B	Bdm Club – Edmund Tan	4
	Cdn Maryters Basketball	4.5
Wilson Gym (School)	Citadel High School	60
	HRM Programs	11
Bob Douglas (Community Centre)	HRM Summer Camps	40
	Basketball Rental	1.5
	Men's Basketball Rental	1.5
	Basketball Rental	1.5
	Thunder Selects	2
	Mr. D. athletic group	2.5
	Summer Basketball League	2
Wilson Gym (School)	HRM Summer Camps	40

Figure 11 shows the gym usage of groups at the George Dixon Centre and Needham Centre.

Figure 11: George Dixon and Needham User Groups

User Group Name	2013 – 2014 Weekly Usage (Hours)
George Dixon Centre:	
Chris Ryan Floor Hockey	2
Kevin Banfield Basketball	2
Halifax Sport and Social Club	2.5
FUTSAL	1.5
Clear Picture Basketball	2
Night Hoops	6
Wes Johnson Soccer	1.5
Floor Hockey	2.5
Open Gym	4.5
Blindsport	7.5
Church Group	3
Needham Centre:	
Basketball	1
Night Hoops	9.5
Floor Hockey	4
Jeff Winship Floor Hockey	2

Lynes Seeley Floor Hockey	3.5
Halifax Sport and Social Club	1
Zumba Class	2
Fitness Class	1

Figure 12 shows the annual usage in hours for the St. Andrews's Centre. As this gym is often used for special events by the diverse community it services, hourly usage at this facility tends to vary from other gyms.

Figure 12: St. Andrews User Groups

User Group	Usage Type	Total Annual Usage in Hours
Susan Clarke	Basketball	6
Leni Vanderjagt	Basketball	35
Canadian Martyers	Basketball	14
Ali Duale	Basketball	96
Kiyani Sobhani	Basketball	44
Halifax Independent School	Sports	230
Melba League	Basketball	20
Bayers Westwood Daycare	Sports	39
Thursday Night B-Ball	Basketball	72
Jeremy Parent	Basketball	76
HRM Recreation	Basketball	100
Bayer Westwood day care	Sports	60
Glen Macdonald	Soccer	6
Joseph Mitchell	Soccer	42
YMCA Newcomers	Sport	40
Canadian Paraplegic Ass.	Bocce	120
Charmaine Dymond	Gym activities	37
Bayers Westwood Family Resource	Sports	22.50
Maritime Muslim Academy	Sports	3
Super Nova Isis	Special event	24
Filipino	Basketball	36
George Beatty	Soccer	1
Roy Sree	Soccer	1
Hfx Shopping Centre	Sports	1.5
Isis Health & Wellness Fair	Special event	8.5
Suzy Hansen	Basketball	10
Free Believers in Christ	Sports	12
Special Olympics	Sports	6
Ben Good Speed	Badminton	18
Chris Wade	Basketball	10
Vener Quizone	Basketball	90

User Group	Usage Type	Total Annual Usage in Hours
Bahia	Special event	1
Community Rental	Special event/sports	86
Sri Lankan Assoc	Special event	10
Halifax Voice	Special event	7.5
CIBC Run for the Cure	Special event	2
Seedling Productions	film	15
Donna Lahmar	Basketball	6
Ham Radio	Special event	15
West End Steelers	Basketball	21
Election Canada	event	15
Joseph Dembogaj	Soccer	2
Halifax City Soccer	Soccer	32
Heart and Stroke Club	Special event	2.5
Edi Uriol	Soccer	14
St.Margarets Bay Slam	Basketball	1.5
Christopher Whitt League	Frisbee	2
Peter Sampang	Soccer	2
John Hartley	Basketball	2

Gymnasium Usage Types

Currently, there are many user groups, and many different types of activities that take place in municipal gymnasia. In most cases, the activities are sports such as badminton, basketball, volleyball and others, which require hard surface court for their field of play. Indoor soccer takes place in gymnasia as well, but would perform better on indoor turf. Currently, Soccer NS provides access to groups for indoor turf at their Mainland Common facility. Some non-sport activities also take place in gymnasia, but can also be accommodated in other non-gym locations.

While there are no official wait lists for user groups looking for gym rental space, at the beginning of each season, staff provide alternate rental opportunities to new groups and to historic groups requesting additional time and one-time events (adult and youth) that are unable to rent their desired gym times and/or locations.

Indoor ball/floor hockey and indoor field hockey are played in several gyms throughout HRM. These sports are recreational and primarily adult male. Because of the type of equipment required for play, many of the newer gymnasia in the municipality such as the Canada Games Centre, Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre, and Citadel Community Centre do not allow floor or ball hockey in their gyms as the equipment can damage or impact the floors. This is an important point as it relates to the impending closure of the Bloomfield Gymnasium. Due to the age and condition of the Bloomfield gym, these uses are permitted. Currently, there are 2 floor hockey groups and an indoor field hockey group at the Bloomfield gymnasium for which access to alternative locations / times is challenging because of the type of activity. HRM staff

will continue to work with HRSB and other facilities to attempt to accommodate these user groups.

New Regional Gymnasia Update

It is recognized that not all peninsula users will want or be able to transition to new gymnasia in other areas of the municipality. However, not all groups currently using the peninsula facilities are based on the peninsula. Therefore, there are some groups that may want to relocate to other facilities, especially those user groups that consist of participants that live off the peninsula. In these cases, the new regional inventory will assist in the overall transition and challenges specific to the closure of peninsula gym.

In recent years, Regional Council has approved the construction of or partnership on new facilities that include gymnasia which, when completed, will provide additional inventory for gym users in HRM. These include:

Bedford Hammonds Plains: In 2010, the Province announced the construction of a replacement high school for the Charles P Allen (CPA) High School in Bedford. Regional Council approved the construction of a 10,500 sf gym as part of a large new community centre, attached to that school, which opened in September 2013.

The new gym which is of sufficient size that it can be divided into two gyms, and the pending Joint Use Agreement at the school which will allow for community access to the new school gym, provides the equivalent of four new gyms. In addition, the old CPA School was converted to a Junior High School and will provide additional weekend access to that gym. Previously, there was no public access to the CPA gym, so this change will provide increased usage. As a result, there will be community access to the equivalent of five new gymnasia.

Cole Harbour & Eastern Passage: In January 2013, Regional Council approved the enhancement of two new high school gyms – Cole Harbour District High School, and the new Eastern Passage High School. Each of these gyms will be enhanced from 8400 sf to 10,500 sf in order to create the ability to divide it into two, thereby enabling additional access to gyms in both communities. The Cole Harbour gym will open in 2014 with Eastern Passage at a later date, still to be confirmed.

Dartmouth: Regional Council approved a renewal project for the Dartmouth Sportsplex on April 15, 2014. This renewal plan includes the construction of a 10,500 sf gymnasium, which will be able to be divided into two gymnasia. The timing of the construction will be confirmed when Audit and Finance Standing Committee considers funding options later this year.

St. Patrick's Alexandra – On May 13, 2014, Regional Council directed the sale of the St. Patrick's Alexandra site to the North Central Community Council Association (NCCC), pending the outcome of ongoing legal action and a public hearing on the sale. The NCCC's proposal includes the rental of the existing gymnasium on that site. While not a new gymnasium, if the transfer of the St. Patrick's Alexandra property to NCCC proceeds, the reopening of the St. Patrick's Alexandra gymnasium would provide additional gymnasia capacity.

Upon the opening of all of these facilities, HRM residents will benefit from accessing the equivalent of nine new gymnasia and two re-opened gymnasia. However, the timing is such that all of the facilities will open with differing schedules. With the permanent closure of two facilities on the peninsula, residents will have access to a net new seven gymnasia once the above noted facilities are completed. If the St. Patrick's Alexandra site is sold to the NCCC, the number of available gyms would further increase when that gym re-opened. All of these new gymnasia provide opportunities for increased usage in their respective communities. In addition, they allow for the reallocation of usage from other facilities, thereby balancing the usage across the network.

In addition to these projects, new school projects have also recently been announced for Peninsula Halifax, Dartmouth and Sheet Harbour. HRM is often provided the opportunity to enhance new schools with community space, with gym space being the most common enhancement. While this analysis has determined that additional gym space is not required on the peninsula, the new school will contain a gymnasium which should be able to be available for some community use under the updated Service Exchange Agreement between HRSB and HRM. In terms of the other announced schools, the approval of the Dartmouth Sportsplex project which includes a new gymnasium along with the data outlined in the CFMP indicates that an enhancement to the Dartmouth school is not required. Staff are currently completing analysis related to the Sheet Harbour school project.

Pending Displacements

As noted earlier, user groups from both the previously closed St. Pat's Alexandra and Saint Patrick's High schools have been successfully relocated to other facilities. Staff have reviewed usage at the Bloomfield Centre gym, and have been able to make arrangements at other locations to accommodate five of the twelve groups upon its closure. Long-term alternative locations have not yet been achieved for the remaining seven groups based on their preferred times and locations. Although alternatives have been discussed with all groups, some of the groups have determined that the alternatives do not meet their needs specific to preferred times or cost of the alternative space. Therefore, at this time, some user groups have chosen not to secure alternative locations. As outlined, alternative options are possible given the amount of prime time available on the peninsula, however, the alternatives may require changes to schedules or costs. For floor hockey and field hockey usage, determination of alternatives is more challenging on the peninsula, but relocation of some user groups to newly constructed facilities and other existing facilities, may result in options for these groups.

The seven groups not accommodated on a long-term basis are: two ball hockey groups, one indoor field hockey group, one cricket group, one soccer group, and two badminton groups. Some accommodations have been found for the groups for the short term summer months, with the exception of cricket which does not need summer access. For the reasons outlined, the groups with the largest challenges are floor hockey and indoor field hockey. Staff will continue to work with the gym users to attempt to achieve alternative locations and times prior to the commencement of 2014 fall season.

Regional Approach

While the attached analysis completed relates to gymnasia needs in the Peninsula area of HRM, a broader and regional assessment of all gymnasia facilities in HRM is required to properly determine the overall community needs of this asset. The current approach for infrastructure assessments as outlined in the Community Facility Master Plan 2008 (CFMP) is to review recreation needs on a regional basis. A Regional assessment is particularly important when considering the potential competition impact from HRM's gymnasia upon the operational sustainability of not for profit organizations. The request to examine only one geographic area in HRM and the service delivery impact to those residents is not consistent with the CFMP and, as a result, does not provide a complete and optimal assessment of gymnasia inventory.

A regional approach is the best means of providing optimum gymnasia service delivery through partnerships with HRSB, cooperation versus competition, enhancing access by alleviating barriers, and ensuring the financial sustainability. The CFMP update will provide staff and Regional Council with a renewed iteration of a strategic methodology and recommendations for the provision of recreation facilities and service delivery related to purpose-built recreation, sport, and leisure facilities. The proposed scope of the CFMP renewal includes analysis of what is working well and areas for improvement such as a transition from the current booking methodology to centralized booking to allow better access to all user groups as well as recommendations for improving the HRSB/HRM facility rental arrangement.

The updated CFMP will highlight partnership opportunities, identify the needs of all HRM citizens and how to best address these needs, and explore ways to remove barriers to allow recreational access to HRM facilities.

Key Findings

Based on staff's analysis, key findings are as follows:

1. Regional approach through the update of the CFMP will identify the gymnasia needs of all HRM citizens and provide recommendations to address any deficiencies;
2. Based on the current demand and usage of Peninsula gymnasia, there appears to be no immediate need for construction of additional gymnasia inventory for the purposes of traditional court uses. There is over 200 hours of prime time gym space available and, as noted, more rental opportunities will be available as user groups relocate to the new facilities being constructed throughout the Region;
3. There should be consideration given to a long-term solution for gym space for groups of primarily adult floor/ball hockey and indoor field hockey users. This type of use is not permitted in all facilities as a result of the equipment used; and
4. Although the current availability of prime time hours in gyms in the region identifies that there is not an overall requirement for additional gymnasia inventory on the Peninsula at the present time,

there is a requirement for a more effective model or mechanism for accessing, scheduling and allocating gym time to better utilize the total available hours. This will be explored through the update of the CFMP and as part of staff's review of the HRSB Service Exchange Agreement.

Conclusion

There are the equivalent of eight new additional gymnasiums in HRM, either newly opening (Bedford, Hammonds Plains - 4), approved for construction (Cole Harbour and Eastern Passage - 2), or pending Council approval (DSP - 2). In addition, the old CPA gym will be available for community usage, making a total equivalent of nine new gyms. With the permanent closure of two gyms on the peninsula, there will be a net of seven new gyms to access in the HRM, after the reopening of the YMCA facility. If the St. Patrick's Alexandra site is sold to the NCCC, the number of available gyms would further increase when that gym re-opened. The additional gymnasiums, combined with the fact that there are currently 461 prime time hours available for usage on the peninsula, is sufficient evidence to conclude that there is no requirement for further new gymnasia on the peninsula at this time. It should also be noted that in preliminary discussions, the YMCA has indicated those uses which are often not permitted in other gyms, such as floor hockey, would likely be welcome in the YMCA gymnasium.

Pending completion of the CFMP, the current and future gymnasia inventory appears to be sufficient to provide the appropriate service levels to the citizens of HRM. User groups that will be displaced as a result of the upcoming closure at the Bloomfield Centre and at the South Street YMCA have options to remain on the peninsula for their recreational gym usage. They may not, however, be able to secure the same times or pricing for their activities. The upcoming review of the Community Facility Master Plan will provide further opportunity to review and verify the service delivery requirements of citizens regarding this inventory type through both data analysis and direct consultation with user groups, sport representatives, and general members of the public. This analysis, completed on a regional basis, will provide a more optimal assessment of gymnasia inventory.

Attachment 2: Gym Court Comparisons

Gym	Room Dimensions			Area (sq ft)	Possible Cost (\$350/sq ft)	Basketball		Volleyball		Badminton	Capacity	Bleachers
	Length	Width	Depth			Main court	Cross Court	Main Court	Cross Court			
Elementary	94'-0"	56'-0"	5'-0"	5,234		1						
Jr High - Standard	94'-0"	70'-0"	5'-0"	6,580		1		2			150	Not provided in standard
Variance from Elementary	0	14'-0"	0	1,318	\$480,800							
Jr High - Enhanced	100'-0"	75'-0"	5'-0"	7,500		1		2		6	150	Not provided in standard
Variance from Elementary	6'-0"	18'-0"	0	2,238	\$782,600							
Variance from Jr High Standard	6'-0"	5'-0"	0	920	\$322,000							
High School - Standard	100'-0"	84'-0"	5'-0"	8,400		1	2	2		6	250-275	Provided in standard
Variance from Elementary	6'-0"	24'-0"	0	3,138	\$1,097,600							
Variance from Jr High Enhanced	0	9'-0"	0	900	\$315,000							
High School - Enhanced	112'-0"	94'-0"	5'-0"	10,528		1	2	3		6	250-275	Provided in standard
Variance from Elementary	8'-0"	38'-0"	0	5,264	\$1,842,400							
Variance from HS Standard	12'-0"	10'-0"	0	2,128	\$744,800							

Gym	Basketball Main Court		Basketball Cross Court	
	Length	Width	Length	Width
Elementary	60'-0"	45'-2 1/2"		
Jr High (Standard)	80'-0"	49'-2 1/2"		
Jr High (Enhanced)	80'-0"	49'-2 1/2"	60'-9 1/2"	39'-8"
High School (Standard)	84'-0"	49'-2 1/2"	69'-6"	39'-8"
High School (Enhanced)	84'-0"	49'-2 1/2"	80'-0"	45'-8"

Court	Length	Width
Standard	81'-10"	49'-2 1/2"
FTBA	94'-0"	50'-0"
NBA	94'-0"	50'-0"
NCAA	94'-0"	50'-0"
US HS	84'-0"	50'-0"
US JH	74'-0"	42'-0"

Runoffs	Basketball Main Court				Basketball Cross Court				
	End	Side 1	Side 2 (to wall)	Side 2 (to bleachers)	End	End 2 (to wall)	End 2 (to bleachers)	Side	Middle
Elementary	7'-0"	3'-4"	3'-4"						
Jr High (Standard)	7'-0"	5'-4"	15'-4"	10'-0"					
Jr High (Enhanced)	10'-0"	5'-4 1/2"	20'-5"	15'-2"	5'-8"	8'-5"	3'-3"	6'-9"	7'-2"
High School (Standard)	7'-10"	7'-5"	27'-4"	14'-1"	6'-3"	17'-4"	4'-1"	5'-0"	10'-8"
High School (Enhanced)	14'-0"	10'-4"	34'-5"	21'-2"	5'-8"	8'-5"	5'-1 1/2" (to bleachers). See note below	5'-0"	10'-8"

Note: In the enhanced high school gym, the bleachers in their fully open position encroach upon the cross court basketball playing surface.