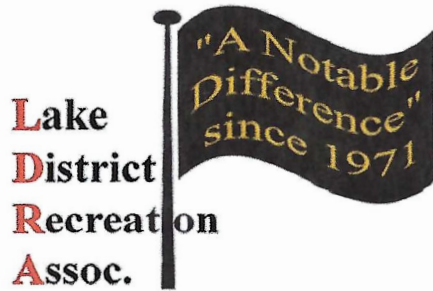


Request for Council's Consideration		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<b>Date of Council Meeting: June 4, 2024</b>		
<b>Subject: Request from Lake District Recreation Association</b>		
<b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b>  That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report to respond to a request from the Lake District Recreation Association (letter attached) for HRM to enter into a Service Agreement with annual funding.		
<b>Reason:</b>  <b>Sustaining Community Resources:</b> The Sackville and District Community Arena is a critical asset for the local community. Continued funding will ensure the facility can meet the growing needs of residents and maintain a high standard of service.		
<b>Partnership and Accountability:</b> Establishing a formal agreement with the Lake District Recreation Association will provide clear expectations and accountability for the use of public funds.		
<b>Capital Improvements:</b> The allocated funds would address essential capital improvements, enhancing the safety, accessibility, and functionality of the arena. Planned upgrades may include structural repairs, energy efficiency improvements, and modernization of facilities.		
<b>Budget Considerations:</b> Funding subject to HRM's annual budget approval process		
<b>Outcome Sought:</b>  Staff report		
<i>Councillor Russell</i>	<i>District 15</i>	



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Councillor Paul Russell  
1841 Argyle Street,  
PO Box 1749,  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Russell,

Lake District Recreation Association respectfully requests HRM to approve a service agreement between LDRA and HRM to provide an annual fund of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), indexed to cost of living.

LDRA operates a community arena servicing Sackville, Lucasville, Beaverbank, Fall River, Waverley and areas beyond since 1971. Without the citizens of Sackville building and maintaining this facility, HRM or the former County of Halifax would have built a similar facility, operated, and maintained it.

The community arena is used extensively year-round. Summer usage includes lacrosse for 12 weeks, attracting 500+ attendees, Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Annual Ceremonial Review, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Annual Ceremonial Review, CCS Relay for Life, boxing events, concerts, school reunions and community patriot day's events attracting thousands of people. Year round the arena is used for family events, weddings, anniversary and birthday parties and patron and public meetings.

The arena is host to Sackville Minor Hockey Association, which attracts 10,000+ fans per week and the local Junior B Blazers Hockey Team which attracts 300+ fans per game. We also host 3 area high school hockey teams; Millwood High Boys and Girls teams, Sackville High Boys team and Lockview High Girls team, which attract 1000+ fans per week. The Sackville Community Arena is also home to the U16AAA Kings and the Junior C Knights which attract 500+ fans per week. Ringette and various hockey groups are additional uses.

Lake District Recreation Association is a partner and funding will allow the LDRA board to continue to maintain the arena at a high level, ensuring that the facility lasts another 50 years. LDRA has done an exceptional job maintaining and operating the arena and all who visit are impressed with the smart appearance and updates. HRM funds are needed, given inflation and the high costs associated with operating an arena. HRM understands arenas are not self-sustaining, and it is much less expensive to maintain Sackville Arena than build a new one.

We look toward a positive response to our request.

Kind Regards,

Allan F. Smith, President  
Lake District Recreation Association