

Item 10.3.1

Curling in Dartmouth

Help Us to Protect a
Valuable Community
Recreation Resource

A Presentation to the
Community Planning and Economic Development Committee
March 20, 2025



Overview

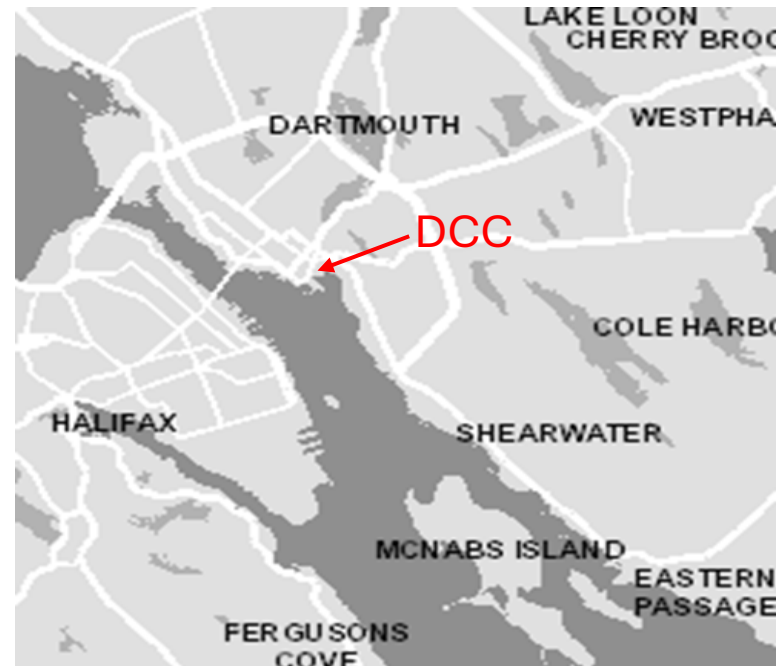
- Who We Are
- Why We Are Here
- Development & Climate Change Issues
- Options We Have Considered
- What Can We Bring to the Table?
- How Can You Help?
- What is Our Ask of You?

Presenters: Susan Burris and Ralph Jacob



Who We Are: The Dartmouth Curling Club

- Not-for-profit
- Our mission “**To foster and grow the sport of curling in the community of Dartmouth**”
- In operation since 1936 , and from 1948 onward, at 35 Canal Street in Downtown Dartmouth
- We serve over 500 curlers, ages 5 to 88, providing:
 - Subsidized “Little Rocks” Programs for children 5 to 11 years and Junior Programs for 11 to 21-year-olds
 - Large Daytime Programs for senior women and men
 - Evening and Weekend Programs for all
 - “Learn to Curl” Programs targeted at those new to the sport



Why We Are Here

- Curling is a sport where you can participate for your entire lifetime
- Curling provides positive physical, mental health and social benefits, making it a valuable resource to maintain in our community
- Demand for the sport is growing, and we are near capacity
- Changes to meet new climate regulations and impending residential development in Dartmouth Cove threaten the viability of our existing location
- If we are to continue to provide curling for the community of Dartmouth and surrounding areas, we need to find a new home







Development & Climate Change Issues

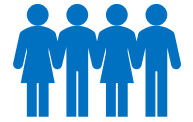


- Development-Parking
 - In the 1970's, the City of Dartmouth expropriated most of our parking lot for the construction of Alderney Drive and Mill Lane
 - Most of the on-street parking is disappearing with the current Sawmill Creek Daylighting project and the Dundas Street Extension
 - Our pool of rental parking spaces is shrinking as adjacent properties are developed
- Climate Change
 - HRM policy related to sea level changes is forcing the city to raise Canal Street by +2.5 ft
 - Our property will soon be in a hole surrounded by higher land on all sides.
 - Grade changes will present an issue for accessibility
 - Even with a well-designed drainage system our risk of flooding is greater

Options We Have Considered



- Facility refurbishment, approximately \$1M+. Challenging, but still doesn't address the grade change issues and parking
- The Club and HRM had discussions about repurposing the Bowles Arena in 2017, but this did not come to fruition
- Merger with another club – no other clubs in Dartmouth, the other clubs are at capacity (Mayflower is adding sheets, but out in Timberlea)
- Move to a new facility – here we are!



What Can We Bring to the Table?

- A 24,000 square foot lot in a high-density development area.
- An initial evaluation by CBRE indicated a property value of \$4 - \$5M
- We can help with fundraising at other levels of government – Sydney Curling Club received \$10M from the Federal Government and Mayflower Curling secured \$3M from the province
- We have an 80-year history of self financed continuous operation and day to day facility management
- A new facility would provide off-season community recreation space for other uses

How Can You Help?

- A new stand-alone 5-sheet curling facility would cost about \$15M (2024 dollars)
- A 6-sheet facility would cost about \$18M
- Financially we cannot undertake this on our own
- We would like to create a partnership between the Dartmouth Curling Club and the City of Halifax, with the goal of building a new curling facility in Dartmouth
- We foresee operation similar to the existing HRM curling facility in Sackville with the Lakeshore Curling Club leasing from HRM



What is Our Ask of You?

- That the CPED Committee request HRM staff to investigate and report on the opportunity to build a new curling facility in Dartmouth, in partnership with the Dartmouth Curling Club, to replace the existing facility at 35 Canal Street
- The new facility ideally should be:
 - Designed for 6 sheets to accommodate growth
 - Co-located with an existing or new recreation facility to maximize efficiencies in terms of building uses, systems, equipment and parking
 - Designed with the best green practices to minimize impact on the environment
 - Be fully accessible to allow for such uses as wheelchair curling
 - Contain a social area to foster the spirit of community and promote the mental health benefits associated with the sport of curling

Thank you for the
opportunity to make our
presentation!

Questions or Comments?