

# Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Project - A Look Back To Where It All Began



By Heather Fraser

The concept of a new Civic Centre in Central Nova Scotia was rooted in our Region's bid to attract the 2011 Canada Winter games, which takes us back to 2007. Although the Region was unsuccessful in its bid, interest in developing a civic centre remained a high priority with the Truro Town Council, Colchester Municipal Council and residents of Central Nova Scotia. Thankfully, because of strong partnerships and the commitment and enthusiasm of hundreds of volunteers, the Civic Centre is indeed a reality and one to which we will be opening the doors in September of this year.

A lot has happened since 2007, including the Town and County agreeing to fund the construction of the Civic Centre project 60% (County) / 40% (Town) and then, when opened, the facility will be operating at a 50/50 split between the two. The Abenaki Rd. site was chosen as the future home of the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre and then the process of forming the Project Steering Committee and all of the volunteers required to implement a project of such significant magnitude began.

Countless hours of planning continued into 2009, the User Group Space Programming Committee held several consultation sessions with a variety of stakeholders including sport groups, event programmers, arts & culture organizations, special interest groups and citizens to determine what components should be included in the facility to maximize programming options in an effort to appeal to a diverse range of recreational interests. The findings from these sessions coupled with the need to build within a budget resulted in the following components to be included in the new centre:

- ⇒ 2600 seat event arena: NHL size ice pad / 7 change rooms
- ⇒ 3 lane walking / jogging track
- ⇒ aquatic centre: therapeutic leisure pool & 8 lane competitive pool
- ⇒ fitness centre
- ⇒ multipurpose & meeting space
- ⇒ rock climbing wall
- ⇒ canteen / food service
- ⇒ display space
- ⇒ administrative & program space
- ⇒ CEHHA Space

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2010 began with Prime Minister Harper arriving in Truro to announce a \$10 million commitment to the project by the Federal Government of Canada. This was the final piece of the government funding and provided the reassurance that the project was off and running. From here, project architects Perkins + Will sharpened their pencils and finalized the designs for the new Centre and unveiled them to the community in September 2010 with construction beginning in the same month.

Each week of 2011 brought significant changes to the Abenaki Rd. construction site, hundreds of tons of concrete were poured and steel began to go up. This community health and recreation centre was taking shape and becoming a reality. The final piece of the puzzle is the success of the \$5 million Ignite the Spirit Community Campaign. I'm happy to report that the campaign has been extremely successful to date thanks to the community's response and enthusiasm for the project. It was announced recently that the campaign has reached the \$4 million mark with just \$1 million to go. Although this is a giant milestone to have achieved, we still have a lot of work ahead of us and encourage everyone to consider a donation, big or small every dollar counts towards achieving our goal. This centre is being built for the community and is much more than a place to swim and skate; it is an all encompassing facility that will offer something for everyone. There are many ways to donate to the campaign, all of which are outlined on our website [www.ignitethespirit.ca](http://www.ignitethespirit.ca) or by phoning 902.893.9706.

After almost four years, excitement continues to grow for the

day when the doors will open to our new community health and recreation centre. If you haven't had the opportunity to drive by the site recently, I encourage you to do so and see the changes that have been made. Currently you will notice the walls for the arena have been constructed and the exterior siding is making the centre come to life. The structural steel in the pool area closest to the 102 series highway began the first week of January and should be complete by mid February. What we can't see from the outside is where the most impressive progress is being made - the interior of the arena. The three lane jogging/walking track was completed the second week in January and masonry block for the washrooms at this level are underway. Overall, the building is taking shape and each day we are able to get an idea of what the finished product will look like.

I hope you enjoyed the look back at where the notion of the Civic Centre began to where we are today. If you have any questions or would like to share any comments please feel free to contact us at (e) [ignitethespirit@colchester.ca](mailto:ignitethespirit@colchester.ca) or (p) 902.893.9706.

**Heather Fraser is a Fund Raising/Public Relations Assistant for the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Project**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Are you 90 or 90+?**

The Shoreline Journal is planning a special celebration for all residents in our coverage area, who will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> or 90+ birthday this year.

In order to complete our plans we need to know who in our area fits into this category. So that we do not miss anyone, we are asking relatives or friends to register these special residents with us.

Simply send the person's name, birthdate, and contact coordinates. Deadline for registering is March 31, 2012.

The special event will be held in late spring.

Send details to:  
Maurice Rees, Publisher

The  
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Journal

Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0

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Jack McBurnie - 1986

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Lydia Tyhanchuk - 1984

**Congratulations are also extended to Carolyn Smith — our first employee celebrating 30 years of service — another outstanding milestone!**

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