

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CAMPBELLFORD/SEYMOUR AND NORTHUMBERLAND

### “ORIGIN STORY” OF THE RECREATION FACILITIES IN TRENT HILLS:

- Since 1996, community members had been discussing the idea of an indoor pool in the community.
- In 2004 the Campbellford/Seymour Community Foundation, completed an Interactive Community Inquiries and surveyed individuals, businesses and local organizations to find out what kinds of “large scale projects” the community would support.
- In 2006, an initial community meeting was held at Campbellford District High School to hear presentations in support of a large-scale project which included: a pedestrian “Rainbow Bridge” built on the old railway piers; a CT Scanner for Campbellford Memorial Hospital; a theatre addition to the high school; a concrete Skateboard Park.
- At that meeting, the OMAFRA facilitator, Bonnie O-Neil, also introduced the ideas brought forth from a November 2005 meeting, a **multi-use facility with an indoor pool, rec center and twin-pad arena**.
- The Community Foundation applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding to support an independent Steering Committee to develop priorities and an action plan for a large-scale project.
- The Steering Committee short-listed the proposed projects to 6. An evaluation tool with weighted selection criteria was created to help the Steering Committee and the community make a choice for a large-scale project. **The results ranked a multi-use facility as the top large-scale project for the community.**
- A Multi-Use Recreation Facility (MURF) Committee was established and held a public meeting and invited all interested Trent Hills residents to participate in reviewing the Terms of Reference for a proposed Multi-Use Recreation Facility **feasibility study**.
- In January 2007 the feasibility study began at a cost of \$65,681. Funding was shared with the Community Foundation and Northumberland Community Futures Development Corporation \$25,000. **The ReThink Group from Peterborough was hired for the initial Feasibility Study.**
- In March, 2007 a community meeting was facilitated to determine the feasibility of a MURF in Trent Hills. Approximately 200 attended and participated in questions related to the types of activities the facility should accommodate, a possible building site, and who should own/operate the facility.
- The Municipality of Trent Hills engaged a consulting engineer to review all of their existing recreation facilities. This report showed that all of their facilities were nearing, or at the end of their useful life.
- On September 11, 2007, a community forum was held at CDHS to discuss the initial results of the ReThink Group’s feasibility study. The proposal included a main facility in Campbellford and a satellite facility, a “Field House”, in Hastings to replace the arena which was to be retired in 2008/2009. More than one discussion group requested that an arena be included in the Campbellford facility.
- On February 13, 2008, the final MURF feasibility report was presented to council and the public.
- The MURF Feasibility report suggested that the main facility, located in Campbellford, be comprised of the following components: a six lane 25 metre pool with starting blocks and a “super” slide, a separate therapeutic pool with integrated hot tub/whirlpool, and possible a coed sauna, a gymnasium, a strength and personal training centre, an aerobic/dance studio, a running/walking track, smaller multi-purpose rooms, child minding facility, and Physiotherapy/sports injury/massage therapy clinic (for lease). Also, a satellite facility in Hastings (air-supported structure) with an indoor soccer pitch with artificial turf, and an attached support building. Capital cost estimated at \$13.8M for the main facility and \$1.9M for the satellite facility.
- There were no Provincial or Federal Capital grants available for the MURF project at this time, so the project was put on hold.
- To keep momentum, the **Revitalization of Kennedy Park** was initiated as a community project.
- In June 2009 – Donations of \$12,300 from the Centennial Legacy Club fundraising efforts were directed to kick start the Revitalization of Kennedy Park Project.
- A concrete skate park was identified as a project at the 2006 community meeting at CDHS. The first phase of the **Kennedy Park revitalization project** was to partner with the “Skatepark Group” to raise funds to create a **‘State of the Art’ concrete skate park which opened in 2009**. Additional community fundraising was done by CSCF to

build an **accessible playground in 2010** and a **splash pad in 2012**. The Municipality named the splashpad after the Campbellford/Seymour Community Foundation.

- In 2013, **Flourish ~ The Trent Hills Wellness Campaign** was launched – “one community, three initiatives, three lasting outcomes and something for everyone”. This was to be a three year, \$7M campaign - \$4M for the Campbellford Memorial Hospital Foundation for hospital equipment, \$1M for municipal recreation initiatives (Campbellford Recreation & Wellness Centre, Hastings Field House and Warkworth Arena addition), and \$2M for the community foundation’s Smart & Caring Community Funds for Campbellford, Hastings and Warkworth.
- The Community Foundation took on the fundraising component of the campaign for the recreation initiatives. A total of \$518,115 was raised through donations and multi-year pledges. The CMH Foundation raised their \$4 Million for the hospital, so overall a successful capital campaign.
- The Municipality of Trent Hills hired LETT Architects who presented a conceptual drawing for the proposed MURF, to be located on the Fairgrounds, with the components recommended in the feasibility study. Facility estimated at 120,000 sq. ft. at cost of approximately \$16M.
- The **Campbellford/Seymour Community Foundation Board of Directors committed \$2M towards the construction of the Campbellford Recreation and Wellness Centre** - \$1.5M from the Municipal Fund and \$500,000 from the Community Fund.
- In 2013, the “future site of” sign for the Hastings Field House was unveiled. As part of the Flourish Campaign, donations were obtained from the community and a donor wall hangs inside the facility thanking all those who contributed.
- The Municipality of Trent Hills hired AECOM Architects, who presented a conceptual drawing for the **Hasting Field House**, which was expanded to include a hard-surface court, a golf driving range, a walking track, and a support building with a large foyer, changerooms, and office space. PEAK Engineering built the facility at a total cost was \$4.8M.
- **On July 3, 2015, the grand opening of the Hastings Field House was held, with special guest speaker Col. Chris Hadfield.**
- In 2017, LETT Architects presented a revised conceptual drawing for the MURF, located on the fairgrounds with an NHL sized hockey rink, an 8-lane 25m pool, a leisure pool, water slide and playground, a therapy pool, a sauna and steam room, and multi-purpose rooms. A floor area of 87,500 sq. ft, split over three levels with ramped public corridors to create a looped walking “track”. Total cost estimate was \$33M.
- The Municipality of Trent Hills hired Taskforce Engineering to review the proposed projects of the Recreation Redevelopment Plan and assist in **providing a more realistic and attainable design to move the projects forward**. The proposed NEW Recreation and Wellness Centre would replace the Campbellford Arena and the outdoor pool. The Campbellford Business Park became the preferred location for the facility, due to the land already being owned by the Municipality. The estimated cost was \$15M to \$16M depending on the size and finishes chosen for the facility.
- In June 2019, Task Force Engineering presented the components of this 64,000 sq. ft. facility which included a 4-lane 25 metre pool, a therapy pool, an NHL size rink, a strength and personal training centre, and a multi-purpose room, with the final cost of construction coming in at approximately \$20.8M.
- Provincial and Federal funding was obtained by the Municipality and the project was approved. The groundbreaking ceremony was held May 3, 2023.
- In 2023, as part of the Flourish Campaign, the **Warkworth area project** also received donations to provide several upgrades to the facility. A donation plaque hangs in the Warkworth arena thanking all of the donors.
- **The Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre opened on November 27, 2024 and held its official opening on December 13, 2024.**
- The Municipality of Trent Hills created the Donor Wall to commemorate all of the financial contributions received for the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre.