

Fort Erie's Leisureplex considered most efficient arena in Canada

By Kris Dubé, QMI Agency February 8, 2012

Fort Erie's Leisureplex is the envy of arenas across the country.

For the past two years, the Town of Fort Erie has been participating in an energy and environmental benchmarking project conducted by the Canada Green Build Council.

The pilot project compared the performance of arenas across Canada to establish national performance and design standards in recreation facilities.

After comparing sizes, amenities, operating seasons and local climate data, it was revealed that the Leisureplex, a twin-pad arena, was the top performing multi-use facility in the study.

There were 18 arenas that were considered in the study.

The town's facilities manager Sean Hutton said "participating in this project has confirmed what we have known for several years... the Leisureplex was originally designed for energy efficiency and over the years has been upgraded and maintained to ensure that this high level of efficiency continues."

Acting chief administrative officer Ron Tripp said this a great achievement for the municipality.

"The Town continuously looks for process improvements in all levels of service provided. It is great news to hear that the Leisureplex is the top-rated performer in its field," said Tripp.

The Leisureplex will be profiled at an upcoming workshop hosted by the Canada Green Build Council, where national arena managers will discuss what makes the Leisureplex successful.



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In 1996, the facility opened, as a result of a number of strategic alliances including the E.J. Freeland Foundation's donation of land, the Lions, Jaycee and Kinsmen clubs, as well as many other service clubs and amateur sports organizations.

Funding for the construction of the Leisureplex included the sale of the East End Arena to the Buffalo-Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, along with funding from the provincial government.

With the donation of land from local philanthropist E.J. Freeland, there was no cost to the taxpayer to build the 125,000 square-foot facility.

The facility includes the Jaycee Arena and the Kinsmen Arena, an upper perimeter running track and skybox, a banquet hall that accommodates up to 500 people, a sports store, an arcade, a restaurant and pub.

The Leisureplex is also the location for the Fort Erie Sports Wall of Fame.