

SUMMER 2005

Issue 9

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We're Moving!

Joe Longo, Chief Librarian, and Carrie Chiamonte - Library Branch Manager and their staff will be very busy this summer moving thousands of books, audio visual resources, and publications into the new branch of the Niagara Falls Library which will be prominently featured in the MacBain Community Centre. The new branch extends library services into the south-west neighbourhoods of the city by adding a further facility to the existing 3 branches of the Niagara Falls Public Libraries. The work of stocking the new facility with the necessary library resources will be quite extensive. How many books need to be labeled, recorded, sorted and shelved? Carrie and Joe calculate that some 20,000 books will be uncrated over the summer.

The YMCA crew will also be busy this summer uncrating hundreds of children's toys, child development resources, play equipment, balls, towels, pool noodles, steppers and fitness equipment. Ted McDonnell, Niagara Falls YMCA Centre Manager, estimates about 170 balls will be rolled out providing the necessary equipment for basketball, volleyball, fitness, squash, racquetball, ball hockey and a host of children's games and activities.

This will also be a busy time for the staff of the Coronation 50 Plus Recreation Centre, Heart Niagara, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the United Way and the Parks, Recreation & Culture office as each organization prepares to open for service in the new MacBain Community Centre in September.



Thank-you BBQ

Sizzling meat and thank you smiles were exchanged as Dr. Ian Brown, Campaign Chair and a crew of volunteers flipped burgers at the MacBain Community Centre BBQ in late May. The BBQ was hosted by the MacBain Community Centre Capital Campaign to honour the quality workmanship demonstrated by the construction trades actively working at the new facility.

The Capital Campaign is currently in its closing stages of raising money for this community project. If you would like to make your contribution to this Community Centre, please contact the Campaign Office.

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Partner Profile



One of the exciting elements of the partnering approach to this community centre initiative are the opportunities for programming synergies that have arisen between partners who may not have necessarily seen their programming or members/clients as being compatible. The most recent programming initiative that has been forged is a mentoring literacy and numeracy program involving members of the Coronation 50 Plus Recreation Centre and the young girls and boys of the Big Brothers & Big Sisters program. Bringing together the strength of the two organizations in mentoring, matching, training resources and volunteer development has resulted in a unique inter-generational literacy and numeracy program. The groups will pair up at Simcoe Street School and at the MacBain Community Centre. Housed under the same roof at the MCC and only steps away from each other, this cross programming initiative between the two organizations is expected to flourish in the new centre. "I'm excited about this groundbreaking program and partnership because it will foster relationships between children and older adults, plus it will build the enjoyment and skills relating to literacy and numeracy," explains Jon Braithwaite, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara Falls. "We look forward to launching this pilot program for which we have received Federal government funding to operate for the next year."

FAQ's

MacBain Community Centre Q & A

1. When does the centre open?

The MacBain Community Centre is expected to open for service and programs in early September. Dates for the official Grand Opening Ceremony and a Community Open House Event, both of which will occur later in September after the facility has opened will be set soon.

2. Who is recognized on the MacBain Community Centre Donor Wall?

Every person who donates to the capital campaign will be recognized on the Donor Wall.

3. How much will it cost to participate in the MacBain Community Centre?

Each of the partners in the centre will offer their own specific services and means of accessing those services. Detailed program information and fees are expected to be available by August from each of the MCC partners. The facility and its services are intended to be accessible, affordable, sustainable and "open to everyone". In keeping with this objective the YMCA offers assistance to individuals who can not afford to participate.

4. Who are the MacBain Community Centre partners?

MCC partners have included Heart Niagara Inc., Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Niagara Falls, YMCA of Niagara, Parks, Recreation & Culture - City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls Library-Neighbourhood Branch and the Coronation 50 Plus Recreation Centre. The United Way of Niagara Falls and a satellite program of the Ontario Early Years have just recently been added as new service participants in the MacBain Community Centre. There will now be eight (8) different service providers working out of the Centre.

Construction Report



It has been a long 20 months since the first shovel went into the ground on October 22, 2003, but the much anticipated opening of the MacBain Community Centre is rapidly approaching. It will be a welcome change when visitors to the Centre can change their hard hats and safety boots for swimming suits and running shoes! This summer will see the finishing touches being put to the two pools of the aquatic centre, the painting, laying of floors, installation of counters and equipment, landscaping, paving and all the other little details to prepare for the anticipated opening on September 10th.

Want a 360 degree peak at the inside of the centre?Check out the City's Website at ...
<http://www.city.niagarafalls.on.ca/economicoutreach/qgrowth.html>