



## Ground broken for four-pad arena

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Construction for the new Bob Gale Complex officially got underway last Thursday during a rainy ground-breaking ceremony on Fourth Avenue.

Mayor Ted Salci and local businessman Bob Gale both gripped a golden shovel and made the first mark on this anticipated new sports complex, which will house four NHL-sized ice surfaces, including one 2,000 seat arena, and will replace several older recreation centres around the community, including the Memorial, Stamford and Jack Bell arenas.



Mayor Ted Salci and businessman Bob Gale break ground for the new Bob Gale Complex on Fourth Avenue.

The new complex will sit on the now vacant 16-acre plot of land along Stanley Avenue.

In January, Bob Gale, owner of Gale's Gas Bar, donated \$1.25 million towards the project, with \$250,000 set aside to help the less fortunate access programs and equipment at the complex.

"I know I can afford to do things, but a lot of other people can't," said Gale, who said the donation was very important to him knowing people will benefit and be able to use the centre, who might not otherwise have had the opportunity.

"This is wonderful because this means it's finally going to be started," said Gale.

"This was certainly a red-letter day," said Mayor Salci.

According to Salci, once completed in spring 2010, Niagara Falls will have the most up-to-date, modern facility in the region. The centre will be used by over 53 user groups in the city.

Salci said the plan to build the new arena first came forward about two years ago, when the city realized how outdated arenas around the city were.

"Memorial Arena is about 59 years old and needed, of course, a lot of replacing and updates and we didn't want to spend the money on that roof work. It doesn't even have a central heating system."

This new building will be more energy-efficient and cost effective for the city, said Salci.