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**DATE:** May 15, 2009

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
Meeting Date: May 27, 2009

**FROM:** Paul A. Mitcham, P.Eng., MBA  
Commissioner of Community Services

**SUBJECT:** Applications for the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC)  
Program

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- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. That the report dated May 15, 2009 titled Applications for the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program from the Commissioner of Community Services be received.
  2. That Council approve the submission of RInC grant applications for seven outdoor pool projects, with an estimated gross cost of \$28 million dollars, as listed in Appendix 1– Summary of RInC Recommended Projects.
  3. That staff report back to Council on projects approved for the RInC grant including necessary City capital contributions and additional project delivery costs upon notification of any successful application.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Federal government provided \$500 million over two years for the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program to support upgrading and renewal of recreational facilities in communities across Canada. The allocation for Ontario is approximately \$195 million of which \$68 million is for this construction season. Funding is available for two years for projects which will be chosen based on merit and construction readiness.

This funding was announced alongside the \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) grant program which the City recently applied for. One of the restrictions of the ISF program was that stand-alone recreation facilities were ineligible for funding consideration. The RInC program was set up specifically for the redevelopment of these types of facilities. Eligible project categories include arenas, swimming pools, gymnasiums, sport fields, parks, trails and bike paths, tennis courts, basketball and any other multi-purpose facility that have physical recreation as the primary rationale.

The RInC program, similar to the ISF program, aims to stimulate the economy as well as enhance local facilities, improve energy efficiency and contribute to the health and quality of life in communities across Ontario. This program is geared towards rehabilitation projects but new construction projects that replace or enhance older facilities are also eligible.

The federal and provincial contributions for this program will be capped at a maximum \$1 million each per project; however, there is no limit to the number of project applications. If applicable, combining previously approved grant funding (grant stacking) is allowed. The federal share of the project from all federal sources cannot exceed 50% of the total eligible cost.

The RInC program criteria are almost identical to the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) program other than one significant exception. All RInC projects applications must be prioritized by the City as part of the application. With this in mind, it is critical to review all appropriate projects and choose projects where the grant funding would benefit the City and taxpayers the most.

In order to maximize the number of recipients that are able to take advantage of the 2009 construction season, applications submitted prior to 5:00 pm May 29, 2009 will be reviewed immediately. Approved projects will be announced in June 2009. Projects submitted after May 29<sup>th</sup> will be assessed on an ongoing basis pending available funding. Applications for projects that can be completed within this construction year will be considered more favourably than other applications.

**COMMENTS:**

In communications from the Federal Government, the general guidelines as well as specific mandatory criteria have been provided regarding the eligibility for RInC grant funding. A summary of the guidelines and criteria are as follows:

- the funds are focused on the rehabilitation of existing assets (although new construction is eligible);
- **construction must be completed by March 31, 2011 or else it may result in cancellation of any further funding and/or repayment of funds received to date;**
- preference will be given to projects where 50% of the funds will be spent by March 31, 2010;
- each municipality can apply for an unlimited number of projects;
- **projects must be ranked in order of priority;**
- the federal and provincial governments can each fund up to one third of a projects total eligible costs up to a maximum of \$1 million from each level, with recipients providing the remaining balance;
- ineligible costs include land acquisition, leasing land, movable equipment, routine maintenance costs, legal fees, salaries and other benefits of any employee of the applicant and any other direct or indirect overhead or administrative costs;
- project incrementally - the municipality must attest that the projects would not have been built over the next two construction seasons without the federal and provincial funding;
- financial agreements must be signed between the Province of Ontario and the municipality;
- prior to final approval of funding and the conclusion of an agreement with the province, the municipality must provide proof of Council support, in the form of Council resolution, for each approved project and the municipal contribution;
- recipients of funding for a project will be required to submit quarterly progress reports detailing the status and overall update of the project;
- **if construction is not started within 60 days of the start date proposed in the application, the funding could be cancelled; and**

- upon completion and prior to final payments from the federal government, a registered professional must provide a Solemn Declaration of Substantial Completion that projects have been completed by March 31, 2011. Completion is defined as “all major construction work has been completed and the infrastructure is ready to be used for its intended purpose.”

These requirements restrict projects which can be considered for the funding application. Project start and completion times in particular are of critical importance to qualify for this grant program.

#### Application Evaluation Considerations

Along with the above mandated criteria and eligible projects types, the required application form is fairly detailed. There are specific questions regarding project location, project description, projected costs and construction timing along with more detailed questions regarding building permits, tender readiness, aboriginal engagement, environmental assessment approvals and considerations. The application also requests the following information:

- A rationale describing the specific problems or objectives the project will address.
- Will the project improve the energy efficiency of the asset?
- Will the project improve accessibility to the asset?
- Will the project extend the life of the asset?
- Will the project have a positive impact on public health?
- Provide the number of person months resulting from the project.
- Detail funding information including design/ engineering costs, construction, project management and contingency.

Taking into consideration all of the program requirements and restrictions, staff reviewed projects that were ineligible for ISF, require rehabilitation, are of high priority importance and meet all of the grant conditions including the construction timing limitations.

Rehabilitation of seven outdoor pools was not eligible for ISF funding as they are stand alone recreational facilities. Given the limited amount of funding available for projects through RInC and the

maximum grant of up to \$ 2million per project, staff recommend limiting the RInC applications to outdoor pools.

Recommended Projects:

Projects that best meet the criteria and timelines of the RInC program have been listed in Appendix 1 – Summary of RInC Recommended Projects. These projects were selected because they:

- are not funded in the capital plan,
- meet a significant community demand,
- can be completed by March 31, 2011,
- meet the other RInC program criteria
- are suitable costs in relation to the limited grant funding available
- were not included in ISF applications submitted May 1, 2009

The current age and physical state of the outdoor pool inventory is such that all of the facilities could benefit from infrastructure re-investment. All of the outdoor pools require investment to meet accessibility standards. Outdoor pools are currently unfunded in the City's capital program and require significant capital investment to extend their lifespan and maintain operations. The application for the capital project costs identified will address pool building and deck repairs, replace pool tanks where necessary, update mechanical and electrical features, and address accessibility needs. RInC funding would relieve pressure on the future capital and operating budgets.

Preliminary findings of the aquatic study support the following priority order for outdoor pool rehabilitation based on socio economic profile-risk factors, physical condition, functional suitability and current use :

1. Erindale Pool
2. Port Credit Lions Pool
3. Applewood Pool
4. Streetsville Pool
5. Lewis Bradley
6. David Ramsey Pool
7. Don McLean Westacres Pool

Appendix 2- Priority Setting for Re-Investment in Outdoor Pools outlines criteria and scores.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** The RInC grant funds must be spent by March 31, 2011 on recreational infrastructure projects that are required but that would not otherwise proceed without this grant funding. The City will be applying for seven (7) outdoor pool projects costing approximately \$28 million as detailed in Appendix 1.

The federal and provincial government will contribute one third of each approved project up to a maximum of \$1 million each. The City is responsible for funding its one third share of the costs plus any additional costs over the \$3 million project threshold. The total 1/3 cost will depend on which projects are approved under the application process. Capital reserve funds could be used to finance the City's portion of the projects. Depending on the number of projects selected, the City may issue debt sooner or at a higher level than originally forecast. Upon notification of any successful applications, staff will bring a report forward to Council to identify the City's portion of the costs, to allocate funding required from the appropriate reserve funds and to identify any additional project delivery costs which are not eligible under the RInC grant.

Once the RInC projects are approved, the City will also be in a better position to determine the additional project delivery costs. Similar to the ISF program, additional staffing costs are ineligible and can not be recovered from RInC grants. Additional staff resources will be needed in some or all of the following areas: project management / administration, procurement, legal, finance and reporting, and communications in order to complete these projects by the March 2011 deadline, in addition to the approved capital program.

**CONCLUSION:** The \$500 million Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program has been made available to municipalities to focus on upgrading and renewal of existing recreational facilities. Municipalities are required to prioritize all applications.

Rehabilitation of the seven outdoor pools meet the RInC criteria, were not eligible for ISF funding, will extend pool life span and improve maintenance efficiencies.

The capital costs could be subsidized through federal and provincial funding up to a total of \$2 million per approved project. Staff will complete the applications for the approved projects by May 29, 2009 5:00 p.m. deadline and report back to Council once project approval announcements are made.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix 1      Summary of RInC Recommended Projects  
Appendix 2      Priority Setting for Re-Investment – Outdoor Pools



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Paul A. Mitcham, P.Eng., MBA  
Commissioner of Community Services

*Prepared By: Laura Piette, Community Services*

# SUMMARY OF RInC RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

Appendix 1

PRIORITY	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AGE (in years)	WARD #	ELIGIBLE CAPITAL COSTS			
					TOTAL COST	FEDERAL SHARE (1/3)	PROVINCIAL SHARE (1/3)	CITY SHARE (Remainder)
1	Rehabilitation of Erindale Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	45	6	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
2	Rehabilitation of Port Credit Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	56	1	\$6,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
3	Rehabilitation of Applewood Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank not required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	33	3	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
4	Rehabilitation of Streetsville Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank not required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	43	11	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
5	Rehabilitation of Lewis Bradley Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	33	2	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
6	Rehabilitation of David Ramsey Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	33	2	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
7	Rehabilitation of Don McLean Westacres Outdoor Swimming Pool	Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool. New tank required. Pool building/deck repairs, update mechanical/electrical features and address accessibility.	47	1	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
TOTALS:					\$28,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$14,000,000



## Priority Setting for Re-Investment: Outdoor Pools Based on Total Points

## Appendix 2

- Socio-economic profile - risk factors (income, education, % of lone parent families, new Canadians, pre-school children, language)
- Physical condition - age of pool and current state of the facility lend itself to repair to extend lifecycle
- Functional suitability - the facility meets standards and expectations for the service. The facility is suitable for the surrounding development.
- Current Use - attendance

		Applewood		David Ramsey		Erindale		Lewis Bradley		Port Credit		Streetsville		Westacres	
Criteria	Weight	Score	Total	Score	Total	Score	Total	Score	Total	Score	Total	Score	Total	Score	Total
Socio- Economic	3	4	12	2	6	5	15	2	6	3	9	2	6	2	6
Physical Condition	3	4	12	3	9	4	12	4	12	5	15	3	9	3	9
Functional Suitability	3	4	12	3	9	4	12	3	9	5	15	3	9	3	9
Current Use	1	3	3	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	4	5	5	1	1
Total			39		28		*43		29		*43		29		25

Weighting: 3 = High 2 = Medium 1 = Low  
 Score: Min 1 2 3 4 5 Max

Based on a tally of socio-economic conditions, current state of infrastructure, functional suitability and the attendance/ annual operating cost of the facilities the rank order preference for re-investment is;

Outdoor Pool Priority Ranking	
1.	Erindale
2.	Port Credit
3.	Applewood
4.	Streetsville
5.	Lewis Bradley
6.	David Ramsey
7.	Westacres

\* Erindale and Port Credit have the highest score. Erindale was first priority due to socio-economic factors.

