

# Infrastructure News



The Newsletter of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program

Spring 2005

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The City of Armstrong recently received \$2 million from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program to build a new ice arena. *Page 4*



## Infrastructure Program builds recreation facilities across B.C.

Over \$897 million approved for 309 projects

Facilities are being built in communities across British Columbia as the benefits of the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program continue. The program has funded projects to improve drinking water, implement wastewater systems, create or improve community facilities and develop energy efficient local government buildings. As well, recreational and tourism infrastructure are being built to help communities improve the quality of life for residents.

This issue of Infrastructure News focuses on projects related to recreation infra-

structure. About a quarter of the program's funding is being directed to community projects such as infrastructure to support tourism, local transportation and cultural and recreational facilities. The projects profiled here illustrate the impact the program is having on communities across the province.

Under the program, 309 local infrastructure projects with a total value of more than \$897 million have been approved. The federal and provincial governments have allocated nearly \$537 million towards the program, with local *...continued on page 4*

## Vancouver sports centre to benefit community and Olympics

With the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games coming to British Columbia, Vancouver's Millennium Sports Centre is getting ready. Located within historic Nat Bailey Stadium Park, this centre will provide a recreational facility for the community and will host administrative activities during the Games.

"The Millennium Sports Centre draws on many new and exciting opportunities for Vancouverites, with a centralized and accessible location and driven by inter-generational community needs," said

*...continued on page 4*



Many local dignitaries turned up last year to break ground at the site of the new Millennium Sports Centre.

## A message from your governments

### For Canada



*The Honourable Stephen Owen, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Western Economic Diversification  
and Minister of State (Sport)  
Government of Canada*

### A message from the Honourable Stephen Owen

Community infrastructure projects are important building blocks for creating sustainable communities and improving quality of life for all British Columbians. As Minister responsible for administering the Infrastructure Canada Program in Western Canada, I am proud of the accomplishments achieved by the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program. This edition of Infrastructure News highlights new and improved recreation facilities that will help British Columbians pursue healthier, more active lives. As we gear up for 2010 and beyond, B.C. communities will enjoy the health and social benefits of improved community facilities.

*Stephen Owen  
Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport)  
Government of Canada*

### For British Columbia



*The Hon. John Les  
Minister of Small Business and  
Economic Development  
Province of British Columbia*

### A message from the Honourable John Les

British Columbia is an exceptional place to live, work and play. In order to retain and attract new investment, our communities must have the infrastructure needed to support new growth. The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program helps communities throughout our province bring out their best and achieve new levels of success. What makes this program a success is the partnership between the federal government, the provincial government and the communities. Working together, we are building a better British Columbia for now and for the future. Whether improving the water system in Kamloops or building a marine discovery centre at the Vancouver Aquarium, this program is providing British Columbians with the local infrastructure needed to build safe, healthy and thriving communities.

*John Les  
Minister of Small Business and Economic Development  
Province of British Columbia*

### For the Union of B.C. Municipalities



*Aaron Dinwoodie, Director,  
Central Okanagan Regional District  
President, Union of British Columbia  
Municipalities*

### A message from Aaron Dinwoodie

The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program continues to deliver! The most recent projects to receive funding illustrate that this program supports a broad spectrum of infrastructure priorities for B.C. local governments. Many of these recent projects will improve local governments' ability to offer accessible recreation opportunities in the area of sports and culture, as well as upgrade transportation related infrastructure. The joint administration of the program, involving the federal and provincial governments and UBCM representing local governments, is an excellent model for intergovernmental coordination and one that is recognized nationally. UBCM is committed to seeing this success continue.

*Aaron Dinwoodie,  
Director, Central Okanagan Regional District  
President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities*

## Revelstoke gets its first aquatic centre

The City of Revelstoke's claim of being a year-round playground will soon get a boost with the addition of a first-class aquatic centre to its long list of sport attractions.

Once it's completed in early 2005, the alpine community of 8,000 residents in the Northern Kootenays will be home to a brand new six-lane, 25-metre pool with a hot tub, water slide, sauna, tot's pool and a fitness centre. More than 1,800 square metres will be added to the current community centre.

The new facility will also help boost the city's tourism industry, which promotes the area as a family destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Until now, Revelstoke was the largest community in British Columbia without an indoor pool.

"Aside from drawing more visitors, this aquatic centre will have a tremendous positive impact on the quality of life for our community for many years to come," says Alan Shell, director of Parks and Recreation for Revelstoke.

The total cost of the project is about five million dollars, with two million dollars contributed jointly by the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program.

The aquatic centre will feature energy saving measures such as thermally efficient



Revelstoke's new Indoor Aquatic Centre will contain a 25-metre pool, water slide, toddler's pool, hot tub, sauna, athletic facilities and other services. It is expected to open in late February.

Photo credit: David F. Rooney/Revelstoke Times Review

glazing to reduce artificial lighting and water-efficient plumbing fixtures. The project will create three new full-time positions and as many as 12 part-time jobs.

## Cowichan's Sportsplex dream realized

The dream began in 1990... It is now many years later and that dream has become a reality. Completion of the Cowichan Sportsplex, a state-of-the-art, multi-sport complex, has been steadily progressing since the community began fundraising and rallying local support 15 years ago.

The Sportsplex began in 1996 as a track

and field facility. With community and government support, it has expanded to include an illuminated lacrosse box, three baseball diamonds, three grass playing fields, a full service clubhouse with food services, meeting rooms and – thanks to funding from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program – an artificial field hockey pitch.

The new field hockey pitch is a major development for the Cowichan community and its field hockey program, whose representatives lobbied for years to include a pitch in the Sportsplex.

"Cowichan produces an unusually high number of top-calibre field hockey players who travel to Vancouver and other communities to compete and train," says Catherine Kay, Administrator for the Chesterfield Sports Society, a board of directors who manage the Sportsplex. "With the new field hockey pitch, we can offer our players great facilities and reduced travel-time in addition to attracting teams from all levels to train here."

The Society expects huge economic benefits for the community through hosting major tournaments and sports events at the Cowichan Sportsplex. The Sportsplex will be a primary venue for the 2005 Seniors Games, the 2008 North American Indigenous Games, and the Society is working towards the Sportsplex becoming a regional training facility for 2010 athletes.



The Cowichan Sportsplex will include a new field hockey pitch, thanks to support from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program.

## Two communities unite in support of new arena

In the towns of Armstrong and Spallumcheen, young hockey players, curlers and figure skaters can anticipate a new facility to house their sports aspirations and Olympic dreams. The City of Armstrong recently received \$2 million from the Canada-British Columbia



Construction is proceeding on the new Armstrong/Spallumcheen Recreational Complex, which will include an NHL-sized arena and is expected to play host to local and international athletes once completed.

Infrastructure Program to build a new ice arena, the Armstrong/Spallumcheen Recreational Complex.

“This project is about more than just bricks and mortar,” said Jerry Oglow, Mayor of Armstrong. “It has galvanized an unprecedented cross-section of local

business, industry and citizens in a common vision of our community’s future.”

The refurbished complex will be a 460-seat ice arena that will include a National Hockey League-size ice surface, five dressing rooms — including one for figure skating — a concession and ice plant. It will be a welcome enhancement to the current arena, which was originally built as an exhibit hall and later

converted to an arena.

“She’s a great old soul,” said Patti Ferguson, City Administrator for Armstrong, describing the old arena, “but this community is ready to step it up a notch.”

The new arena will allow Armstrong and Spallumcheen to host regional curling and hockey tournaments, as well as figure-skating competitions that they were unable to host in the former arena. It will also enhance other community events such as the five-day Armstrong/Spallumcheen Fall Fair, which currently hosts up to 100,000 people each year.

## Infrastructure Program builds recreation facilities across B.C.

*Continuation of front page story*

government and community partners making up the balance. The program, a unique partnership between three levels of government — federal, provincial and municipal — aims to enhance quality of life

by investing in modernized infrastructure that supports long-term economic growth, creates job opportunities and offers improved community facilities. The five-year period of the program ends on March 31, 2006.

## Vancouver sports centre to benefit community and Olympics

*Continuation of front page story*

Lisa Thompson, Executive Director of the Millennium Sport Facility Society. “It will create positive change and encourage new health and wellness opportunities in our community.”

Funded with \$1.7 million from the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program, the 44,000 square-foot facility will include a new gymnastic training centre for both Olympic and recreational athletes as well as an international standard indoor lawn bowling facility. There will also be a 1,400 square-foot community multi-purpose room that



The new Millennium Sports Centre will provide a recreational facility for the community as well as a centre for administrative activities at the 2010 Games.

will include a kitchen and an artistic program and dance studio.

The Centre will have a lasting impact throughout the Lower Mainland, with expected benefits to include job creation, increased tourism and greater community participation in an active lifestyle.

For more information about the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program, please visit the following:

Infrastructure Canada –  
[www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca)

Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development –  
[www.cse.gov.bc.ca/ProgramsAndServices/Canada-BCInfrastructureProgram/default.htm](http://www.cse.gov.bc.ca/ProgramsAndServices/Canada-BCInfrastructureProgram/default.htm)

Or call us

For general information on the program:  
Western Economic Diversification Canada  
1-888-338-WEST (9378)

For information on community infrastructure projects:  
Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development  
(250) 952-0675

For information on water and sewer-related projects:  
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services  
(250) 387-4060