



## **City of Portage la Prairie**

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## **and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie**

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# **Press Release**

The Portage Multiplex Committee, consisting of appointed elected officials from the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and City of Portage la Prairie, administration and representatives from the Portage Recreation Committee (a community based committee), reviewed the Recreation Needs Study completed by Stantec in early 2007. This study was compiled, in part, with the results of the community consultation via meetings with recreation facility user groups, a recreation facility needs assessment survey and a public open house over the summer of 2006. Based on facility components and program needs, the City and RM Councils recognized synergies that directed them to the best site for this joint community initiative.

The Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and the Mayor of the City of Portage la Prairie are pleased to announce the site of the new Recreation Multiplex for Portage la Prairie and region. After careful consideration, the City and RM Councils, in partnership with the Portage Industrial Exhibition Association (PIEA) identified that the Fairboard property (owned by PIEA) on Island Park was the most suitable site for the recreation multiplex. As this project is a community-based amenity, it was important to select a site that is centrally located to accommodate both pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The existing bridge to the island offers two lane traffic and a causeway for pedestrians. It has proven to be sufficient access for significant events such as the Portage Ex, Potato Festival and Canada Day Celebrations. If necessary, controlled access with security personnel may be arranged in advance for the purpose of emergency access to the island during large events at the new multiplex.

The Island site is also ideal in that it complements existing amenities such as Splash Island, Island Park, the Fairgrounds, the Tennis Courts, the Portage Golf Course, the existing Campgrounds, the new Rotary Park Playground and the new Crescent Lake Pathway. In addition, this site presents the opportunity to efficiently manage the operations of both Splash Island and the new Indoor Aquatic Centre proposed in the new facility. Locating the new recreation multiplex on the Fairground property is an opportunity to further develop our central island park and accessible recreation amenities in the heart of the community.

The City and RM Councils are also pleased to announce the new partnership with the Portage Industrial Exhibition Association in the development of this recreation multiplex. Provisions in a long term lease agreement will allow the PIEA to build on the Portage Ex and agricultural activities far into the future. It is a

mutually beneficial partnership to provide community culture, heritage and recreation to the residents of the Portage la Prairie area.

Over the next two years, the Portage Multiplex Committee will be working closely with Project Manager, Guenter Schaub, and Stantec Architecture to design the recreation multiplex best suited for the Fairboard property site and incorporating the indoor aquatic centre and ice surfaces. Public consultation will be a key consideration throughout the process as will direct meetings with recreation facility user groups to gather comments on design and function. It is projected that this important community facility will be completed by January 2010.

City and RM Councils value the fact that recreation facilities and leisure services significantly contribute to a community's quality of life. Both Councils and the Portage Industrial Exhibition Association feel strongly that this endeavor located on the island will bring the most benefits possible to individuals of all ages, to families, service clubs and sport organizations. The amenities to be offered will provide opportunities to attract visitors to the community and showcase our beautiful "island in the city" and the many businesses and services available in the Portage la Prairie region. Building on the central island location will create a highly visible symbol of the commitment to healthy and active living in our community.

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