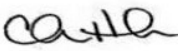




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 3, 2025
SUBJECT:	Update #2 - Eastwood Arena Closure (CFEM2505) (Ward 2)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 2
SUBMITTED BY:	Chris Herstek Acting Director, Corporate Facilities & Energy Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

This Communication Update provides the Mayor and Members of Council with information regarding the comprehensive roof and building envelope assessment completed at Eastwood Arena at 111 Burlington Street East.

In March 2025, a visual investigation raised concerns regarding the roof deck above the arena floor; rotting was observed in an isolated section. Out of an abundance of caution, the facility was closed until a full investigation could be completed.

All affected parties, including the Hammer City Roller Derby, the Hamilton Ball Hockey Association and the Hamilton Lacrosse Association were successfully accommodated at alternative venues by Recreation staff during the closure (Spring/Summer 2025).

Staff engaged MTE Consultants to complete the structural and building envelope assessment. On June 16, 2025, the final report was received. Moisture probes at four roof locations showed acceptable moisture levels within safe ranges and with no saturation of the wood fibres. In summary, the consultant indicated that the facility can safely resume normal operations; however, short, medium and more long-term investments are required.

MTE concluded that the overall building structure appears to be in generally fair condition relative to its age with no immediate structural concerns identified. The building will require ongoing monitoring, maintenance and rehabilitation work over the immediate (next three months) to longer term (next 5 years). The preliminary cost estimate to maintain the current building function is over \$3M.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

The Recreation Master Plan is a roadmap to guide the City's investment in recreation facilities, based on community input and current needs. The Plan recommends closing Eastwood Arena in the medium to long term and replacing it with a new ice pad as part of a larger Community Recreation Centre.

The timing for removing facilities like Eastwood Arena will depend on site analysis, capital plans, development, and other City priorities. Because recreation needs are complex and interconnected, staff do not support moving ahead with changes to any one facility before a full review takes place and the Recreation Master Plan Implementation Strategy is presented in the fall of 2025. Through the implementation strategy, Recreation staff will present a framework that takes into account all above noted factors, including equity, to determine prioritization of investments.

The facility will re-open in September 2025 and will be assessed again for possible closure in the Summer/Fall of 2026, prior to any significant investments/rehabilitation work required. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Mayor and Members of Council as further plans for the site are determined.

Eastwood Arena plays an important role in community programming. We recognize the recent closure posed challenges and appreciate the public's patience. Recreation staff, in collaboration with City communications staff, will continue to keep the community updated on the situation.

If you require any further information on this matter please contact Amanda Pavao, Acting Manager, Strategic Planning, Capital & Compliance at Amanda.Pavao@hamilton.ca or extension 7325.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A