



The citizen's summit – June, 1st and 2 – City of Deux-Montagnes

Sports and recreation activities

A \$1,803,500 budget has been allocated to the Sports and Recreation Services to ensure the proper development of a host of recreational activities, from the 30 outside playing fields, along with a significant stock of equipment to subsidies for accredited organizations. Sports and recreation activities as a whole represent 7% of the annual budget for the City of Deux-Montagnes.

For the most part, these services bring to us young families. But, at the same time, they foster a sense of belonging and continuing physical fitness for our young people, adults and seniors.

This workshop will look into whether we should together continue to provide these services in the future.

- **Why should the city involve itself in this field of endeavour?**
- **Should we favour a user-pay principle?**
- **What would the impacts be of such a decision?**
- **Should we allocate a certain amount per citizen who could then benefit from this contribution based on a pass?**
- **Should we review the city's involvement in certain activities?**
- **What should our reaction be, when the city does not offer a certain type of service but citizens are asking for such services?**
- **Should we seek to develop partnership with other cities?** For large scale savings? Sharing of infrastructures?
For the pleasure of seeing our young people enjoy sports activities along with others of their own age group?



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Large investments to be anticipated in sports and recreation activities:

1- Outdoor swimming pool

The municipal outdoor swimming pool is almost 50 years old and major repair work is required to restore it. More specifically: leaks, an inadequate filtration system and obsolete dressing rooms are all situations which have to be addressed. This swimming pool is presently being used by thousands of children and adults, who either take swimming lessons or take part in swimming day camps using the pool in good weather. Within this perspective, what should we do?

1. Leave the swimming as is until we have to close the pool because of a breakdown or major constraints?
2. Invest approximately \$1,500,000 in renovation work – while using available governmental grants – and increase the pool service life by approximately 40 years?
3. Check into adding a dome to maximize the pool's year round use?
4. How should this work be financed?
5. Should we use the user-pay principle?
(As would be the case if we had an arrangement with St-Eustache).



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2- Olympia arena

The arena is only 15 years old but already the roof leaks and requires major repair work. As well, the Freon refrigeration system must be replaced because of new governmental standards which forbid the use of Freon gas. Approximately \$1,200,000 is needed for repairing the Olympia over the next four years. With this in mind, what should we do?

1. Do nothing and hope that governmental regulations banning the use of Freon gas are not implemented?
2. Do a patch-up job on the roof and hope it will last?
3. Should we go into partnership with other cities and share expenses? Sell the arena to the private sector?
4. Invest the money and resources in the work required for a long-term use of the building and if so, how should we finance the work, in spite of what financial assistance might be received from government?
5. Increase rates?
6. Encourage an increase of commercial use of the premises which would generate higher revenues?



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3- Softball

We presently have four (4) softball fields in Deux-Montagnes and according to our specialists, they are in serious need of repair. We would need to invest between \$200,000 and \$400,000 for upgrading the fields and making them safe.

What should we do?

4- Basketball

As with the softball fields, basketball fields need to be upgraded.

According to estimates, this would require an investment of between \$150,000 and 250,000.

What should we do?

5- Soccer

This is by far the most favoured sport in Deux-Montagnes. We have invested large sums of money for upgrading our five (5) soccer fields, over the past four (4) years. However, in order to maintain the fields properly and on a constant basis, we need to allocate approximately \$150,000 per year to their upkeep.

Should we continue along the same lines?



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6 – Outdoor skating rinks

We presently set up seven (7) outdoor skating rinks over the territory during the winter and maintenance costs average around \$10,000 each, annually.

Should we continue along the same lines?

Deferred contributions could provide a solution: should we consider this possibility?

7- St-Eustache swimming pool

According to a recent survey, 1,500 families out of 7,200 are prepared to spend \$50 for accessing the indoor swimming pool.

Should we be looking into installing a dome over our outdoor swimming pool instead? This would allow us to use the pool year round.

We presently have arrangements with school boards which grant our citizens free access to school gymnasiums in schools located on our territory. In return, we assume the maintenance work of some of the school grounds. These partnerships entail very small outlays of money for facilities which would otherwise be quite expensive if we had to build, maintain and operate them.

Should we continue with these arrangements?

The city is also involved in supplying sports sites for petanque, lawn bowling, etc. as well as children's games in local park areas. We have to maintain these sites and repair equipment, when needed, as well as invest in upgrading these grounds and infrastructures every 10 to 15 years.

Should we continue along the same lines?



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Lastly:

All specialists agree that the benefits of physical activities for our residents, young and old are significant. However, we must also take into account the capacity of our citizens to pay.

We must decide. **What should we do?**

Other comments and suggestions.