

# Fernbrook, Saputo donate \$400,000 to Town's arena expansion project

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

Fundraising for the Mold-Masters SportsPlex's twin-rink and Acton Arena expansion project is heading into the home stretch and the campaign got two big shots in the arm Monday with \$200,000 donations from a pair of local companies.

Saputo Inc. and Fernbrook Homes, two of the municipality's larger employers, will both have a pad in their name at the soon-to-be four-rink Mold-Masters SportsPlex, which is set to officially open Sept. 29.

"Fernbrook Homes has enjoyed providing quality homes to Halton Hills families for the past 25 years," said Danny Salvatore, President & CEO of Fernbrook Homes. "Our support for the Mold-Masters SportsPlex Twin Rink Expansion is our way of showing that Fernbrook Homes is very committed to building active and engaged communities."

"Saputo, their employees and families have been very generous supporters of our community for many years. This exceptional contribution of \$200,000 in support of the Stay Home and Play Campaign is evidence of the important role Saputo plays in Halton Hills," said Finn Poulstrup, Campaign Co-Chair.

Thanks to those contributions, the fundraising drive undertaken more than a year ago by the Halton Hills Arena Users' Group (HHAUG) under the banner, Stay at Home and Play in Halton Hills, has reached the \$1.45-million mark of its \$2 million goal by the twin-pad's opening date.

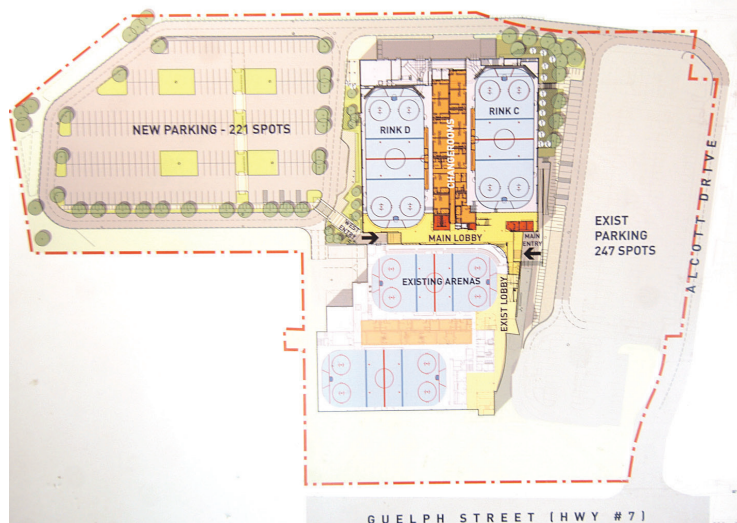
But, as Poulstrup noted, the most difficult part of the fundraising campaign lies ahead for the mostly volunteer groups and he's hoping Monday's announcement will spark a late surge in benevolence from both citizens and the private sector.

"We're at the last quarter now and that's the hardest part," said Poulstrup, who has spearheaded a number of similar community-based

fundraising efforts in Halton Hills.

"This is the final push and we have some pretty significant people who haven't given us their responses yet. We've made our presentations and we're waiting for requests to go through. We are at about a 70-per-cent successful response rate for donations and it shows that a lot of businesses are behind us and they understand that this kind of project only helps the town."

Naming rights for various components of the new arenas have been put up for sponsorship to anyone interested in contributing



financially to the campaign.

Sponsors for the four lobbies, both ice-resurfacing machines, scoreclocks and a number of other areas of the recreation complex's construction have been offered up for personalization, and Poulstrup has been pleasantly surprised by the number of residents who have stepped forward to become a part of the foundation of the building.

"The HHAUG has been very successful in selling individual seat sponsorships and I didn't think it would go well," the local real-estate broker chuckled. "You know what? When the people who are raising the money believe in it, it happens and obviously the HHAUG people feel it can work and it's been a wonderful part of our campaign."

Members of the media and the ice pad sponsors were given a guided tour of the expanded facility on Monday at the nearly completed double-rink addition, featuring expansive lobby areas and two National Hockey League-size (85x200-foot) playing surfaces.

Among the amenities include community-meeting rooms complete with kitchen facilities in the upper level between the two new rinks and spacious dressing rooms for players and officials. It also has a number of environmentally-friendly features, including seven electric vehicle charging stations, that fulfill the requirements to become a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) silver-certified building.

The boards for what's now referred to as the Saputo Rink were being delivered earlier this week and Poulstrup said that construction is right on schedule for the late September public unveiling.

Bryan Lewis, honorary chair of the Stay at Home and Play Campaign and co-chair of the Halton Hills Arenas Steering Committee, pointed out that demand for facility rentals has been growing during the spring and summer months as well, with the Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association and the Halton Hills Minor Ball Hockey each boasting a little more than 500 players in their organizations.

The plan is for one of the ice pads to be in operation throughout the year, said Stephen Hamilton, Town of Halton Hills manager of facilities for the Recreation & Parks Department. It would also give the town the ability to host larger-scale tournaments and events.

"When Mold-Masters first opened, it became the hub of daily activity and social interaction. As it continues to grow, it will create a lifetime of memories for those who have walked through its doors."

Meetings with the architects and builders for the twinning of the Acton Arena are underway and construction is set to start next spring, with an opening date of Sept. 2015.

## Police/fire blotter

Police are investigating the theft of two 5 ft. by 5 ft water containers from the Trafalgar Sports Park on Trafalgar Rd. sometime Sunday. They are valued at \$250. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 24415.

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Police report an attempted break and enter into a residence at 32 Sideroad sometime between Friday and Monday. Entry wasn't gained, but there were pry marks at the back patio door.

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On Thursday, June 27, 2:27 a.m., firefighters responded to a fully-involved shed in the backyard on Prince Charles Dr. Crews applied agent and the fire was knocked down. The homeowner had placed some varnish-saturated paint brushes and materials in a plastic bag on a shelf in the shed. Upon investigation it is believed spontaneous combustion of this material was the source of the fire.

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On Saturday, June 29, just after midnight, firefighters responded to a small fire reported in the Danby Rd. and Barber Dr. area, finding a small pile of books burning in the garage area behind the dumpsters. Crews extinguished the fire and contacted police to respond.

**For more Halton Hills Fire Department's emergency calls between June 24 and July 7 go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca)**

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