

3 WORK TO DATE

This Recreation Needs Assessment did not begin as a blank slate. Rather, the goal was to build upon the work already done by others (particularly the South St. Clements Activity Centre Committee), while reassessing the recreation needs in an area that has changed significantly over the past 15 years (and will continue to do so).

3.1 South St. Clements Activity Centre

The South St. Clements Activity Centre (SSCAC) was a group of residents who volunteered their time to develop and promote a vision for recreation in South St. Clements. The activities they operated ran primarily out of the Donald School, and included dance classes, fitness programs, martial arts, and knitting (among other things). When the school (underutilized and in poor condition) was considered for demolition, the group undertook a massive survey of residents and user groups in the community. The group (and 23 volunteers) surveyed 1200 homes in the area, going door to door for several months. They achieved an outstanding response rate of 60%, and had the responses professionally analysed.

Based on the results (which are summarized in **Section 3.2**), the SSCAC recommended the development of a multi-purpose community centre facility (to replace the Donald School, which had since been demolished). Through a series of community meetings, the SSCAC and the community developed a vision for what they would like to see in a multipurpose facility (see **Figure 3**).

Figure 3: SSCAC Community Meeting Place Vision



This led to a call for proposals, which resulted in several designs for consideration by the RM (see **Section 3.3**). After several years of seeking funding for a facility, the SSCAC was put on hold – the passionate volunteers had become exhausted, while they felt they were not getting the municipal support they needed. Since 2007, there has not been significant work done in terms of recreation in the area.

3.2 SSCAC Survey Highlights

This section highlights the key findings and statistics from the 1999/2000 Recreation and Wellness Study (undertaken by the South St. Clements Activity Centre).

3.2.1 Demographics

- The majority of residents identified themselves as residing in Narol (54%); the rest were evenly distributed between Pineridge Village, Lockport, Gonor, and Other/Don't know (each between 10% and 13%)
- The population was relatively new to the area, with 9% living in the area less than a year, 17% between 1 and 3 years, and 27% between four and ten years.
- The majority of respondents were female (60%)
- The ages of respondents were evenly distributed, with the majority being between the ages of 30 and 60 (approximately 75%)
- The most common reasons for respondents living in the community were:
 - Country living (84%);
 - Small town feel (48%); and,
 - The belief that it's best for their children (46%)

3.2.2 General Findings

- 88% of respondents supported the development of wellness and recreation facilities;
- 69% of respondents thought that the long term health of the community depended on recreation/wellness planning;
- Only 6% of respondents felt that the community already had sufficient recreation opportunities;
- The majority were not familiar with the recreation policies of St. Clements (only 9% were familiar or very familiar);
- The vast majority agreed or strongly agreed that recreation and wellness are closely linked (90%);
- Only 5% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they would make use of wellness and recreation facilities. However, respondents also admitted using existing facilities very infrequently (over 80% said they never used the Narol Children's Centre, Narol/Gonor Community Centre, hockey rink, outdoor playground and basketball court, respectively); and,
- Just over 45% of respondents noted that they would be willing to volunteer with developing new facilities.

Policy Issue:

Overcoming the discrepancy between what people say they want and what they actually do/use.

3.2.3 Recreation Opportunities

- Only 6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the variety of recreation opportunities available in South St. Clements;
- Respondents rated recreation opportunities more inadequate for youth and young adults than for seniors and preschoolers;

Policy Opportunity:

The most popular activities are:

- Boating
- Camping
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Tobogganing
- Walking

- Social activities, volunteer activities, and special events were thought to be the most lacking (approximately 50% said they were not adequate);
- Many indicated that they met their recreation needs outside of South St. Clements (with Winnipeg being the most common locale);
- In terms of cultural activities, attending parks, libraries, farmers' markets and historic sites were most common. The vast majority of residents listed arts and cultural activities as "absent" or "inadequate" in South St. Clements; and,

- In terms of physical activities, **boating, camping, swimming, fishing, tobogganing, and walking** were the most popular (each having had more than 40% who participated at least once in the previous year).

3.2.4 Facility and Program Recommendations

The survey also included a section asking respondents to list their facility and program recommendations. The results are as follows:

Facility and Program Recommendations

- Sports and recreation facilities and programs
- Youth facilities and programs
- Fitness/wellness programs
- Library access
- Day care
- Youth drop-in centre
- Senior facilities and programs

3.2.5 Spending, Income and Funding

- Monthly spending on **recreation** was quite evenly split:

Spending Range	Percentage
\$0 - \$25	21%
\$25 - \$50	21%
\$50 - \$100	28%
\$100 - \$200	19%

- The majority of **sport activity spending** was between 0\$ and 25\$ a month (55%);
- Very few “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that too much time and money were being spent on recreation (only 6% of respondents);
- Household income of respondents was fairly high, with over 50% making more than \$50,000 (including 26% making over \$70,000);
- Most supported a combination of tax revenues, user fees, and fundraising to support community recreation facilities (40%). The next largest group supported an equal use of tax revenue and user fees (15%); and,
- Finally for programs, most supported a combination of tax revenues, user fees and fundraising to fund community recreation programs (35%). The least popular option was “mostly tax revenue”, for which only 1.7% of respondents listed it as their first preference.

Policy Influence:
High income area

3.3 Preliminary Facility Designs

Once the need for a facility had been established, the SSCAC developed a strategic plan to achieve this goal. Through their survey results, and in collaboration with facility consultants, they analysed space and program requirements. The study estimated that the facility would

Policy Opportunities:

- 12,000 sq. ft.
- Sustainable
- See mission statement

need to be approximately 12,000 square feet, and that it should follow sustainability guidelines.

A conceptual design competition was held through a call for proposals, and 12 firms were interviewed. Of the 12, three were selected as finalists, who then presented their designs at a community open house. The group retained ownership of the conceptual designs, some of which are seen here:



Figure 4: Conceptual Activity Centre Renderings, by HTFC



Figure 5: Conceptual Activity Centre Plan, by Prairie Architects



3.4 SSCAC Mission

Before the SSCAC was put on hold indefinitely in 2007, they held several meetings with the community to develop a vision for recreation in the municipality. Based on these meetings, the following mission statement was developed:

The South St. Clements Activity Centre Inc. is a non-profit, multi-use community activity centre. The mission of the Centre is to develop a sustainable cultural, social, educational, and recreational MEETING PLACE that links the past, the present and the future of the community; that promotes the protection of the environment; that fosters the growth and well-being of children, youth, seniors, families, and other organizations; and that builds the spirit of community.

3.5 SSCAC Next Steps

Although currently on hold, the SSCAC created a list of action items, in case the drive for a recreation facility was ever renewed. Those action items included strengthening existing partnerships, establishing new ones, and building a volunteer base.

- Policy Opportunity:**
- SSCAC next steps
 - Provide physical and organizational framework for recreation facility

Perhaps the most important action item was to create five major working committees, whose goals would be to take the facility from conceptual design to reality. These five working committees included:

Working Committee	Responsibilities
Capital Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Events • Individual Giving • Corporations and Foundations • Government grants/proposals
Community Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting • Training • Scheduling • Acknowledging • Retaining Members and Volunteers
Communications and Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing, Editing, Formation Newsletters, News Releases, Articles • Designing, Maintaining Website • Networking And Building Partnerships • Designing/Producing Brochures, Pamphlets, Posters, Signs

Building Research and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facility Planning – Design, Use And Activities• Business Planning• Physical/Construction Planning
Special Events Planning and Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning• Coordinating• Marketing• Involving Community