

An exciting future ahead for the RA

Since 1941 the RA has been providing memorable experiences to residents in the National Capital Region. The RA's model of engagement has enabled members and the community to participate, socialize and explore health and wellness opportunities through ever-evolving facilities and programs ever since.

In the beginning, the RA was volunteer-run, operating out of a variety of locations offering Federal public servants recreation and leisure opportunities to enhance their lives. These early activities which included hockey, a radio show, card games, dances and tennis created a community of people – the early explorers of health and wellness.

Over time the RA began to take root. The Association planted a solid foundation through investment and the creation of a central hub in the form of the RA Lodge located off Wellington Street where Library and Archives Canada is now located. In 1943 thousands of federal public servants were RA members, meeting and playing in 23 separate rented facilities.

Our thriving Association needed further investment and expansion. In 1953 Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent announced a long-term loan of \$500k to build a new building. In addition a capital campaign with RA members allowed the RA Board of Directors to start the design of the building with local architects, Hazelgrove & Lithwick. While the original site where Carleton University is now located was deemed unsuitable, another plot of land near the Rideau River offered 32 acres on a 100 year lease.

In 1958 Prime Minister John Diefenbaker laid the cornerstone on the W. Clifford Clark Memorial Recreation Centre, now the west wing of the RA Centre, where it remains today. The RA continued to expand requiring additional facilities for fitness, curling and hockey. This need for more play spaces led to the expansion of the Central wing in 1966 and the East wing in 1978.

During this period of growth the RA built up 250,000 square feet of play space while continuing to strengthen its central foundation of gathering, social experiences and wellness.

The 1990s brought about dramatic changes to the financial health and positioning of the RA in the community. While our organization still offered a wide range of activities and sports, as well as banquets and meeting spaces, the funding model changed. The Federal Government conducted a full

review of all its programs and services, including its role in the operation of the RA Centre. By the end of the review, the RA was to operate 100% on its own. This new autonomous reality encouraged a move towards greater inclusion. In the late-90's, the RA opened its doors beyond the federal public service and welcomed all members of the community.

As the 21st century began, the RA needed to streamline operations, offer value added services and grow membership. In 2004 the RA purchased the Rideau Tennis Club, a historic club located on the banks of the Rideau River. The Rideau Tennis Club remained in the RA family until 2017 when after careful consideration, it was determined that the Association would focus resources on the operations at 2451 Riverside Drive – the RA Centre.

Phase 1 - The House of Sport

This renewed focus resulted in an \$8 million investment to design and develop the House of Sport, a unique and innovative sports hub repurposing 38,000 square feet in the west wing of the RA Centre. This first in Canada project, integrating over 42 partners the majority being National and multi-sport organizations, has received international interest and recognition. The realization of the House of Sport has revitalized the west wing, energized RA staff and members and will fuel future initiatives. In addition, we have a proven model which will influence the next two years of design and strategy as we develop a 200,000 square foot addition.

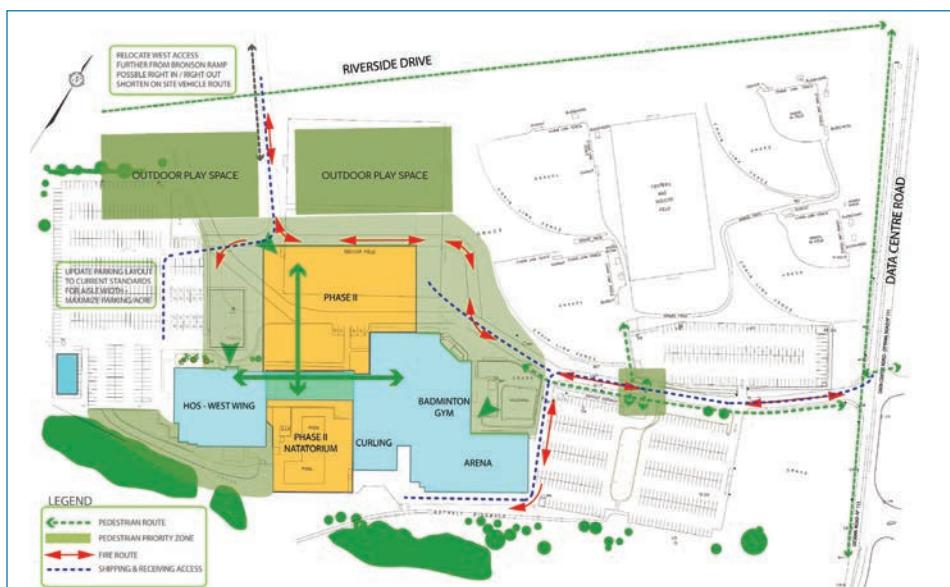
Phase 2 - Canadian Sport for Life and Rehabilitation Centre

Design of the new Canadian Sport for Life & Rehabilitation Centre is being driven by extensive research and benchmarking of systems and processes. Over the past two years, the RA has been exploring, evaluating and validating current facility models. This research, supported through an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, allowed the RA to better understand how physical design, program and equipment contribute to the principles of Physical Literacy and Long Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity (LTD). As described in LTD, the principle of "Quality Sport & Physical Activity" occurs at the intersection of excellence, physical literacy and active for life.

The new complex will provide a comprehensive set of services that do not currently exist in one location anywhere in the country.

Phase 2.5 - Recapitalization of the RA

As the RA completes Phase 2 and moves programming to new locations, older spaces will be re-purposed to expand House of Sport and to develop and ensure purpose-built and multipurpose spaces are prepared to meet current challenges. All activities undertaken in this phase will be completed to ensure sustainability and to support the RA's mission and strengthen our vision of becoming the "go-to" hub in the National Capital Region in the pursuit of lifelong sport, recreation and wellness.



1943 - The RA Lodge located off Wellington Street where Library and Archives Canada is now located.



1953 - The RA broke ground on a new building on a plot of land near the Rideau River



1958 - Prime Minister John Diefenbaker laid the cornerstone on the W. Clifford Clark Memorial Recreation Centre



1978 - A "fish-eye" view of the RA's new badminton facility



2018 - House of Sport official opening



The Canadian Sport for Life & Rehabilitation Centre (*working name*)

This facility will be innovative and unique in three areas. It will be the first facility that utilizes a Physical Literacy lens and framework to inform the architectural design of the structure. It will be the first to integrate aspects of Health Care programs and services into sport, recreation and fitness spaces to leverage economies of scale and improve resource utilization. It will be economically and environmentally sustainable. The critical aspect of financial sustainability is the alignment and offerings of these two segments to leverage as complimentary traffic times and infrastructure to support their respective operation.



The integration of healthcare services and support for rehabilitation will be directly placed on the new conditioning floor. The conditioning floor will include several consultation and treatment bays. Healthcare providers can meet clients, assess and provide feedback in private, then proceed to integrate the tools/equipment available on the conditioning floor as part of their treatment plan.



Physical Literacy is an important concept as part of Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity (LTD). However, LTD is an important concept to supporting the healthy development of individuals. The new facility will encourage movement for all visitors offering spaces to enjoy climbing, uneven surfaces, stairs and ramps which we believe will contribute to developing physical literacy skills in people of all ages.



The new facility will include a floating track above the conditioning level which is 200 meters, non-banked with a variety of surfaces. The track will offer picturesque views of the city to inspire and connect members with an outdoor experience while indoors.



Our large aquatic facility will include a functional space with a 50 meter pool and two additional tanks offering a combination of therapeutic/rehab pools with adjustable depths. This venue will be the only one of its kind in the National Capital Region.



The re-development of the RA property will create space where cars, bikes and people move seamlessly. This model extends the outdoor environment by integrating roads into spaces that can be used for a multitude of activities. We will preserve and enhance play spaces.

**200,000
sq. ft. addition**

**200m
indoor track
floating above
14,000 sq. ft.
conditioning
floor**

with consultation
& treatment bays

FINA sanctioned
**50m pool &
2 therapeutic/
rehab pools**

**2 over-sized
multi-purpose
gyms**

Community Hub
Inviting and interactive public spaces
Green Roof • Urban Farm

**Event &
Conference
Spaces**

Food & Drink
Restaurant • Café

RA Play Spaces
Preserved & Enhanced

**Long-Term Development in
Sport and Physical Activity**
at forefront of design

More info....
Visit the RA's website at
www.racentre.com/phase2
for project updates.

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