



## Sports hall too big for mall space

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At Saturday's Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Coun. Linda Whetham, stepping in for the mayor, made a small comment at the end of her speech that most people probably haven't thought about since it came from her mouth.

She said that maybe the sports hall should move to its own building, as it is busting at the seams at the Cambridge Centre. Whetham's point, though maybe lost at the end of her speech, is a valid one.

Squeezed in between two stands in the mall, the hall really has no way to grow. Sure, there is still room on existing pillars for more plaques, but there isn't sufficient space for display cases. Even now, committee members have said that memorabilia goes on display in cycles because of the lack of space, before going back in storage until its turn comes around again.

There are some benefits to having the hall of fame in the mall though, as it sees more traffic than it probably would in a separate building, and the induction ceremony tends to attract visitors to the mall, who just stop to have a look.

In addition, the space is donated by the mall.

If there were to be a separate building for the sports hall, city council would have to be heavily involved financially, as the organization is a non-profit group. Fundraising money goes right back into the hall for plaques and display cases.

Also, will people frequent a separate entity to make the city investment worthwhile?

Maybe everything could be solved with a separate store in the mall. Maybe they can donate the space for that.