

# IT'S YOUR BUSINESS.

REX MAGAZINE - BUSINESS IN WATERLOO REGION AND GUELPH



CLICK HERE

The **R**ecord.com

<http://news.therecord.com/News/Local/article/270430>

[\[Close\]](#)

## Bubbling over with success

### Demand for new indoor soccer facility means no subsidy needed from taxpayers

**KEVIN SWAYZE**  
RECORD STAFF

CAMBRIDGE

The doors aren't even open and Cambridge's new soccer playground is already 60 per cent booked.

And with a goal of 80 per cent bookings to break even, that means taxpayers won't be kicking in any subsidies.

"This is the only project like this in the region where we are looking at breaking even" in the operating budget, said Jim King, community services commissioner.

He also believes it's the only municipally owned indoor soccer facility in the province that won't need an ongoing taxpayer subsidy.

Cambridge Youth Soccer will run the \$2.5-million project for the city, under a 15-year lease. The volunteer group is responsible for all day-to-day expenses, booking times for rentals and collecting revenue for the building on Fountain Street north of Highway 401.

Part of the club's profits will be set aside for repairs, King said. Taxpayers will likely pay about half of major repairs for the city-owned building.

The only year that might be in the red is the first one, because the Dec. 1 opening is two months into the winter soccer season, King said.

The new Cambridge soccer bubble will cost \$180 an hour to rent during the "high season" of fall, winter and spring, and \$100 in the summer, with a full size soccer field. The large field can be divided into three small fields, so three games can play at a time.

Kitchener has an indoor soccer "field house" in Budd Park, but it's run as part of a large sports complex including six outdoor soccer pitches, two baseball diamonds and a maintenance facility hub for its playing fields.

While it's difficult to break out costs and revenue for the soccer park alone, Rolland Cyr, Kitchener's athletics co-ordinator, says he thinks it operates as close to break even as possible.

Kitchener charges \$90 an hour to rent the indoor soccer field. Youth groups receive a \$5 an hour reduction, as well as cash grants from city hall. Rates are cut in half during off hours.

Most adult soccer leagues at Budd have already decided to move to the new Cambridge bubble, Cyr said. Any time slots that opened up were immediately filled by youth soccer.

Waterloo runs indoor soccer facilities at RIM and Bechtel parks. A spokesperson wasn't available to talk about their cost to taxpayers.

Workers started pumping air into the inflatable building in Cambridge yesterday at 5:30 a.m. About 90 minutes later, it had taken shape and workers started carrying rolls of insulation inside. Once that's tucked into the dome, they'll start installing turf for the field.



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Gino Battistone (left), president of Cambridge Youth Soccer, and Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig have some fun with a soccer ball yesterday during a tour of the new indoor soccer bubble on Fountain Street.

"I'm ecstatic," said Gino Battistone, president of Cambridge Youth Soccer. An indoor park has been talked about for a decade, then last year, internal problems erupted at the soccer club that threatened fundraising toward a \$200,000 contribution to the project.

Battistone took over club leadership in March 2006 and saw fundraising get back on track. "I knew it would happen, but I didn't think it would happen this quickly."

The club presented a \$150,000 cheque to Mayor Doug Craig this week. Then Com Dev chipped in \$50,000 to help the club meet the target. The satellite equipment maker has also agreed to chip in another \$120,000 over the next two years, under a deal that sees the facility named after the Cambridge-based company.

[kswayze@therecord.com](mailto:kswayze@therecord.com)

## The Record.com

<http://news.therecord.com/News/Local/article/270430>



© Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from [www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com) is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

