

Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa Repaire jeunesse d'Ottawa



For more information please contact: Colleen Mooney, Executive Director cmooney@bgcottawa.org / 613-232-0925 Ext. 241



About the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa

Serving the Ottawa area since 1923, the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa is a leader in after-school, weekend and summer programs for children and youth aged 6 to 18 years. Each year, through its seven locations strategically located in vulnerable areas throughout the city, the Club offers approximately 4,500 children and youth barrier-free access to a supportive place where they can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. **Membership and programs are completely free.**

Police Youth Centre Capital Campaign

The Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa's Police Youth Centre Clubhouse, located at 1463 Prince of Wales Drive, currently operates out of an old converted fire hall. The need for renovations at this Clubhouse is great as they have seen tremendous Membership demand and growth in recent years.

The current facility is too small, has only one stall in the girls washroom, poor sight lines, low ceilings, outdated gym, outdated electrical, HVAC and plumbing, etc. The old facilities which are aging and in much need of repair really limit the services and programs the Club is able to offer. Also, the community where this clubhouse is located has changed significantly over the past few years due to the gentrification of a nearby neighbourhood which has pushed crime back into the Clubhouse area.

Redevelopment of this facility is essential as it will allow the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa to accommodate more at-risk children and youth and maximize support for the vulnerable demographic in this neighbourhood. The renovation will dramatically expand, modernize and improve space; accommodate club growth; and enhance programming, comfort and safety. It will also make the Clubhouse relevant and accessible to the community, and more welcoming to all members.

Environmental testing and site plan approval for the expansion is already underway. We expect to break ground on this \$3.5 million renovation project later this year.



AFTER (artist rendering)







Police Youth Centre Growth – Total Annual Visits

Research on this Vulnerable Area

(Data from the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study)

Variable	Average	Police Youth Centre
% of total population living in low income	11.6	26.8
% or population aged under 18 living in low income	16	37
Number of social and affordable housing units	229.4	234
Household after-tax income - % under \$20,000	9.8	39.1
Education age 15+ - % no high school	12.9	13.5
Number of youth services	0.8	2
Number of immigrant services	0.4	0
Number of libraries	0.3	0
% children ages 6-14	32.6	30.3
% children aged 15-17 years 1	12.2	12.5
% visible minority	23.7	30
Number of Community Rec. Centres	1.7	4
Overall Walkable Neighbourhood Score	50	41

A Proven Track Record – Previous Capital Projects





The Police Youth Centre Clubhouse hosted 19,777 Member visits last year but the outdated facility has surpassed its usable life. The current Clubhouse footprint is not conducive to proper programming and physical activity.





Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing will also be retrofitted with modern and energy efficient technology





The Clubhouse rejuvenation will double the Club's footprint, modernize and improve space, enhance programming and make the facility more welcoming to all members

Old Footprint:





A Brand New Look







VIEWS FROM PRINCE OF WALES











A Proven Track Record

The BGCO completed a \$3M renovation at the Don McGahan Clubhouse in July of 2015, on budget and on time. Below are some of the highlights from this highly successful capital project:

Renovation at a glance:

- Timeline: October 2014 to July 2015
- \$3 million invested
- New HVAV, electrical and plumbing
- Complete space reconfiguration
- New kitchen and indoor turf field
- 52% increase in member visits

Renovation goals achieved:

- ✓ Accommodate increasing demand
- ✓ Building safety and comfort
- ✓ Better programming (technology, music, healthy lifestyles)
- ✓ Financial sustainability through rental income
- ✓ Welcoming street presence

Completed Clubhouse renovations have produced amazing results:

- Previously, the Clubhouse's outdated gym was the only physical activity space available to members. Through this renovation, the old unused pool was filled in and the space was transformed into an indoor turf field. This major change now allows for multiple physical activity sessions to run at the same time which keeps Members more active and engaged.
- With increased member visits following the renovation, participation in the Homework Club has also increased. The reconfigured space has allowed the Clubhouse to introduce new reading programs which have been highly successful and offer learning games and a Buddy component where students from Ashbury College and Elmwood School are partnered up with Club Members to read aloud together.
- The old kitchen was inadequate as it was only able to accommodate three members at a time as part of its "Cooking Club" program, post-renovation that number increased to ten. Increased work space in the new kitchen allows staff and volunteers to prepare 200 to 250 healthy snacks per day
- Reconfigured space now allows for multiple activities under the Creative Arts Pillar to take place at the same time. For example, it is not unusual to see members working in the brand new music studio, while others take part in dance classes or work on pottery projects on any given night. The renovated multi-purpose room has also led to the growth of some popular activities such as dance classes, and the Club has been able to recruit specialized staff to help deliver the new arts programming.
- Raising the Grade has always been very well attended but the renovation including an updated Technology Centre has seen greater participation by older members
- Games area in lobby was overcrowded as members didn't have much else to do. With the renovated and reconfigured spaces, members are now spread out and are more engaged in programming that the Club
- Removing the existing bathrooms and incorporating new ones into the new change room area has created additional programming space
- Parents are much more satisfied with the new facilities and quality programming being offered for their children
- Staff feel better about the work they are doing and the level of support they are able to provide Members given the modern amenities and reconfigured spaces
- The expanded front desk area and coat room has made a significant difference in the ability to accommodate increased number of member visits, especially during colder months.
- The reconfigured and modernized staff offices provide better sightlines and improved spaces for meeting with parents, suppliers, supporters, members, etc.
- With an updated HVAC system has dramatically improved the air quality throughout the Clubhouse, and the Club now has air conditioning!



Quick Facts

- Established in 1923, the BGCO has been offering innovative youth programs to generations of Ottawa residents.
- The BGCO provides after school, weekend and summer programs for kids aged 6 to 18
- The BGCO operates out of seven locations in Ottawa plus one summer camp
- Each year approximately 4,500 children and youth visit the BGCO
- Membership is free. The BGCO is happy to provide barrier-free access to all Members.
- In 2016, the BGCO saw more than 114,000 visits
- In 2016, 866 volunteers donated 30,000 hours

BGCO Mission

To provide a safe and supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life.

BGCO Vision

To develop good citizens and community leaders by enhancing life skills through the strength of our programs, the physical environment we create and the community network we help develop within the communities we serve.

Programs - Building Community One Child at a Time



The BGCO is a Club on the Move!

Club visits continue on the upward trend and reached an all-time high in 2016 with over 114,000 visits



BGCO Clubhouse Locations

Strategically located in vulnerable neighbourhoods across Ottawa, allowing Members easy access to Club programs and services

