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By Cameron Ginn | Sep 29, 2010 - 10:46 AM 1

Orr attends BOCC grand re-opening

PARRY SOUND - Former hockey great Bobby Orr joined a number of local politicians at the grand re-opening of the Bobby Orr Community Centre on Saturday.

As hundreds of people crammed into the facility's newly built meeting room, Orr, Parry Sound-Muskoka MP Tony Clement, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka Norm Miller, Mayor Richard Adams and Councillor Paul Borneman were led in by the Canadian Forces Base Borden Flag Party.

"The Bobby Orr Community Centre has always been a focal point here in Parry Sound, especially during the winter, months. I hope the changes that we've made here will allow more people to make better use of the facility throughout the entire year," said Borneman.

The conference was kept short and included many extensions of thanks to Orr, Storburn Construction Ltd., and the federal government for contributing \$1,049,850 in economic stimulus funding to the project.

"Parry Sound is undergoing a rebirth, I really believe that, and so to have this top-notch modern 21st century facility is the key to that," said Clement, who recommended to the federal government that the BOCC receive funding.

After the conference, Orr was flanked at the knees by a group of children wearing hockey jerseys, some of which he signed before being whisked off to a flight back home.

For weeks, crews and subcontractors have been working tirelessly to finish building the community centre, which suffered a major setback in May when town council fired Samson Management Solution Ltd., the initial contractor, for lagging behind performance expectations.

Renovations at the centre include a new elevator, guard rails at all stairs, heated stands, viewing aisles with countertops and fully accessible public washrooms. Additions to the building include refurbished changing rooms for players and spacious meeting rooms that can be rented out.

"You sort of make it a critical mass - you can accommodate more people for larger functions. So you attract more people into town who spend more money at the restaurants, at the gas stations, shopping, that sort of thing," said chief administrative officer Rob Mens.

Scott Marshall, whose son, Liam, plays novice hockey in Parry Sound, said the new renovations will make a good impression on visiting teams. One of the most anticipated parts of the rebuild were the new change rooms, he said.

"They did a really nice job."



Cameron Ginn/North Star

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