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SPORT TOURISM CANADA

# Kingston Sport Tourism Venue Inventory and Assessment

March 2023

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## Sport Tourism Venue Inventory and Assessment

### Sport Tourism Sector

Sport tourism is defined as “any activity in which people are attracted to a particular location as a sport event participant, an event spectator, or to attend sport attractions or business meetings.”

The sport tourism sector in Canada in 2019, prior to the pandemic, represented \$7.4 billion in spending in Canada. In Ontario, sport tourism generates significant economic activity and is a catalyst for visitor attraction. In 2019, Ontario realized \$1.4 billion in spending to Ontario from domestic visitors and \$1.05 billion from international (US and Overseas) travelers for a total of \$2.5 billion from the sport tourism sector. The Ontario share of visitation among Canadian provinces and territories is 33% of all sport visitors to the country.

The spending profile of the sport tourism visitor in Canada is significant, with an average spend per Canadian visitor of \$113.00 for same day and \$592.40 for overnight visitors. The average spend per sport tourism visit in Canada is \$283.50. The average spend for a U.S.-based visitor is \$1,213.40; overseas visitors spend an average of \$3,180.90.

Sport tourism is a grassroots economic development opportunity while providing the opportunity to build business, build sport and build community. The social profit opportunities are real and for decades, have been under leveraged by host communities.

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Sport Hosting Index (2020): Sport Tourism Canada

If intentional and strategic, sport tourism can pay significant dividends to host communities.

### Kingston as a Sport Tourism Destination

Kingston, Ontario is an established sport host destination with appeal for provincial, national and international events and the visitors and impacts that come with sport training and competitions.

Kingston holds 1st in Canada in its population category (150,000-500,000) among sport host cities and 7th overall among cities across the country based on the 2020 Canadian Sport Hosting Index, the last time the ranking was completed due to the impacts of the pandemic. This index is based on national and international competitions hosted and those at the national and international that have been awarded for future years and has not been completed by Sport Tourism Canada since the pandemic.<sup>1</sup>

Kingston completed a Sport Tourism Strategic Framework in 2020<sup>2</sup> and identified the following aspirations:

- Customer centred.
- Priority for sport tourism to help drive visitation, brand growth and community wellness.
- Deliver value and exceptional experiences.
- Increase engagement from and quality of life for residents beyond economic (social and sustainability).
- Focus on winter to maximize seasonality opportunities.

<sup>2</sup> Kingston Sport Tourism Strategic Framework (2020): FLOOR13

As part of this work, a hosting asset readiness exercise was recommended, and this project will help Kingston to establish the current state and determine the next steps in infrastructure development.

As with any sport host destination, an objective assessment of the sport and recreation facilities can provide focus and support event attraction that maximizes the 52-week nature of sport tourism while utilizing existing and built infrastructure assets in the city. A more proactive approach enables Kingston and the stakeholders within the sport tourism ecosystem to work more purposefully to attract or develop sport events for specific outcomes.

As sport tourism continues to grow in its importance as a driver of key benefits and impacts, the competition is increasing. Kingston is competing against host cities in Ontario and across Canada and to ensure that effort is targeted to yield optimal results, knowing where the city is today in terms of hosting capacity is critical.

## Project Methodology

The purpose of the venue capacity assessment and gap analysis is to establish the existing sport hosting facilities that are suitable to serve as host competition and training venues for sport events. This will inform the master planning for future sport and recreation facility development and help to identify the specific sports or events for future strategic event attraction.

The outcome is a series of findings and recommendations for consideration of the City of Kingston, Tourism Kingston, Kingston

Accommodation Partners and other sport tourism stakeholders in Kingston.

The sport tourism venue inventory and assessment project included a review of existing documents and information, conducting site visits to see each of the identified sport facilities, stakeholder engagement of those with an interest in the development of future sport and recreation infrastructure and a comparative analysis for facilities of certain types.

The assumptions for this project included:

- Scope of facilities reviewed was up to 15 facilities and 45 fields of play;
- Leon's Centre was to be one of the facilities included in the assessment;
- Scope of facility review included facilities capable of hosting provincial, national or international competition or training camps; and
- Recommendations for new venues were to be in the form of a list and will not include detailed scope of work, drawing nor cost estimates.

## Site Visits

In-person site visits were conducted of both outdoor and indoor facilities in late 2022 and early 2023 to assess their current state and suitability to serve as host venues for various levels of training and competition.

Detailed venue forms were developed for each facility which will provide Kingston with the ability to know the current technical

specifications for each. As part of this project, both findings and recommendations will be presented for consideration and to inform the next steps for all.

## Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure that this review was inclusive of all points of view from the sport tourism ecosystem in Kingston, a comprehensive series of input gathering channels were developed.

Stakeholders from the City of Kingston, Kingston Accommodation Partners and Tourism Kingston, provincial & local sport organizations and venue operators were provided the chance to provide input by online survey, facilitated sessions or through direct interviews.

There was also a scheduled Sport Tourism Townhall session during the site visit which provided the opportunity for some additional input from local sport organizations.

## What We Heard

### Current State

Kingston has a strategic location in Eastern Ontario between the Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto corridor with excellent connectivity to drive markets in the northeastern United States.

There is good hosting venue readiness at Leon's Centre, Queen's University and St. Lawrence College, but access is not assured as opportunities are reactive to main tenants and avoiding dislocation. This is also the case at Royal Military College where access to

facilities for sport tourism events is limited but potential exists through partnership and advance planning.

Kingston is the freshwater sailing capital of the world, with the Kingston Harbour and Lake Ontario as the premier venue to attract sailors for training and rights holders for competitions. Portsmouth Olympic Harbour's infrastructure decline impacts hosting opportunities for larger boats and larger events.

With the hotel capacity providing most opportunities during the shoulder and off-seasons, there are opportunities to host more ice and winter sports which may require strategic investment in ice and court facilities. With the demand for tournament ice and the current inventory, there is a gap that is limiting the sport tourism potential in winter sports for Kingston.

The aquatics situation in Kingston is at a crisis level to meet both the recreational needs of the community and the potential hosting of aquatics events.

Sport events require more auxiliary spaces and amenities now, regardless of sport or discipline, than were required a generation ago. As a result, more alignment between sport event overlay requirements and facility master planning can ensure capital development can deliver some incremental business for Kingston.

Sport event bidding and hosting is a reactive process with bidding opportunities causing pressure on all partners in Kingston when bids are successful and safety, reputation and financial success are at stake. There is also a negative impact on bids lost or not even pursued due to lack of venue availability.



Sport tourism is not an “at all costs” endeavour given the displacement of regular user groups, and this needs to be managed proactively so everyone sees sport tourism as a greater good initiative.

There needs to be more collaboration and working together to ensure that Kingston can go to market with a clear offering that provides confidence to the rights holder. Should any local issues have the potential to impact the success of any sport event bid process, they should be managed proactively to ensure the winnability of target sport tourism events.

### Recommended Sport Facility Development

The following sports or facilities were recommended for future development:

- Pools with much opinion about the need for a 50-metre facility.
- Ice with multi-use facilities to replace aging facilities that are at or near their end of life.
- Courts or gymnasias that can be available for community and hosting opportunities.
- Rectangular and diamond fields to meet community demand and have access to auxiliary spaces and spectator amenities to meet needs of rights holders and attracting sport events to Kingston.
- Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, the world’s premier fresh water sailing venue, to be both Canada’s premier sailing sport host site and a destination for residents and visitors.
- Space for large scale gatherings and galas to support the delivery and overall major event experience in Kingston. For

instance, a return of the Brier Men’s Curling Championship would require conference space capable of accommodating 2,000-2,500 attendees for the ancillary entertainment requirements of that event.

- Speed skating both indoor (short track) and outdoor (long track).
- Hub or campus type models that meet community needs year-round and serve as training and competition venues for sport events.

### Sport Hosting Limitations

There is a widespread perspective that Kingston is not able to achieve it’s potential as a sport tourism destination. This point of view is based on the following factors:

- General infrastructure deficit for sport and recreation facilities.
- Aquatics events which also limits multi-sport event hosting opportunities.
- Ice arenas with required amenities to host competitions and championships in multiple sports (not just hockey).
- Access to facilities based on policies or management of dislocation of other user groups.
- Access to infrastructure that is not municipally owned (Queen’s University, Royal Military College and St. Lawrence College).
- Sailing events due to ramp limitations and end-of-life venue facilities.
- Large fieldhouse with courts and ancillary spaces for competition operations.

- Flexible field spaces that would enable some non-traditional sports (Cricket, Dodgeball, Quidditch and Australian Rules Football).
- Lack of recognition of sport tourism impacts for public good in addition to economic and social profit opportunities.
- Direct air access.

## Findings

The Kingston Sport Tourism Venue Inventory and Assessment project was focused on gathering relevant information to inform future strategic and policy decisions. The redevelopment of existing sport infrastructure or capital investment in new community sport and recreation assets can support residents and community life while also allowing Kingston to attract visitation and generate export dollars. Ultimately, the future master planning for recreation facilities should include the sport tourism component to ensure built infrastructure in Kingston is accessible for sport tourism and can help to reduce the tax burden of residents.

In general, sport and recreation facilities in Kingston were constructed to meet the needs of residents in geographic areas of the city. As mobility has increased with access to transportation, new developments can consider who they are serving and for what purpose so that sport hubs or clusters can be developed. This concept will also ensure that the operational spaces required to support sport tourism events are close in proximity and will limit the

need for temporary infrastructure for either operations or fan experience.

## Key Findings

1. Multi-Use Community Centre Space: Kingston has Invista Centre however there are indications that more multi-use space is required for both community recreation programming needs and sport tourism opportunities. These can serve as community hubs with both sport and recreation facility elements including arena, aquatics, gymnasias and multi-purpose rooms. The City of Kingston is working on a Community Hub Revitalization project to examine the feasibility of redevelopment the Kingston Memorial Centre which aligns with the recommendations of this report.<sup>3</sup>
2. Indoor Aquatics (immediate and future needs): Based on the current capacity of existing aquatics facilities being reduced and the demands of a growing community, additional aquatics facilities are required. If Kingston intends to host swimming and other aquatics training and competitions at the provincial level and beyond, a 50m, 10-lane pool plus a minimum 5-lane, 25m warmup pool should also be considered, which would be the only 50m competitive pool between Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The City of Kingston service level target for aquatics is 1:45,000 residents and based on City of Kingston master plans, no indoor aquatics facilities are recommended before 2036.

<sup>3</sup> [City of Kingston Report to Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee – Report Number ARCP-22-002 \(June 23, 2022\)](#)



3. Indoor Arenas (immediate and future needs): Based on the demand of local user groups for NHL (hockey, ringette, figure skating, para or sledge hockey and broomball) and international size ice (speed skating and figure skating) and the opportunity to host sport events throughout the year being limited due to access challenges, more arenas are required. The current supply of indoor arenas includes some aging facilities that do not meet the operational requirements of sport events and accessibility standards to ensure inclusion of para sport athletes for training and competition. Based on the current stage of life cycle for older arenas, the refrigeration equipment limits the times of year when they can manage the dislocation of local user groups when a tournament or sport event takes over primary arenas. The City of Kingston's current service level target is 1:700 registered ice participants which may limit the inclusion of all residents that can access ice sports who are not currently registered for an ice program.
4. Multi-Sport Events: Based on the current mix of sport assets, Kingston does have the required facilities to attract and host multi-sport events at the provincial level (Ontario Games for Youth, Ontario 55+ Games and Ontario Parasport Games). Currently, the facilities in Kingston do not meet the specifications for national multi-sport games and therefore, a focus on single sport events is suggested to ease the financial (capital and operating) and operational burden over the short to mid terms.
5. Portsmouth Olympic Harbour: With the facilities at POH beyond end of life, Kingston has an opportunity to become the world's premier competition sailing venue. To achieve this, significant work is required for both technical (waterside) and operational (landside) elements. High

performance sailing events require modern ramp infrastructure to allow for 100 competition dinghies (at one ramp) and more athletes to access the water simultaneously. Based on current infrastructure, this is limited to 4 at a time using both ramps. A dramatic increase in dinghy launching capacity will ease the congestion on the important motorized boat launch ramp and make Kingston more event-ready for national and international training and competition.

## Indoor Venues

### *Artillery Park (Aquatics)*

Artillery Park is a small indoor aquatics facility that has a 25m, 6-lane pool with a 15m leisure pool. Based on the competition field of play and limited warm up space, this facility is suitable for local competition only.



### *Boys & Girls Club of Kingston*

The Boys & Girls Club of Kingston operates the indoor aquatics facility and provides access to residents for programming and lane swims. This 25m pool does not meet the competition requirements for hosting local or provincial meets and is suitable for training purposes only.



## *Cataraqi Community Centre (Arenas)*

The Cataraqi Community Centre is a multi-pad indoor arena that includes the Cataraqi Arena and Kinsmen Arena.

The Cataraqi Ice Pad is NHL sized (85'x200') and includes seating for 400 spectators. This is suitable for local play and can serve as an auxiliary venue for some larger competitions or to absorb dislocated user groups who are using other venues for at event-time.

The Kinsmen Arena is an international sized (100'x200) and is home to the Kingston Striders Speed Skating Club and is the only competition venue for speed skating in Kingston and between Ottawa and Toronto. It does not meet the requirements for national championships but can host local and provincial competition during the Fall and Winter seasons and is a dry floor facility during Spring and Summer.



## *Centre 70*

Centre 70 is an aging facility with an 85'x200' ice pad. It is not suitable for hosting competitions but can accommodate local play that is dislocated from other facilities during event time but only during Fall and Winter months given the capacity of the refrigeration equipment.



## Invista Centre

The Invista Centre is a multi-use recreation facility with four NHL sized arenas. Three of the four arenas have seating for 250 and one has capacity for 750.

Each of the arenas is suitable for hosting competition and the venue is suitable for tournaments and competitions in hockey, ringette, figure skating and broomball.

As a dry floor venue, several sports can be accommodated with the addition of temporary flooring solutions or line markings.





## Leon's Centre

The Leon's Centre is the largest multi-use arena and entertainment facility between Ottawa and Toronto and is located in downtown Kingston at 1 The Tragically Hip Way. Home to the Kingston Frontenacs of the Ontario Hockey League, Leon's Centre was the host venue of the 2020 Tim Horton's Brier, the Canadian Men's Curling Championship. The venue has also served as the host venue for the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and Skate Canada International plus many large concerts and entertainment shows.

The spectator capacity is 5,500 for hockey and there is a homosote floor covering that allows for conversions to dry floor events while the ice is installed (August to April).

There are some limitations at event level and press level for technical and operational requirements for national and international competitions, but this is the most "event-ready" venue in Kingston.

A sport and entertainment facility is a key to driving energy and vibrancy of any community. This is accomplished by having a wide mix of sport events, concerts and family shows that serves the City of Kingston as the owner of Leon's Centre and the greater good of Kingston residents.



## *Memorial Centre Arena*

The Memorial Centre Arena was opened in 1951 and serves as the home arena for both the men's and women's hockey teams from Queen's University.

The ice pad is 85'x200' and there is spectator capacity for approximately 2,200 in wooden bucket seats.

The Memorial Centre Arena does not meet the operational requirements for major sport competitions and therefore is suitable for community use only.

This facility is limited as an overflow venue to manage dislocation of local user groups to Fall and Winter Months given the capacity of the refrigeration equipment.





## *Royal Kingston Curling Club*

The Royal Kingston Curling Club facility was opened in 2005 and is home to the second oldest curling club in Canada.

The six-sheet curling facility can host local and provincial bonspiels up to the national championship level



## *Kingston Pickleball Club*

The Kingston Pickleball Club is an indoor facility with seven courts for members and the public. The facility, combined with the Invista Centre, served as the host venue for the 2022 National Pickleball Championship with over 950 participants. It should be noted that this championship could not be hosted again using the same venue assignments for two reasons: 1) Invista Centre would not be able to provide more than two arena pads as dry floor venues, and 2) the National Pickleball Championship will likely have more than 1,000 participants in the future which will be beyond Kingston's venue capacity.



## *Queen's Main Campus (Indoor)*

Queen's University has multiple gymnasiums at the Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC). These indoor facilities are primarily focused on university life for students of Queen's University including varsity athletics and student recreation.

The Main Gym is home to the Queen's Gaels basketball and volleyball programs with seating capacity of 1,900. The Upper Gym is a multi-functional space used for training and recreational programming.

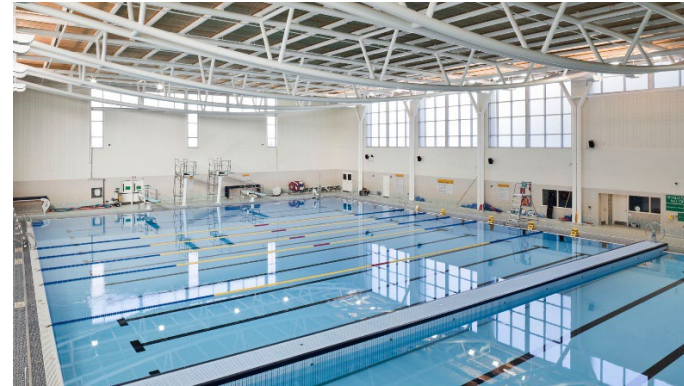


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At the ARC South (Mitchell Hall), there are three gymnasiums and combined, Queen's University has the field of play capacity to host basketball, volleyball and badminton championships up to the national level. There is also potential for some combat sport competitions with the addition of temporary flooring.



The ARC Pool at Queen's University Athletics & Recreation centre is a 38x25m pool with up to 14 lanes for training and 10-lane x 25m course with 4-lane warm up for competition. With spectator seating for 120, it is suitable for local meets but not provincial level competitions.



Queen's University facilities are limited as sport tourism venues given that they are intended to support student life at the institution. As such, with athletics, intramural and other operational requirements taking priority, these facilities are not always available during the targeted seasons for sport tourism in Kingston (Spring, Fall and Winter).

### *St. Lawrence College (Indoor)*

The campus at St. Lawrence College includes athletics and recreation facilities for student life, athletics and recreation.

The gymnasium at SLC has spectator seating for 1,442 and has line markings for basketball, volleyball and badminton.





Like all post secondary partners, primary access is for student life including athletics, intramural programs and educational requirements with secondary access for recreational programming. There can be limited access for these venues during the academic year which does not align with the seasonality focus for sport tourism.

## Outdoor Venues

### *Portsmouth Olympic Harbour*

Kingston is home to the best fresh water sailing in the world. Located at the eastern end of Lake Ontario and the head of the St. Lawrence River, the combination of land mass, islands, and thermal effects produce excellent wind and wave conditions with very little current. Kingston's famous thermal winds kick-in most late mornings usually reaching 10-15 knots with predominant south-west direction. There is no tide, minimal current, and a harbour free of commercial traffic. Constructed as the host venue for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour has the optimal field of play (Lake Ontario) for sailing in Canada.

The existing ramps and lifts to get boats into the water do require replacement and a significant increase in lift capacity is required to meet the technical requirements of high-performance sailing competitions. The building at POH was constructed as a temporary facility for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, which includes offices for Sail Canada, the only NSO in Kingston, is beyond it's end of life.

With the location just west of the downtown core of Kingston, and in close walking proximity to Queen's University West Campus and St. Lawrence College, POH sits on an interesting piece of property. This area could be a potential future sport hub (ice pad to offset sailing



season or court) for Kingston and based on the sailing field of play, is the most event-ready venue for international competition. Given the waterfront location and the potential as national and international training centre and competition venue, POH has potential differentiating characteristics that could make investment attraction by all levels of government.



## *CaraCo Home Field*

The CaraCo Home field is municipally owned and is the premier outdoor sport facility of the City of Kingston.

The venue features a 400m rubber sport surface track and a synthetic multi-sport turf infield that is lined for football, soccer, rugby and field hockey.

There are a jumps areas for long, triple and high jumps and a separate area for throwing disciplines (javelin, hammer and discus). The CaraCo Home Field is located at the Invista Centre and therefore can make use of the operational and meeting spaces in that indoor facility.



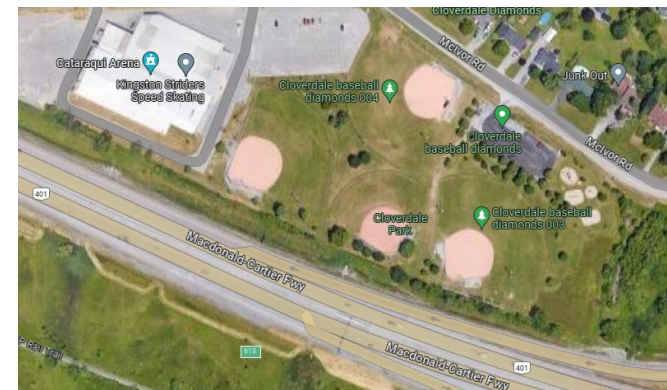
The CaraCo Home Field is suitable for hosting competition up to and including provincial level. The lack of a warmup track limits the facility from hosting national level competitions.



## *Cloverdale Diamonds*

The Cloverdale Diamonds are located at the Cataraqui Community Centre just north of the 401.

There are four diamonds that are suitable for local and regional tournament play in baseball and softball but not for provincial or above levels of competition.





## *John Machin Fields Park*

The John Machin Fields Park is a multi-field complex for soccer. There is one synthetic turf field and two natural turf full sized soccer pitches plus three mid-size and four mini fields for adapted age-group play.

The synthetic surface can be covered during the winter months to enable play to take place year-round, but a dome has not been added. When adding a dome to extend the user group access to a synthetic turf field, the impact of the additional play should be factored into the lifecycle planning for that surface.

The rectangle fields can be used for other sports and there is parking and some spectator services in the pavilion at the site.

This site is suited to local and regional competition and tournament play.



## *Megaffin Park/Optimist Field/Caton's Fields (North and South)*

This cluster of fields includes a full-sized baseball diamond at Megaffin Park plus Optimist Field with a diamond suitable for age group play in baseball or all levels of softball.

There are no athlete or spectator amenities including washrooms and access to water which are required for sport events.

Caton's Field's (North and South) are soccer pitches suitable for local and regional play.



## Mountain Bike Kingston

Mountain Bike Kingston includes almost 50km of trails with a mix of dirt and crushed stone surfaces. There is a variety of loops that allow for sport event hosting in mountain bike disciplines however there is limited operational space and temporary structures would be required for provincial and national level competition.

Based on this facility being operated by a not-for-profit group of mountain bike riders, use for sport events would be subject to agreement of The Mountain Bike Club of Kingston and their own strategic planning.



## Queen's University

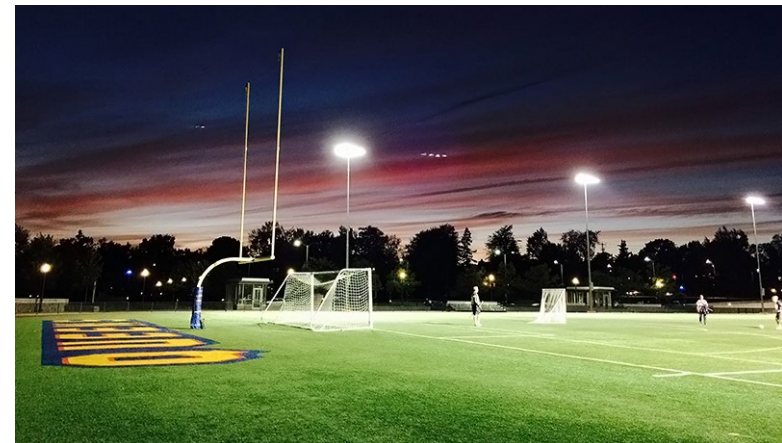
Queen's University has several rectangular fields that feature four synthetic turf fields and two grass fields.

*Richardson Stadium* is located on the West Campus and is home of the Gaels Football and Soccer programs. Richardson Stadium has seating for 8,000 spectators and has hosted several provincial and national championships in U SPORTS and amateur levels.



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*Tindall Field* is located on the Main Campus and the synthetic surface was the first in Kingston and is capable of hosting Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Rugby and Soccer.





*Nixon Field* is the home of the Gaels Rugby teams and has a MondoTurf surface. In addition to Rugby, this facility can be lined for a wide variety of sports.



Miklas-McCarney Field located near Richardson Stadium can support larger events that require additional rectangular fields or can be used to offset any dislocation of regular user groups during event time.



*Royal Kingston Curling Club (Beach Volleyball)*

The RKCC has an outdoor Beach Volleyball facility that can accommodate up to four courts. With the proximity to the facilities at RKCC, the operational spaces can be used for Beach Volleyball events.

The sand quality is good but may require some improvement to make the facility suitable for provincial level competition.



### *St. Lawrence College (Outdoor)*

The campus at St. Lawrence College includes outdoor venues for athletics and student life including intramural competition.

The soccer and rugby pitches natural turf and is suitable for local and regional competition. There is a review underway for the potential shift to synthetic turf from grass based on flooding issues.



## Woodbine Park

The Woodbine Park includes four baseball diamonds, five soccer fields and a beach volleyball and BMX course.

There is one full size diamond for open age play and three smaller diamonds that are good for age group baseball and all ages for softball.

The soccer pitches are all varying sizes and work for local and regional play and invitational tournaments.





## By Sport Assessment for Sport Tourism

VENUE	SPORT	POTENTIAL ACTIONS	REMARKS
<b>Athletics</b>			
CaraCo Home Field	Track and field	Investigate possibility of adding warm up lanes	Athletics facility required for multi-sport games
Fort Henry	Cross Country	Develop multi-year hosting plan	Access is limited given DND ownership and operation by The St. Lawrence Parks Commission
<b>Aquatics</b>			
Artillery Park	Aquatics		Does not meet the technical and operational requirements for swim competitions
Boys & Girls Club	Aquatics		Does not meet the technical and operational requirements for swim competitions
Queen's University	Aquatics		Suitable for local and regional events
YMCA Pool	Aquatics		Suitable for local and regional events
JW Henderson Pool	Aquatics		Offline, as it is under construction
Required	Aquatics	50m pool with 25m warm up pool or 2x25m pools (competition and warm up)	Ensure new aquatics build meets with <a href="#">Swimming Canada construction guidelines</a>
<b>Diamonds</b>			
Cloverdale Diamonds	Baseball	Technical elements including scoreboards and sound; Spectator amenities including seating, water and restrooms	Access to Cataraqui Community Centre for tournaments; suitable for local and regional play
Megaffin Park	Baseball	Technical elements including scoreboards and sound; Spectator amenities including seating, water and restrooms	Suitable for local and regional play
Optimist Field	Baseball/Softball	Technical elements including scoreboards and sound; Spectator	Suitable for local and regional play

VENUE	SPORT	POTENTIAL ACTIONS	REMARKS
		amenities including seating, water and restrooms	
Cricket Field	Baseball		Will be under renovation to host the Canadian Little League Championship
Woodbine Park	Baseball/Softball	Scoring and operational spaces	Could be suitable for provincial and some national competition with temporary infrastructure
<b>Field (Rectangular)</b>			
Queen's University	Football Field Hockey Lacrosse (Field) Rugby Soccer	These are assets owned and operated by Queen's University and any capital improvements would be partnership-based	Suitable for national and some international competition
St. Lawrence College	Rugby Soccer	These are assets owned and operated by St. Lawrence College and any capital improvements would be partnership-based	Suitable for local and some provincial level competition
CaraCo Home Field	Field Hockey Rugby Soccer	Added event infrastructure for athlete and officials' services, media/VIP services and spectator amenities such as covered seating	Suitable for local and provincial level competition; lighting LUX levels not known
John Machin Fields Park	Soccer	More operational spaces such as working rooms and athletes/officials services and spectator amenities (concessions)	Excellent tournament site for local and regional competition
Caton's Field's (North and South)	Soccer	Spectator amenities including seating, water and restrooms	Good support venues for tournaments
Woodbine Park	Soccer	More operational spaces such as working rooms and athletes/officials services and spectator amenities (concessions)	Excellent tournament site for local and regional competition

VENUE	SPORT	POTENTIAL ACTIONS	REMARKS
<b>Gymnasia</b>			
Queen's University	Basketball Badminton Volleyball	Not owned by the City of Kingston	Excellent venues up to national level championships; access dependent on university athletics and other programming
St. Lawrence College	Basketball Badminton Volleyball	Not owned by the City of Kingston	Quality venue up to national level; access dependent on college athletics and other programming
Kingston Pickleball Club	Pickleball	Not owned by the City of Kingston	Access subject to club plans and partnership
Invista Centre	Ball Hockey Pickleball	Dry floor conversion; potential for temporary flooring solution	Access to two pads as dry floor venues
<b>Ice</b>			
Invista Centre	Broomball Curling Figure Skating Ice Hockey Lacrosse (Box) Ringette	Event level enhancements for team, officials and operational spaces; press level capacity for minor officials, event discipline and working media	Excellent competition and tournament venue
Leon's Centre	Ball Hockey Figure Skating Ice Hockey Lacrosse (Box) Ringette Speed Skating	Event level spaces for operational requirements and team spaces; Press level working areas for minor officials, team management and operational requirements; downtown conference space to support major events at Leon's Centre	Major sport and entertainment venue and a hub for downtown sport events, community vibrancy and a motivator of travel for spectators from outside the city
Memorial Centre Arena	Ball Hockey Ice Hockey Lacrosse (Box) Ringette	Physical plant and safety requirements for local play	Does not meet the technical and operational requirements for major sport events

VENUE	SPORT	POTENTIAL ACTIONS	REMARKS
Cataraqui Community Centre	Ball Hockey Figure Skating Ice Hockey Lacrosse (Box) Ringette Speed Skating	International size ice surface potential for crash protection measures for speed skating	Kingston's only international sized arena which is required for speed skating
Centre 70	Ball Hockey Ice Hockey Lacrosse (Box) Ringette	Physical plant and safety requirements for local play	Does not meet the technical and operational requirements for major sport events
<b>Trail</b>			
Mountain Bike Kingston	BMX	Operational amenities at start finish area	
<b>Water</b>			
Kingston Rowing Club	Rowing		Did not see
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour	Sailing	Ramps and lifts to support technical requirements of sport; new building for office and hospitality; Evaluate matching a winter sport with a summer sport to create shared facilities that are needed, and working with community & city partners on potential alignment	Potential to be city-wide facility and Canada's leading sailing host venue

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided for consideration for the future of venue development for Kingston specific to attracting or developing sport events that can drive positive impacts and legacy for Kingston and it's residents.

The recommended timelines for the recommendations are as follows:

- Short-term 2023-2024
- Mid-Term 2025-2026
- Long-term 2027-2030

### Priority 1

(Align with strategic direction with focus on Winter and shoulder seasons and where significant facility gaps exist)

PRIORITY LEVEL	RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE
1	Sport tourism facilities are recommended to be classified according to the level of sport events they can attract and the appeal for resident participation. For instance, Leon's Centre is a citywide type facility that has the ability to attract events up the international level and residents who can contribute to the success of the event.	Short-term
1	Establish terms of engagement for future sport event opportunities so the facility owners, existing tenants or user groups can manage displacement proactively to ensure that Kingston can give rights holders and event organizers confidence Kingston is open for sport tourism business.	Short-term
1	Assess the feasibility of a conference or multi-use space in downtown that can support major events and reduce the need to create temporary solutions to achieve the operational and fan experience requirements for national and international sport events.	Short-term
1	Review the current service level targets for ice sports so it aligns with the population and not the registered participants.	Mid-term
1	Investigate the potential redevelopment of Leon's Centre with additional space at event level and press level.	Mid-term
1	Develop competition ready aquatics facility that can serve the increasing community programming demands.	Long-term

1	Develop sport and recreation complexes that have multi-pad arena, court and meeting/operational spaces that align with technical specifications for ice and court sports. There may be efficiencies by also including aquatics components in the initial build or in future phases.	Long-term
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## Priority 2

(Considered for incorporation in master planning with opportunities for both resident use and future sport tourism)

PRIORITY LEVEL	RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE
2	Investigate the potential opportunity to acquire temporary facilities that can support the operational and spectator requirements for tournaments and competitions at outdoor diamond and rectangular fields. These can include operational spaces, sun protection and spectator amenities.	Short-term
2	Assess the opportunity to redevelop all waterside and land-side facilities at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour to ensure it can become the world's premier sailing competition site. This is Kingston's unique point of differentiation from any other city in Canada and the world.	Mid-term
2	Commit to the existing local clubs that they will have access to the facilities required to sustain their existing membership levels and allow hosting of competitions that deliver sport and community legacies.	Mid-term
2	Develop new multi-use sport facilities that can serve as hubs for the community and ease the logistical burden on rights holders. This will also deliver efficiencies for residents who can access multiple services and programs in the same area.	Long-term



## Appendices

### Appendix 1) Kingston Venue Forms



Kingston Venue  
Forms Final.pdf

## Appendix 2) Kingston Comparative Analysis

### Comparative Analysis

Based on direct input from sport tourism stakeholders, the mix of facilities in Kingston, the types of events that are being targeted, and who are the comparable cities based on the sport tourism sector, Kingston can look to the following cities for comparative assessment:

- Barrie, ON
- Belleville, ON
- Brantford, ON
- Halifax, NS
- Kelowna, BC
- Victoria, BC

#### Barrie, ON

As a city in the process of making an entry into sport tourism, Barrie is working to establish its position as a mid-sized sport host city in Ontario. There is a wide mix of sport infrastructure that includes both indoor and outdoor venues including Sadlon Arena, home of the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League. Barrie is located on Kempenfelt Bay at the southeastern corner of Lake Simcoe and therefore water-based sports are also in play. Barrie has developed multi-use recreation facilities that include ice, aquatics and gymnasiums for court sports. The Barrie Community Sports Complex features multiple outdoor venues both diamond and rectangular fields. There is currently an effort to develop a 50m pool for training and to host competitions that will allow Barrie to retain athletes and enable them to train and compete at home.

#### Belleville, ON

Located just to the west of Kingston on Lake Ontario, Belleville and the Bay of Quinte are active in sport tourism and in the same strategic corridor as Kingston. Featuring the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, which is home to the Belleville Senators of the American Hockey League, the facility also has a 25m, 8-lane pool that serves the community, sports and entertainment and as a host venue for sport events. The regional approach taken by the Bay of Quinte, combined with the infrastructure assets and water access can serve as a compelling host for provincial championships and some national competitions.

#### Brantford, ON

The City of Brantford was named the Tournament Capital of Ontario in 1998 based on the history of hosting local, regional and provincial tournaments each year. The Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre has been the primary indoor sport and recreation facility with a four-pad arena and 65m and 25m pools. Brantford completed a sport tourism strategy in 2019 and this strategy calls for the connection of recreation facility master planning to be connected with future sport tourism hosting aspirations.

#### Halifax, NS

On the east coast of Canada is Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia has served as a host of several national and international championships in hockey, sailing, sprint canoe and university sports. Working without a defined sport tourism strategy or lead agency, the shared leadership approach relies on public funding support, facility access and the experiences outside the field of play to win sport event business. After having several centennial era arenas and legacy facilities from the 1969 Canada Summer Games reach their end-of-

life, Halifax developed several multi-use sport and recreation facilities for community use and the 2011 Canada Winter Games. Halifax and other communities in Atlantic Canada have access to Government of Canada funding in some cases through the regional economic development agency, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, or ACOA.

#### Kelowna, BC

Slightly smaller in population than Kingston, Kelowna is a four-season sport tourism destination that offers the best the Okanagan Valley to sport event participants and visitors alike. While they have hosted several single sport, multi-sport and participation-based events, Kelowna hosted the 2020 Memorial Cup but lost the bid for the 2023 edition. As stated by the Kelowna Rockets following the bid process, an audit of the host venue showed that capital improvements would be required to ensure the operational and fan experiences of this championship could be met. As a leading sport host city in British Columbia and Canada, Kelowna has achieved the balance of public good for sport tourism. British Columbia has an established provincial funding framework which is a legacy of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games that provides access to funding through the Hosting BC Grant, Major Sport Event or Tourism Event programs.

#### Kingston Growth Projections

Based on census data from Statistics Canada, Kingston experienced growth of the population in the city of 7.1% between 2016 and 2021. During the same period, the Kingston census metropolitan area population grew by 7.0%. This put Kingston in the mid-range of Ontario communities.

The population is projected to continue to grow over the next two decades. As the population increases, so does the diversity which will have a corresponding impact on the sport and recreation needs of residents and the types of sport events that will be supported by the community.

As our communities in Canada evolve, so does the sport and recreation and sport tourism approach.