



Making a difference....together

REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

SUBJECT **Rainbow Recreation Centre Synthetic Ice Rink**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Local Community Commission (LCC) with an update on installation and operating costs for the proposed donation of a synthetic ice rink.

BACKGROUND

At its April 16, 2026 meeting, the SSI LCC received a presentation from the Salt Spring Island Healthy Living Society (SSIHLS) proposing the donation of a used modular synthetic ice rink system. The system includes boards, sub-flooring, netting and synthetic ice tiles forming a 40ft. x 80ft. CAN-ICE surface. The product requires no refrigeration, can be operated year-round and can be assembled within approximately seven hours.

At its May 21, 2026 meeting, the SSI LCC passed a motion directing staff to report back on the costs associated with the installation and operation of the synthetic ice rink, including potential funding partners and recommended operating model.

At its June 18, 2026 meeting, the SSI LCC passed the following motion:

“That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission identifies 262 Rainbow Road (Rainbow Recreation Centre) as the site for the installation of the donated synthetic ice rink and request staff to report back on funding options associated with installation and operation to include in the 2027 provisional budget for review on August 13, 2026.”

Installation of the synthetic surface will require the Capital Regional District (CRD) to construct a suitable, firm, level base, such as concrete, asphalt, or compacted aggregate. Staff have received installation specifications from the manufacturer and have updated installation costs based on this information.

On July 27, 2026 SSIHLS informed the CRD that the original donor identified to purchase the ice rink from the owner has backed out. SSIHLS is actively working on finding another private donor to cover the funding gap of \$85,000. A deposit has been made to secure the arena and the SSIHLS has until the end of September 2026 to secure a donor. If a donor is not found, the SSIHLS has suggested going to the community to secure donations to finalize the purchase of the arena. The SSIHLS will continue to keep the CRD up to date with progress on progress with donors.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Initial preparation and installation of the synthetic ice rink involve clearing and site preparation, creation of a firm and level installation surface, establishing a pathway to the rink and creation of a skate storage space. The projected costs for these installation steps have been updated based on the provision of manufacturer specifications and a full accounting for all steps required to establish the

rink for operation at the Rainbow Recreation Site. The total estimated total installation cost is \$250,000 (Appendix A). \$50,000 has been allocated from reserve funding to support this project in 2027, with the remaining \$200,000 requiring a funding partner or a Community Works Funding contribution. A presentation and request for funding support with the Salt Spring Lions Club is scheduled for September 3, 2026.

An annual operations budget has been created for 2027 including projected revenues and operating expenses (Appendix B) and has been included in the 2027 Provisional Budget Package. This 2027 operating budget is based on the following assumptions:

- Revenue calculations assume participants pay for access and rent skates using existing admission and rental charges from Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges 2026/2027
- Revenue calculations assume the rink operates 15 hours per week for 50 weeks per year
- Expenses assume the use of existing staff and infrastructure at the Rainbow Recreation Centre
- Staff expenses include one Program Attendant to manage skate rentals and an average of 5 hours per week for Maintenance

The revenues from admissions, equipment and facility rentals are expected to offset the direct operational expenses, creating a net neutral budget. A \$5,000 Contract for Services expense has been added as a contingency buffer and is proposed to be funded by requisition.

CONCLUSION

The proposed synthetic ice rink represents a low-capital opportunity to introduce a new recreational amenity on Salt Spring Island, with Rainbow Recreation identified as the installation location. An installation budget has been updated based on new specifications from the manufacturer with an estimated cost of \$250,000. An operating budget has been included in the 2027 Provisional Budget and assumes that the revenues will offset the expenses, creating a net neutral bottom line except for a \$5,000 Contract for Services expense.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Kent Bittorf, BPE, Manager, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation
Concurrence:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, P.G.Dip.Eng, BSc, General Manager, Electoral Area Services

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2027 Synthetic Rink Installation Budget
Appendix B: 2027 Synthetic Rink Operating Budget