

OCTOBER 28, 2022

## Callander Receives Funds from NOHFC for Bill Barber Rink Upgrades

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, an announcement was made in the City of North Bay by the Honourable Vic Fedeli, that Callander was successful in securing \$372,510 of Provincial dollars to dedicate towards a \$500,000 improvement at the Bill Barber Rink. Mayor and council were happy to hear the news and looks forward to seeing this project progress.

The proposed improvements and enhancements at Bill Barber Rink are near and dear to the hearts of many local and regional residents. The space offers free access to rink time throughout the winter months and provides an outdoor sheltered area throughout the off-season for other programming and events. It is a popular spot in the region, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic, when outdoor gathering was being encouraged at all levels of government.

As many active users have recognized, the rink floor and boards are at their end-of-life expectancy. The pavement is uneven and crumbling, and the boards need replacement. The Municipality has been actively setting aside funds annually over the last three years to assist with the rehabilitation. This funding has come at a great time, and Council and staff are thrilled with the news.

This funding provides the Municipality with the opportunity to replace the boards with professional grade rink boards. The pavement will be replaced with a large concrete slab, which will not only provide a smooth surface for outdoor skating, but it will also create operating efficiencies by reducing staff time and the amount of water needed to get the proper rink surface. The new smooth surface will further provide opportunities for gathering and connection, by encouraging new programming/event opportunities that were previously more challenging or impossible to accommodate, especially during the off-season. Events such as “Noah Strong Day” and the “Country Music Festival” will benefit greatly from these enhancements.

To conclude, the Municipality is grateful for the funding, and this continued opportunity to improve this unique facility, named after our local hockey legend, Bill Barber. “We are happy to continue upgrades that are worthy of his name and cannot wait to share the projects with the residents and tourists alike.” Mayor Robb Noon.

The Municipality is hopeful to have the project completed by late Spring 2023 to avoid impact on the 2022-2023 skating season.

“We thank Minister Fedeli, the NOHFC Board and others at the Provincial Government who were part of this decision-making process.”



**For Media Contact:**