

To: mjrbbim@interlog.com  
 Subject: Closing the Doors @ FAIRMOUNT CC [76 Day COUNTDOWN]

Fairmount Ice Masters :

*(This is a LOOOOOONG e-mail, so probably best to open a beer first...)*

Further to my comments at the Rink-Launch tonight, please take a look at this information, respond as requested - and **SHARE** this info with your neighbours ASAP....(I know it's Christmas - but time is very short)....

#### WHAT IS GOING ON...?

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The proposed 2012 City of Toronto budget includes a proposal to **CLOSE** twelve (12) Community Centres as of **March 1, 2012** - which is only **Seventy-Six (76)** days from today.

**Fairmount Park Community Centre** (Bowmore and Gerrard) in our neighbourhood is on that list.

All non-Aquatic programs at Fairmount (eg. Ball Hockey, Karate, Ballet, Aerobics, Guitar, etc) are slated to **END** on **March 1, 2012**.

If non-Aquatic programs are **CLOSED** in early 2012, overall facility attendance numbers at **Fairmount Park CC** will drop - so the City will be able to justify **CLOSING** the remaining pool programs too in the **2013** or **2014** fiscal years.

Details of the **March 1, 2012** plans are in this **2012 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE** - but the supporting-numbers that have been provided as justification appear to be "*less than comprehensive*" ->  
[http://www.toronto.ca/budget2012/pdf/op12\\_bn\\_elimtdsbprograms.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/budget2012/pdf/op12_bn_elimtdsbprograms.pdf)

City Council will cast a **FINAL vote** on these proposals on **January 17, 2012** (**33** days from today), so we need to make ourselves heard **before** that vote.

#### WHAT DO WE WANT...?

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Essentially, an **18 to 24 month** delay / deferral of the proposed **CLOSING** to allow the City, the TDSB and the Community an opportunity to fix the way that the Parks and Rec programs operate (and TDSB / City costs are shared) at **Fairmount Park CC**.

**Seventy-Six (76)** days is not enough time to make these changes, and we only have **33** days to convince City Council to vote for a deferral.

For more info on suggested changes - see the "**Ugly Details**" section below...

#### HOW CAN THE ICEMASTERS HELP...?

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- 1.) Share this e-mail / information with your neighbours in the run-up to Christmas - "**Do you know the Fairmount Community Centre is slated to shut it's doors in 76 days...?**". Too many people in our neighbourhood have **ZERO** information on this issue.
- 2.) Share your concerns and support for **Fairmount Park CC** on-line on FaceBook, Twitter, and News comments sections (eg. the Globe and Mail article from Saturday) *\*Link below*.
- 3.) E-mail / contact the Mayor and City Councillors expressing your support for **Fairmount Park CC** using the contact list below **before** the Christmas break. Please remember the following -
  - Use "**Fairmount Park CC (Budget 2012 - Proposed Closure)**" as your subject-line.
  - Be brief, **respectful** and clear in your request.
  - Use the **Full Name and Title** of the Councillor at the start of your e-mail (eg. **Mayor Rob Ford**).
  - Include your contact info, home address and phone in your e-mail signature.
  - Send an individual e-mail from **each member** of your household.

#### CITY COUNCIL CONTACT LIST :

[http://www.roserichardsonenterprises.com/files/City\\_of\\_Toronto\\_Council\\_Email\\_Contact\\_List\\_20111212.pdf](http://www.roserichardsonenterprises.com/files/City_of_Toronto_Council_Email_Contact_List_20111212.pdf)

- 4.) If you have any personal contacts in the GTA news media, please reach-out to them - and let them know that we are willing

to talk to anyone (at any time).

## THE UGLY DETAILS

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There are a number of suggestions that we have presented as alternates to **CLOSING** the doors at **Fairmount Park CC**. My presentation to the Toronto Budget Committee is posted to YouTube in two (2) parts.

Give me just "**4 1/2 minutes**" of your time to watch the first video - and then decide if you want to listen to the rest of what I have to say...

**Mark (Part 1)** = <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms3zrq1P7k8&feature=email>

**Mark (Part 2)** = <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8mx59MR8U4&feature=email>

**Susana** = [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhAPY\\_UgSAs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhAPY_UgSAs)

All other Radio and TV content is on the **FairmountParkCC Channel** = <http://www.youtube.com/user/FairmountParkCC?feature=watch>

The supporting materials for my presentation are here (please read them over)...

**COVER LETTER** - [http://www.roserichardsonenterprises.com/files/City\\_of\\_Toronto-Budget\\_Committee-20111204.pdf](http://www.roserichardsonenterprises.com/files/City_of_Toronto-Budget_Committee-20111204.pdf)

**FEE COMPARISON** - [http://www.roserichardsonenterprises.com/files/Ontario\\_Municipal\\_Recreation\\_Fee\\_comparison\\_-\\_20111204.pdf](http://www.roserichardsonenterprises.com/files/Ontario_Municipal_Recreation_Fee_comparison_-_20111204.pdf)

The Globe and Mail article is here (\*please add an on-line comment of support) - <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/toronto/marcus-gee/charge-more-and-save-programs-dad-tells-budget-committee/article2266828/>

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## Long-Term Fixes

(My personal list - so take them for what they're worth...)

- 1.) Increase the Gate-fees for Programs to the Ontario-Averages, then turn those funds around to increase / improve the "Welcome Program" for those who need it. (Look at how the YMCA and other Ontario Cities handle the "flexible payment" model).
- 2.) Charge an on-line booking fee for Credit Card users to at least recover the 2 to 4% the City gives to the bank on each transaction.
- 3.) If programs "sell-out" at the higher-rates, add MORE capacity (quickly) to meet the demand - and generate more income for the Community Centres.
- 4.) Take a long-hard look at the relationship between City / TDSB for these shared-use buildings. If City doesn't "charge-back" for daytime Pool / Field use - why does the TDSB charge the City for evening/weekend Gym use...?

Somewhere between **CLOSING** the doors - and Charging EVERYONE an extra **\$18.27** per visit (2010 Net Cost @ Fairmount Park CC)...is a compromise that the Mayor and a Majority of Council can accept for the 2012 Budget.

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Thanks,  
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