

### **Multiplex Progress Update**

The last few weeks have not been kind to the multiplex project. Construction at the facility has seen some significant delays and there have been more cost overruns to those originally reported. The Multiplex Committee has waited before reporting to the Community on the details of the delays and cost overruns so that it could better assess the financial and time implications of the issues. The Committee feels it can now provide the information to the Community since it has costs and potential time frame delays.

Firstly the costs; at present the Multiplex project stands at \$9.1 million in construction costs, this is about \$1,000,000 more than the original estimate. A majority of the increased costs are directly attributed to 3 components.

1) Heating and Hoarding - \$450,000

As stated in a previous article the winter was especially difficult for construction. Its early start and the fact that we still had snow on May 1<sup>st</sup> all added to the enormous bill for heating and hoarding during the winter of 2010/11. Unfortunately, winter construction was a necessity if we were to have the facility available for the upcoming season.

2) Heat Recovery System - \$250,000

The installation of a heat recovery system that will help to defray operating costs for years to come ended up costing an additional \$250,000. The Committee viewed this as a necessary investment to ensure a financially viable operation for years to come.

3) Ice Slab Floor - \$150,000

The base for the ice slab floor was found to contain too much organic material and thus was inappropriate for the new ice surface floor. Excavation and removal of the original material and replacement with engineered base will help ensure the long term strength and usefulness of the floor but the fix wasn't cheap. The ice slab floor is a key component to the functionality of the facility however, whether it is used as an ice surface, trade show hall, concert venue or theatre, a well built floor is crucial.

All of the cost increases has meant that the Town of Russell has had to issue the second \$1,000,000 debenture, something the Council worked very hard to avoid.

Not only has the Multiplex Project seen increased costs but a couple of the items listed above have also caused delays in the opening date for the facility. In particular the work that needed to be done on the heat recovery system and the ice slab floor base have pushed back the date for the use of the facility until mid to late October. This is disappointing especially because 2011 version of the Beef and Barley Festival may not be in the new facility.

Both the cost increases and the time delays are disappointing, and while the Multiplex once done will be the jewel of the Community, it isn't much fun right now. In fact no one is more disappointed and

frustrated about how the project has gone than the Committee. This isn't the news that the Committee wanted to have to bring to the Community but it is where the Multiplex is at. The Fundraising Committee and Town Council are still working hard to secure additional funds to help reduce the impact on the community and will continue to do so in the weeks and months to come.

The Fundraising Committee remains active over the summer with all aspects of the campaign progressing including personal and corporate fundraising as well as special events. For further information on the progress of the Russell Regional Multiplex please visit the Town of Russell website at [www.russellmb.com](http://www.russellmb.com) . If you have any questions or comments regarding the facility please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Multiplex Funding Campaign Committee. The Committee members are Chris Radford, Bruce Christopher, Alan Stanchuk, Symantha Dunn, Keith Popp, Gerald Keating and Terry Rolfe.