



COUGAR DOME CHATTER – 2nd EDITION

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Facility Director

It's hard to believe it's been a month since we last chatted, but wow, has it been a busy one, filled with lots of exciting news, relative to The Cougar Dome!

First and foremost, we are on schedule, and on budget, which is something we are very proud of! As of today, within The Dome, tennis courts are being laid, the track surface is being prepped, and the long and triple jump pit is nearing completion. Construction relative to the Clubhouse is moving along at warp speed, and we are now in the process of finalizing our selections for finishing touches (as a huge HGTV fan, this is one of my favorite parts – I love design). Needless to say, as promised, we will be open prior to the end of the year, and within the next few weeks, we will be sharing with you details surrounding the multitude of offerings we'll be hosting within The Dome.

In the meantime, you'll be seeing and hearing lots from us, as we have a number of initiatives and activities scheduled during the month of November.

As most of you are aware, we have been competing in the AVIVA Community Fund competition (a HUGE THANK YOU to all who have supported us thus far) for a chance to win \$150,000 towards the completion of our Dome, and the purchase of equipment. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in Round 2, as we did not reach Top 10, but we have been afforded another kick at the can in Round 3. For those who do not know, qualification is based on the highest number of votes received. In Round 2, we were within 800 votes of Top 10. That said, we feel we have a great chance in Round 3, and we ask for your help in securing us that Top 10 spot this time. How, you may ask. Starting Monday, November 11th, at 12:00noon, simply go to <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org>, register and vote for The Cougar Dome (#acf18482), once per day, for 15 days (ends November 25th at 12:00noon). It takes no time, and it could mean you helping us to get that much closer to building our facility debt free (how amazing would that be)!

Outside of AVIVA, and our additional fundraising and sponsorship efforts, we have been focusing on one of our newest alliances with the 60 Minute Kids Club (<http://60minkidsclub.org/>). Committed to our mandate of encouraging and facilitating healthy lifestyles among all community members, in particular, our youth, it just made sense to partner with this group! The 60 Minute Kids Club is a free program designed to get kids excited about making the right healthy choices. Collaborating with some of the Nation's top health organizations, the 60 Minute Kids Club has a multitude of resources for students, teachers and parents, many of which we'll be sharing with you in the months to come. In the interim, however, I encourage you to check them out!

For all those who have children, and/or the average Santa Clause parade fan, please keep an eye out for The Cougar Dome float this year! We'll have some of Santa's most active elves showcasing their athletic abilities, while sharing with you, some of Santa's Cougar Dome goodies! We look forward to seeing you there!

While prepping for the parade, we'll also be working hard to solidify our staffing plans, with job postings due to go up, prior to the end of the month. For those who may be interested in an opportunity with The Cougar Dome (including volunteers), please keep an eye out for those postings, and forward your resume and cover letter to director@cougardome.ca.

Finally, during the month of November, although we've received a great deal of support from both donors and sponsors (THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH), we still have work to be done on the funding front, and will continue in our efforts to build this facility debt free, prior to opening our doors.

Well, with all of that said, I guess I had better stop chatting, and get back to work! There's lots to be done to ensure we're ready for your first visit to The Cougar Dome next month...Not long now (can you tell I'm excited☺)!