

50 MILLION MORE DUMPED IN OSHAWA TRIBUTE COMMUNITIES CENTRE WILL IT BE WORTH IT?

OSHAWA - The Tribute Communities Centre (TCC) in Oshawa has generally operated with mixed financial results, often requiring operational reserves to cover shortfalls, though it achieved a reported \$400,000 surplus in the 2025-2026 season due to strong Oshawa Generals OHL hockey games, Oshawa FireWolves NLL lacrosse games, concerts, and other major live events, along with a new prominent home for the Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame.

Key Financial Aspects of the TCC:

Operating Status: While the arena often faces deficits, it achieved a \$400,000 surplus for the 2025-2026 season.

Operational Funding: In prior years, it was typical to report funding deficits and use reserve funds to make up the shortfall.

- New 30-Year Deal: A 2025 partnership with Oak View Group (OVG) and the Oshawa Generals ensures 30 years of stability.

-Modernization Investment: A \$50 million investment to upgrade the facility (starting in 2027) will be funded through new agreements, the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), and additional seat revenue rather than tax increases.

Economic Impact: The facility is a "multi-faceted economic driver" for downtown, providing indirect revenue through parking, hotels, and restaurants.

Operational Loss: The city still covers an estimated annual operating loss of roughly \$850k and is paying off the initial construction debt. The City of Oshawa is pleased to share more details on the \$50-million project to modernize the Tribute Communities Centre (TCC). The project has now been issued for tender, supported by a developed design that will continue to evolve through subsequent phases of the project. A rendering showcasing a first concept of the envisioned front entrance and enhanced streetscape marks a significant milestone in the transformation of Oshawa's premier sports and entertainment venue.

In April 2025, the City announced the \$50-million investment along with historic 30-year partnerships with the Oshawa Generals Hockey Club of the Oshawa Hockey League (OHL) and Oak View Group (OVG). As operators of the City-owned TCC, Oak View Group is investing in the facility infrastructure, including a modernized concession area.

In October 2025, the Oshawa FireWolves of the National Lacrosse League (NLL) announced they would become the league's seventh Canadian fran-

chise, playing their home games at the TCC along with a five-year partnership with the City of Oshawa.

The City's \$50-million investment will deliver a revitalized facility that will enhance the experience for fans attending Oshawa Generals OHL hockey games, Oshawa FireWolves NLL lacrosse games, concerts, and other major live events, along with a new prominent home for the Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame.

First opened in November 2006, and approaching its 20th anniversary, the TCC will undergo extensive upgrades, including:

- a major expansion of the main entrance

- features and interior renovations

- updated seating for a minimum capacity of 7,000 a refreshed concession area improved player facilities to support top-tier talent.

A key element of the modernization is the relocation of the Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame to a high-visibility location at the front of the TCC. The redesigned space will provide 24/7 public exposure to its displays, providing more visibility to showcase and celebrate

Oshawa's rich and accomplished sports heritage.

The modernization will strengthen Oshawa's position as a premier sports and entertainment destination, ensure the TCC remains eligible to host major events such as the Memorial Cup, and support OVG in attracting additional sports, entertainment, and live performance opportunities.

The modernization will not impact the City's tax rate. Funding will be sourced through the new agreements with the Oshawa Generals and OVG, the Municipal Accommodation Tax, and additional seat revenue. Construction is anticipated to be phased over two years to maintain facility operations while work is underway.

The question that lingers. What is the benefit to the taxpayers that keep flipping the bill for the operating deficit.

When people are living on City of Oshawa streets. When people are facing economic hardships.

When the downtown is emptying at an alarming rate.

Is the 50 million renovation a wise expense for the city?

What is your take? What do you think?



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