

**There's a new
ball game
in town.**
(Several, actually)





A FACILITY FOR EVERYONE

"This facility was built not only for where Cornwall is today, but where we are headed as a City."



Scott Lecky and Marty Benson

The Benson Centre, Cornwall's new multi-sport facility opened in May 2011, immediately establishing itself as a "go-to" sports venue in Ontario.

The bright and spacious facility includes three NHL sized rinks that can be used for ball hockey, lacrosse and of course, ice hockey. Dressing rooms, comfortable seating areas and energy efficient ice plants will ensure a great experience for athletes and fans alike.

Yet despite the busy rinks, it is perhaps the field house that captures the attention of most first-time visitors. The broad green expanse of the indoor soccer pitch can be home to multiple games at once, and the state-of-the-art artificial turf is at once both soft and true. You only need to stand on the turf for a few moments before an urge to find a soccer ball or football takes over.

The indoor tennis court at the far end of the field house has proved to be an instant hit with players of all ages, as has the rest of the building which includes special event rooms and offices for local sport organizations.

"This facility was built not only for where Cornwall is today, but where we are headed as a City," says Mayor Bob Kilger.

"The Benson Centre will help us attract new residents, and at the same time host major tournaments that will bring in thousands of visitors every year."

The \$34 million dollar facility was funded with equal shares from the City, Province and Federal governments. A \$2 million community fundraising effort led by local businessman Scott Lecky and a dedicated team of volunteers was capped off with the purchase of the facility's naming rights by the Benson Organization.

"We're proud to call the City of Cornwall our home," said Marty Benson. "It's because of the support the community gives to us that we are in a position to give back. We're excited about contributing to a project that benefits kids and people of all ages, background or athletic ability."

The Benson Organization is a Cornwall success story, operating a network of strategically located auto part retail outlets in Ontario and Quebec from its headquarters in the Cornwall Business Park.

The Benson Centre has room to grow, and may soon be home to outdoor soccer pitches to complement the indoor activity. ♦



The Benson Centre is located between Seventh Street and Second Street, just west of Brookdale Avenue.



cornwall

LIVING

This article has been reprinted
from the 2011 edition of Cornwall Living magazine.
The magazine is published annually by Seaway News.

You can order your **free copy** of
the current version of the magazine via the
ChooseCornwall.ca website.



Seaway News 