

Gymnastics facility to double floor space, reduce wait list



A computer generated image shows the exterior of the new home for Delta Gymnastics that will be situated adjacent to the Ladner Leisure Centre. Ground breaking is expected sometime this month, with construction completed mid-December and a grand opening by next spring.

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The community is going to flip for the new, \$2.8 million home of Delta Gymnastics.

That's the feeling from the popular organization's executive director who said the new facility, which will be twice as large as the current 7,500-square-foot gym at the South Delta Recreation Centre, will help eliminate a lengthy wait list of budding gymnasts.

"We're ecstatic," said Mark Friesen. "We're looking forward to the next era of Delta Gymnastics."

The club regularly has upwards of a 100 youngsters waiting for a spot to open up, said Friesen, who added the club's

community programs will also benefit from the bigger gym which will be located adjacent to the Ladner Leisure Centre.

Hopes are the project will break ground sometime this month and construction completed before the end of the year. A grand opening is anticipated next spring.

Friesen said the Corporation of Delta conducted a study to determine the best location for the new gym and came up with a spot west of the outdoor lacrosse box. The Ladner Skate Park will be moved to closer to Clarence Taylor Crescent to accommodate the new gym and extra parking will be developed.

Friesen said hopes are the more central location will help attract more gymnasts from North Delta.

"I think the new location is meant to try an unite all three (Ladner, Tsawwassen, North Delta) communities," Friesen said.


Funding for the project came from a combination of sources. The gymnastics club provided \$1.2 million, the Corporation of Delta added \$938,500, and the federal government kicked in \$753,000 through its infrastructure funding program.

The corporation's funding may increase by roughly \$175,000 if a geothermal system is installed in the building to reduce its energy consumption for heating and air conditioning.

Plans for the current gym once Delta Gymnastics moves out have it being used as a community sports facility.

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