Council Direction:

At the November 19, 2008 Emergency and Community Services Committee Meeting, staff was directed to investigate and report back on the feasibility and costs associated with the expansion needs of the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, and how that would fit with the City’s recently approved Use, Renovation and Replacement Study.

Information:

The Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club has a long and productive history of working successfully with the City of Hamilton. At the November 19, 2008, Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting, Kiwanis indicated their interest in providing Boys and Girls Club programs and services in one of our recreation facilities on the Hamilton Mountain.

Staff from the Community Services Department, Recreation Division reviewed this interest as part of the Use, Renovation and Replacement Study of Hamilton Recreation and Public Use Facilities.

In 2009, Kiwanis expanded Boys and Girls Club services to Blessed Kateri School in Ward 6 and Westwood School in Ward 8. This funding came from the Ministry of Health Promotion’s After School Program.
Discussion

While the intent of the Use, Renovation and Replacement Study is to set high-level and long-term direction for the provision of municipal indoor recreation facilities, there were significant decisions and areas that were not fully addressed within the scope of the study. Operating arrangements and/or specific partnerships for existing or new facilities were not specifically included in the scope of the Study. The Study did identify that any operating or specific partnerships should only be recommended if they bring "increased benefit" to the community.

The recently approved Recreation Division Reorganization; and, specifically, the Neighbourhood & Rural Community Outreach Section, will be responsible for the development of a Community Partnership Policy. This policy will provide a framework of principles and procedures to guide potential partnership opportunities that bring greater benefit to the community. The intent of the framework will be to nurture long-term collaborative relationships, define roles and responsibilities, provide transparent assessment criteria, and establish a performance monitoring process to ensure ongoing positive partnerships.

Once the Director of City Wide Services and the Manager of Neighbourhood & Rural Community Outreach are in place, staff will begin the development of outreach strategies and partnership opportunities, which will include further consultations with community organizations such as the Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club.

The Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club have been contacted regarding the next steps. They are supportive of the direction and look forward to further consultations.