

# **Rainy Lake Gymnastics Academy**

rlgymnasticsacademy@gmail.com

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February 7, 2019

**Mr. Jason Kabel**

*Community Services Executive Committee*

Town of Fort Frances

320 Portage Avenue

Fort Frances, Ontario

P9A 3P9

Dear Sir:

**RE: DEPUTATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION  
PROPOSAL FROM RAINY LAKE GYMNASTICS ACADEMY**

Further to the above, please consider this proposal from the Rainy Lake Gymnastics Academy ("RLGA") to rent the Auditorium at the Memorial Sports Centre ("MSC") to facilitate a gymnastics club in the Town of Fort Frances.

**BACKGROUND**

The RLGA has been formed by members of the community who have a love for the sport of gymnastics and have recently incorporated a non-profit corporation in hopes of having this sport return to the community. (**Tab 1** - Letters Patent for Rainy Lake Gymnastics Academy) (**Tab 2**- By-Laws of Rainy Lake Gymnastics Academy – *pending signature of Janis Abbott*)

Few things make us happier than seeing the joy on the face of a young athlete as they master a new skill in a sport they love. For some this sport is hockey, for others the sport may be swimming or badminton, or even dancing. For us though, the sport is gymnastics. Given our love for the sport, the community and our youth, we are working hard to create a new gymnastics club for our town.

We have surveyed the community and surrounding area to estimate the interest in a gymnastics club starting in Fort Frances. Parents of over 300 youth that have expressed interest in a gymnastics program in the community. We understand that not everyone who expresses interest will commit to registering, but even a small fraction of that number would be an excellent start for this Club. (**Tab 3** – Summary of Interested Athletes and Comments from Parents).

We would like to offer a recreational program for all ages, including conditioning classes that would be open to all athletes as an option for cross-training. More programming would follow as we establish our Club.

## **PROPOSAL**

After much work viewing various buildings and properties throughout the District, we are unable to find a space that is feasible or available for a new club to use. We are proposing that Town of Fort Frances allow the RLGA to have use of the Auditorium at the MSC. More specifically we are proposing the following:

- Semi-permanent use of the MSC Auditorium from approximately September to May of each calendar;
- Use for a term of 3 years;
- Initial Rent at \$1,300.00 per month for each month of use of the Auditorium;
- Continue use of space for MSC Fitness Classes; and
- Continue use of space for events already booked in the Auditorium (i.e. Weddings, Socials, Banquets).

This proposal is subject to our ability to raise the funds necessary to purchase equipment to properly run the program. We are unable to commence fundraising until we secure a suitable facility to run such a specialized program. We are providing this proposal to you, in an attempt to secure ensure we have a space we can utilise for gymnastics. We are prepared to start fundraising as soon as we have a location secured.

## **SEMI-PERMANENT USE**

We would like to be able to leave our equipment set up in the space. We would take down the equipment and store it for the months of June to August, which may be busier months for the space with weddings and other events. We hope to store our equipment during the summer months in the MSC, but we are also open to finding additional storage facilities if it is not possible. The exact timing of our gymnastics season for 2019-2020 will not be determined until we are further into fundraising as well as equipment ordering

## **3 YEAR TERM**

We are proposing a term of 3 years. This would give the RLGA enough time to find a more permanent facility if the club is in a position to do so. Alternatively, this would give the Town time to decide on future use of the facility by the RLGA on a more permanent basis. The term is a suggestion.

## **RENT**

We are proposing to rent the Auditorium from the Town for \$1,300.00 a month. We decided on this amount in hopes it would be sufficient to cover the costs to rent the space and as an attempt to match the revenue the Town would otherwise receive from other rentals of the Auditorium from

the months of September to May of each year. This is a fee that we would be open to negotiate if it was decided this rate was not sufficient to match current revenue, or would not recuperate costs of using the facility. We will also need to consider our own revenue as a club and the cost we can afford once we are able to determine better our registrations and fees.

### **USE FOR FITNESS CLASSES**

We understand the MSC uses the auditorium to run many of its fitness classes and we propose that this continues. Our equipment would include a spring floor. We propose to work with the Scheduler for the MSC to ensure fitness classes are still offered while we are renting the space. Attached is a preliminary draft schedule in which there would be ample opportunities for the MSC to continue their fitness classes (**Tab 4 – Draft Schedule**). Our hope in year 2 and 3 would be to have more and more gymnastics programming while still having timeslots each evening the fitness classes.

Speith Anderson is a gymnastics equipment provider. We have contacted them in regards to the proposed space of the auditorium and they have provided us with a draft layout of the space (**Tab 5– Draft Layout of Auditorium Space**). The largest rectangle on the layout would be the floor space we are recommending be used for fitness classes. Though preliminary, this is most likely how the space will be used.

### **USE FOR PREVIOUSLY BOOK EVENTS**

We understand that the Auditorium already has some bookings during our proposed rental period. We propose that all Weddings, Socials, Banquets, etc. already booked in the Auditorium take place. We are prepared to take down and remove all equipment ahead of these pre-scheduled events so long as we know the schedule ahead of our season in order to prepare for take down and adjust class fees as necessary for cancelled classes. We are also hopeful there will be temporary space to store our equipment for those weekends we need to take down and remove our equipment. We are requesting that should our proposal be approved and all terms are agreed upon, no further events be booked in the Auditorium during our period of use.

The MSC is an ideal location for the gymnastics club. The MSC is centrally located. There are many parents bringing their children into the facility for swimming, hockey, skating, and squash. We hope our proposal has given the Town something to consider for future use of the Auditorium at the MSC. We look forward to discussing any and every aspect of this proposal with you. Our hope is that our proposal has been considerate of both the needs of the Town of Fort Frances as well as the needs of the RLGA.

Rainy Lake Gymnastics Academy is excited and honoured to contribute to the active, happy and healthy lifestyle that the Town of Fort Frances promotes through the Memorial Sports Centre.

If you have any questions, we invite you to contact our President, Jessica Ogden at 807-276-4428 or email: [rlgymnasticsacademy@gmail.com](mailto:rlgymnasticsacademy@gmail.com). We look forward to your feedback and review of our proposal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Ogden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jessica" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Ogden".

**Rainy Lake Gymnastics Academy**

Per: Jessica Ogden

President