

# Cambridge sports multiplex: Timeline of a troubled project 2014-2019

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[Carmen Groleau](#) · CBC News · Posted: Feb 16, 2019 10:05 AM ET | Last Updated: February 18  
Cambridge's proposed sports multiplex will no longer be located at the Cambridge Centre Mall because it was no longer an affordable option for the city. (Kate Bueckert/CBC)

As the city of Cambridge scrapped plans to build the city's sports multiplex at the Cambridge Centre Mall earlier this month, CBC K-W has put together a timeline of how the multiplex project developed over several years.

- [CBC K-W archived coverage of Cambridge sports multiplex](#)

## 2019

### February 2019: City cancels plans for Cambridge Centre

The City of Cambridge passes a motion to cancel plans to build the multiplex at the Cambridge Centre Mall. Staff deem the project too expensive and are directed to find new affordable locations to present on March 5.

## 2018

### August 2018: No update

CBC K-W reaches out to the City of Cambridge for an update on the multiplex project. No update from council.

## 2017

### December 2017: Cambridge Centre to becomes home of multiplex

Cambridge city councilors vote in favour of the Cambridge Centre Mall as the home of the multiplex's non-aquatic portion.

It became the favoured spot after Sears Canada announced it would be closing its location at the mall. The new site was to include three rinks including the existing ice rink, three gymnasiums, and a walking and running track with room for the sports hall-of-fame.

### October 2017: Council votes to split multiplex

Council votes to split the multiplex into two facilities. At the time, the Cambridge Centre Mall emerged as a possible location after the Chamber of Commerce mentioned more than a year ago the future of Sears was uncertain.

Mayor Doug Craig said splitting the sports facilities will help the city save money because they may be able to utilize part of the former Sears store at the Cambridge Centre and they wouldn't need to build additional parking at the mall.

Site Scoring Results	1	2	3	4	5	
Address	220 Pinebush	1001 Franklin Blvd * (removed)	850 Fountain Street South (Conestoga)	261 Hespeler Rd	112 Pinebush Road	North of Fran Savag
Overall Score	71.8	69.1	59.0	71.8	67.2	5
Criteria / Score						
Community Impact	Medium	High	Low	High	Medium	Me
Level of Cost	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Me
Degree of Access	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium	Li
Site Size (Expansion Potential)	High	Low	Low	Low	High	Me
Timing	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Me

The taskforce ranked six locations based on certain criteria. 1001 Franklin Blvd, was removed from the list because it is already leased to a company that runs a sports facility, including ice pads. (Report to council)

### March 2017: Multiple sites proposed

A new option put on the table for the Cambridge sports multiplex would see the facility split between two locations: the gym and swimming pool at one site and the ice rinks at a second site.

The multiple site option was discussed at a meeting in March, where councilors also consider the work involved in analysing the five proposed locations for the sports facility.

### January 2017: Mayor sitting on multiplex task force

In September 2016 a resident had complained to ADR Chambers, a Toronto legal and mediation office that serves as Cambridge's integrity commissioner, about mayor Doug Craig's involvement on the multiplex task force.

The resident argued Craig violated the city's procedural bylaw in regards to board and committee meetings. But city's integrity commissioner rules Craig did not break any rules when he sat on the multiplex task force.

Residents and stakeholders meet with the multiplex task force to provide input on top five locations.

## **2016**

### **December 2016: Top five spots for multiplex**

The city's multiplex task force reveals the top five locations for the multiplex. At the time, two locations were tied for the number one spot, which were 220 Pinebush Road and 261 Hespeler Road, the former industrial property which housed the Grand River Flea Market.

The third spot was 112 Pinebush Road, followed by Franklin Boulevard and Savage Drive. The fifth spot was 850 Fountain Street South.

Conestoga College was initially the proposed location for Cambridge's multiplex back in 2016. (Brian St. Denis/CBC)

### **May 2016: Cambridge defers from Conestoga College location**

The City of Cambridge decides to look at alternative locations for the multiplex due to residents not being happy with the initial location at Conestoga College, saying the location better serves residents of south Kitchener than Cambridge.

Council says it won't make a decision about where a proposed multiplex will go until the end of September.

### **March 2016: Anywhere but Conestoga College**

Cambridge Coun. Nicholas Ermeta tells CBC K-W he wants the city's new sports facility to be built anywhere other than at Conestoga College, despite the fact that council had already voted in favour of the campus location.

He said the campus is an "unacceptable" location for the city's new sports facility.

## **2015**

### **August 2015:**

The proposed partnership between the city and Conestoga College gets opposition from the public.

### **April 2015:**

Council directs staff to develop a partnership agreement with Conestoga College to build the multiplex.

## **2014**

**2014-2015:**

Cambridge staff complete a recreational master plan that recommends the construction of a new multi-use sports facility.