



**Capital  
Pride**  
Ottawa's most colourful festival  
Le plus coloré des festivals d'Ottawa  
**Fierté  
dans la capitale**

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## **Capital Pride loses site due to Rink of Dreams**

With the City of Ottawa's approval to build the new Rink of Dreams on City Hall grounds, Capital Pride could be left without a space to host the festival at the end of August. This comes two months before the festival opens, and with the lack of availability in central parks, there is a struggle to find a resolution as to where it will fit the 8,000 people who attend the festivities following the Parade.

City Council approved the construction of the Rink of Dreams on Wednesday, June 8 to be built at Marion Dewar Plaza beginning in July. The original plan was to begin building the rink in September, which would have allowed Capital Pride to use the grounds at City Hall without complications.

"Although Capital Pride appreciates the support we are getting from the City in helping us try to find a new location for the festival, we are concerned about the timing of the start of construction for this project. We are around two months away from our start date and with the decision to start this project now, all of the final preparations for our event are on hold until a suitable relocation is possible," said Doug Saunders-Riggins, Capital Pride Chair.

Mayor Jim Watson reassured that staff is working to accommodate the festival during construction. Capital Pride and the City of Ottawa have a longstanding relationship that has strongly benefited the local economy. If a resolution is not found for this issue soon, Capital Pride will be looking at possible cancellations of some festivities during its final weekend (August 27 and 28) which will not only hurt the festival this year but for years to come.

The lack of centrally-located venues to accommodate the Festival is a cause for concern. Confederation Park, Major's Hill Park and Lebreton Flats are either National Capital Commission Properties or have already been booked. Given the late notice, it will be difficult to find a suitable space for Capital Pride to hold its festival.

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*Capital Pride: Ottawa's Most Colourful Festival  
Fierté dans la Capitale: Le plus coloré des festivals d'Ottawa*

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