



THE CORPORATION OF THE  
CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

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MAYOR

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November 3, 2014

Mr. Jason Ball  
President  
Ball Construction  
Kitchener, ON

Testimonial: Ball Construction

On behalf of St. Catharines City Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support to Ball Construction who worked in collaboration with Rankin Construction to successfully manage the construction of our new \$50 million spectator facility, the Meridian Centre. Rankin Construction was responsible for the site works and Ball Construction coordinated the building construction trades. Despite an aggressive deadline, a tight budget, a harsh winter and complex site conditions, the Meridian Centre opened on schedule this fall to rave reviews of our local community.

The Meridian Centre was built in a bowl design to accommodate the needs of our OHL team, the Niagara IceDogs (with 5,300 seats) and has the flexibility to host various other sports and entertainment events. At maximize capacity, the venue can seat over 6,000. Having hosted several OHL hockey games and a sold out concert, the Meridian Centre boasts state of the art features which have proven to maximize the spectator experience.

The building site is commonly known as the lower level and is situated behind our main street, St Paul Street in downtown St. Catharines. The lower level site presented several challenging features in that it is a unique shape with soil stability and environmental complications. It is site of the first Welland Canal which has been filled with 60 feet of refuse and has bedrock 115 ft down. Creating a sound foundation required raising the elevation by 1.3 metres and piling 350 steel piles, each 100 feet in length into the ground. The lower level is also the present building site of the Brock University's Marilyn I Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts and is nearby to the City's new Performing Arts Centre building site. The logistical challenges of managing the spectator facility building site in conjunction with two others in close proximity were all overcome by the Ball-Rankin team.

As an integral part of our downtown revitalization, it was vital to create connectivity to our main street from the lower level site of the spectator facility. In this regard, two concrete pedestrian bridges were designed and constructed as walkways for spectators creating a unique dynamic between the event venue, our downtown business community and our parking garages.

The Meridian Centre was the City's first experience with a design-build project. Preliminary site work began in December 2012 with an anticipated grand opening date scheduled for October 2014. To the credit of the Ball-Rankin team, the entire project proceeded on schedule and on budget. Communication throughout the project was consistent with weekly meetings scheduled throughout including all the stakeholders involved. A co-operative and healthy partnership evolved.

The workmanship of all Ball-Rankin employees and the sub-contractors involved in the project exceeded our expectations. In fact, the facility was constructed without injury to any of those who worked on site during the 22 months of construction. The Canadian Construction Association awarded Ball Rankin the Construction Gold Seal Certification for the quality of their work on the Meridian Centre. This is the first City of St. Catharines facility to earn this distinction.

Without reservation, I would strongly recommend Ball-Rankin Construction Inc. for any infrastructure project. As strong family businesses, their corporate cultures are similar and they have each earned standards of excellence from the construction industry. Each firm brings a strong portfolio of various projects along with the engineering and building expertise to collaborate on major projects which are an important investment for communities and generations into the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian McMullan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Brian McMullan  
Mayor