

Who Owns It and Who Runs It?

The Chelsea Foundation owns the land that the future Meredith Centre, three existing soccer fields and the Chelsea Farmer's market now occupy. These 20 acres became Chelsea Foundation property due to a generous donation from Mrs. Betty Meredith to the Chelsea community and a \$150,000 in donations from over 100 Chelsea families. These families and many others who gave their professional time without payment to make the Meredith Centre possible are known as the New Pioneers.

The Municipality of Chelsea will own Meredith Centre building. The federal and Quebec governments have financed two-thirds of the cost of the building (\$6.1M) through a provincial infrastructure program. A condition of the grant is that the Municipality own the building. The Municipality will lease a portion of the Chelsea Foundation lands for renewable periods of 25 years, with an option to purchase the lands at fair market value at the conclusion of each period.

A new not-for-profit organization called the Meredith Centre Corporation will run the Meredith Centre. The board of directors of this new corporation will include equal representation from the Municipality and the Chelsea Foundation. The chair of the board will be an independent representative of the community, who can cast a tie-breaking vote.

The corporation will engage a full-time executive director whose task is make the Meredith Centre a hub of activity for all sectors and interest groups in the community. The Meredith Centre is designed to operate at break-even or a slight surplus and use revenue-generating activities to finance free or subsidized activities for Chelsea residents.

The Chelsea Foundation lands and the Meredith Centre are meant to remain as a recreational and cultural asset of the Chelsea community. The Meredith Centre will continue to run **for as long a period as we can foresee.**