

# CANADIAN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE *in the Works*

**T**wo large-scale Canadian projects proposed for Hong Kong - a permanent home for the Canadian International School and the construction of a Canadian community centre are in advanced stages of investigation and approval from the Hong Kong government.

The Canadian International School, now in its third year of operation, provides a high quality Canadian education to a local and expatriate group of students. The School opened its doors in 1991 with 90 students. Enrolment is growing quickly - right now there are 300 students but the school plans to add at least one grade a year and eventually reach 1,200 students. Currently in temporary quarters in Causeway Bay, the school is in need of a permanent home.

As an auxiliary to this, the idea of a Canadian Community Centre has arisen. The organizers are hoping the two projects can and will be built adjacent to one another.

**J**ohn Crawford, a senior partner at Ernst & Young, together with representatives from each of the existing Canadian community groups, have been the driving forces behind the project. Crawford sees the school and community centre as an exciting boon for both students and the Hong Kong public. "It would truly be a one plus one equals three contribution to Hong Kong," he says, "and a first class chance to raise the Canadian flag."

As always in Hong Kong, land is at a premium. Two sites are under consideration - both located on prime land on Hong Kong Island's south side, one of which overlooks the Aberdeen typhoon shelter. The land is expected to be donated by the Hong Kong Government once approval is granted.

Organizers are looking to the fine exam-

used for a number of other sporting events like badminton, tennis and basketball. These events would be held at night and on weekends; during the day the venue could be used by the school and the public.

**T**he 5-6,000 seat stadium could also be converted into a concert hall, helping to alleviate the severe venue crunch in Hong Kong. All of these activities would be key in generating revenue to pay for the centre's maintenance so it could be run on a break-even basis.

According to the proposal, the community centre would be open to the Hong Kong public and managed by Canadians. "It wouldn't be just a Canadian put-your-feet-up-by-the-pool club," says Crawford, "it would be for the public but driven by Canadians...with a unique Canadian flavour." He and others see it as a chance for Canadians to give

something back to the Hong Kong community. At the same time it raises the Canadian profile in Hong Kong and gives Canadian community groups a physical location from which to focus.

Both projects are still evolving with many issues to be resolved. First and foremost, the land needs to be approved by the Hong Kong government. Traffic considerations, parking and public access will likely influence the final decision. Then, once approval is granted, drawings need to be finalized, cost estimates fine-tuned, and fund-raising started. ♦



*Mr. John Crawford shows off some of the sporting events that could be held in the proposed Canadian community centre.*

ple of the recently built Chinese International School and are hoping to learn from that experience.

As Crawford points out, the school targets to break even each year on the basis of tuition fees but debentures as well as corporate and other donations will be necessary to build the new premises.

At the heart of the plans for the community centre lies an Olympic-size ice stadium, together with a smaller rink for figure skating and curling. The stadium, in addition to accommodating ice sports such as hockey leagues, would also be

