



## BELL SENSPLEX RECREATION FACILITY

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

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Dofasco Steel Design, 2005)

Design and Construction Team

Owner: Art Gallery of Hamilton

**Architect:** Edmundson Matthews

**General contractor:** Morley  
Hoppner Group.

**Steel building system (SBS)  
supplier:** Behlen Industries.  
T: 1-800-663-7538

**SBS erector:** Alberta Custom Steel  
Buildings.

## Steel Building System Hosts Hockey in the Nation's Capital



In December 2004 the Bell Sensplex, a state-of-the-art recreation facility, opened in Ottawa. The 2-storey 16,720 m<sup>2</sup> (180,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) complex houses a 4-pad ice arena, a Field House accommodating soccer, baseball and other activities indoors, a Main Concourse area at ground level with Pro Shop, Food Emporium, and an Interactive Area for kids. The second level features a sports bar and restaurant, a Viewing Area for spectators, a fitness centre, offices, the Roger Neilson Coaches' Centre, meeting rooms, banquet facilities, and a Slap Shot Rink. Among its many uses, the complex will serve as an alternate practice facility for the Ottawa Senators.

Operating under a public-private partnership, the first of its kind, between the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Community Ice Partners (OCIP)—a private group created specifically for the project—the Sensplex was designed by Edmundson Matthews Architects and built by the Morley Hoppner Group. Morley Hoppner selected Behlen Industries to supply a steel building system (SBS) for the entire structure. President Brad Morley notes, "We'd never worked with Behlen before, but associates of ours in the hockey

world recommended their building system for the project."

Originally conceived as a rigid frame structure, the design was changed to a frameless-type structure due to initial cost and ongoing operating efficiency, as well as energy efficiency and space utilization.

The Sensplex comprises a 12,127 m<sup>2</sup> (130,540 ft<sup>2</sup>) Behlen CORR SPAN<sup>®</sup> and Dubl-Panl<sup>®</sup> steel building system structure erected by Alberta Custom Steel Buildings. Work began on the site in March 2004, and the facility opened on December 12. The complex involves eight sections: two convex buildings housing arenas 1 and 2, and a continuous Dubl-Panl structure spanning



arenas 3 and 4, the Field House and a service/ office corridor, as well as two Single Panel exit stairways. The two independent convex buildings are linked to the combined Dubl-Panl building by conventional



Unpainted Galvalume Plus™ was used not only as wall cladding, but also for the roofs, ceiling and interior liner panels on the insulation face. Structural panel thicknesses range from 1.9 mm (.075") for the CS 75 wall panels down to .76 mm (.0299") for the CS 45 ceiling and curved roof panels, with the visual effect enhanced by heavy corrugation of 190.5 mm (7-1/2") for the walls and 114.3 mm (4-1/2") for the roofs and ceilings. BEHLEN's Regional Sales Manager Kent Freeland says, "Without conventional framing, our design allows clear spans that are ideal for this type of facility— ranging, for example, from 31 m (102 ft) in the Field House to 41.75 m (137 ft) in Rink Number 1."

construction for the core areas housing the restaurants and concourse, etc. For visual effect, the architects chose the cladding, which also functions as the framing, to be unpainted Galvalume Plus™ with a small portion 102 m long x 9.1 m high (335 ft x 30 ft) wrapping around three sides of the Field House prepainted black, grey and white to provide a very eye-catching contemporary appearance based on a pixellation created by greatly enlarging an Ottawa Senators' jersey logo.



**Canadian Sheet Steel Building Institute**  
 652 Bishop St. N., Unit 2A  
 Cambridge, ON N3H 4V6  
 Tel: (519) 650-1285  
 Fax (519) 650-8081  
 www.cssbi.ca