

2026/27 Fall & Winter Community News Magazine

Dakota's 3rd Arena & Recreation Centre Renewal & Expansion: Design Underway

Full story on Page 4



**Jonathan Toews
Comes Full Circle at
Dakota CC**

Full story on Page 7

THE **FORGE**

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Message from the Board Chair & CEO

As we reflect on another busy season at Dakota, we are continually inspired by the impact that Dakota has on so many and the different ways people continue to benefit from the amazing facilities and programs at our Centre.

This June, our Centre was bustling with activity as we welcomed more than 600 graduates from local high schools and thousands of their family members and friends for convocation ceremonies, as well as the many thousands more who attended the LRSD Division Graduation powwow, hosted again this year in our Fieldhouse. It is among our greatest accomplishments to have the facilities and incredible staff supports to be the backdrop to these very large important milestone events that are the hallmark of thousands of young lives and local celebrations.

On a more unique level, we were also thrilled and honoured to welcome Jonathan Toews back to where his early hockey career began, to host the announcement of his retirement from the NHL and the Winnipeg Jets. It was an exceptionally proud and profound moment to be recognized as the place where he was introduced to the game of hockey and so fitting to be chosen as the memorable destination for this milestone full circle conclusion. On behalf of all of Dakota community, we extend sincere best wishes to Jonathan in his retirement and for allowing us to be such an integral part of his amazing journey.

It is also both remarkable and notable as to how Dakota continues to be part of the lives of so many in our City. Every day, countless individuals come through our doors to play, connect, exercise, learn, compete, volunteer, celebrate, or to simply spend time with others. As we prepare to celebrate 40 years of Dakota in 2027 and, as participation and demand for exceptional play spaces grows, so does the need to plan and prepare for what is necessary for Dakota to grow to meet this demand and to continue to have a positive impact for the next generation.

Our plans for the future are taking shape, with the design phase for our 3rd Arena & Recreation Centre Renewal & Expansion Project underway. We are also continuing to work closely with all levels of government and other funding partners in order to secure the funding necessary to begin construction, as early as next summer. We expect to have more exciting announcements on this front in the coming months, as well as an opportunity for the public to see our design plans and provide their important input into what the redevelopment of Dakota will entail.

In preparation for this exciting growth and renewal, and as directed within our Strategic Plan, defining our role in today's Winnipeg sport and recreation landscape is essential as we embark on the next 40 years of Dakota. We know that our Centre has grown beyond what many people have known it to be and is now serving the needs of many people from far beyond our originally defined community catchment. Dakota has become a hub for large regional, provincial and national events and provides unfettered access to specialized facilities not otherwise available elsewhere in our City. While our 'Dakota' name and local community will always be the heartbeat of our Centre, we have begun exploring options and gathering feedback on changing the 'community centre' part of our name to better reflect the role we play as a regional hub for sport and recreation in our City and beyond. We welcome all feedback and will continue to keep our stakeholders informed as the process unfolds.

How ever our role and identity are defined going forward, we are confident that Dakota will continue in our proud tradition of the past 40 years, only with bigger plans and vision for our continued success and welcome you all to continue with us on this exciting journey.



Cory Shangreux
Board Chair



Michele Augert
President & CEO

Arena & Recreation Centre Expansion & Renewal Project Update



It has been a busy six months since our Dakota Project Team, lead by Number Ten Architects, began the year long task of designing and preparing shovel-ready plans for our 3rd Arena & Recreation Centre Renewal & Expansion Project.

Significant, planning, discussions, and collaborations with the team, the City of Winnipeg and other stakeholders have been part of the complex design work. This not only involves planning the intricate details of what will be included in the defined space for the arena expansion and recreation centre renewal, but also the important site improvement plans for our shared campus.

In this plan, the building project will involve about 80,000 square feet of expanded and renewed space, which will be attached/incorporated into the existing structure. These plans have taken into consideration all possible usable spaces available to the east side of the existing structure and have required some plan modifications to what was anticipated through the earlier block planning phase.

The all important site improvement plans, based on the Centre's Master Plan, will see expanded parking, improvements to vehicle and pedestrian circulation as well as the possibility of a new controlled entry and exit to our busy shared campus. The need to properly address, safety, relocation of amenities, such as the basketball court, preservation of our Dakota forest, as well as the critical issue of land drainage remain important factors in this planning.

While we continue to work through the design phase, we are working together with all levels of government and preparing our fundraising efforts to secure funds beyond the planning stage, and confirm the funds necessary to start construction as early as next summer. We expect more exciting news on this front in the coming months.

We are also pleased to share some of the early renderings prepared from our design process (this page) to see how this project is shaping up. More renderings and visuals will be on display at the public open house where we will unveil more of what our plans entail. Please stay tuned, we will be announcing the date shortly. It will also be an opportunity to hear feedback and answer questions from our community and other key stakeholders on the plans to date. Please watch our enews and our website for more details.

2025 / 26 Board of Directors

- ◆ **Cory Shangreaux**, Board Chair
- ◆ **Joseph Langan**, Vice Chair
- ◆ **Anthony Maros**, Treasurer
- ◆ **Christian Kennedy**, Past Chair
- ◆ **Sandy Nemeth**
- ◆ **Karlee Batchelor**

- ◆ **Matthew Awang**
- ◆ **Sharan Tappia**
- ◆ **Anthony Fischer**
- ◆ **Laine Jubinville**
- ◆ **Scott Macaulay**

We are now accepting nominations for new Directors for 2026/27. Deadline for submission of resume/cv is on October 21, 2026. Please email info@dakotacc.com or reach out to our CEO or current board member for more information.

Our Board of Directors are community volunteers who focus on governance and leadership, based on the Centre's Vision, Mission and Values.

Do you live in the Dakota CC Catchment and are interested in serving on our board? Send your resume and cover letter to info@dakotacc.com or reach out to any current member of our board.

Ways to Support Dakota

Help Build What Comes Next at Dakota

Dakota is where people play, connect and feel part of their community. By giving your time, making a donation or involving your business, you can help create more opportunities for everyone.

Volunteer - Be part of what makes Dakota happen

Help bring community events, programs and activities to life. Whether you give a few hours or share a skill, your time can make a difference. Join Dakota's volunteer team. Visit www.dakotacc.com/support/volunteer to learn more.

Donate - Help create opportunities for others

Your donation supports better facilities, stronger programs and welcoming spaces where people can participate and belong. Help build Dakota's next chapter. Scan the QR code to donate today or consider to be a monthly donor!

Advertise - Promote your business where the community gathers

Connect with athletes, families and visitors while showing your support for the community you serve. Reach your community. Reserve your advertising space.

Email colleen@dakotacc.com for more information.

Sponsor - Support something your community cares about

Partner with Dakota to support meaningful programs and events while building recognition and community-oriented brand association for your business.

Let's make an impact together. Become a Dakota sponsor.

Contact louise@dakotacc.com to partner with us now!

Scan the
QR Code to
donate



Community Impact Snapshot



Make a Difference. Donate Today!

Because of your support, Dakota is able to offer free and subsidized community programs for Program Year 2025/26, including:

120 hours of free public skating
100 hours of Stick & Puck ice time
500 kids + families at Skate with Santa & Friends
106 hours of Seniors Games Club, now called PlayNine Club
And More!

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From the Start of His Career to Retirement



(Left) Toews announcing his retirement from the Winnipeg Jets. (Right) Toews in a press scrum at Dakota's Event Hall in June.

Toews Announces Retirement Where it All Began: at Dakota

Some moments in sport go beyond statistics. Jonathan Toews' retirement announcement at Dakota was one of them. A three-time Stanley Cup champion, Olympic gold medallist and longtime Chicago Blackhawks captain, Toews built a career few athletes ever experience. But for Dakota, his story is personal.

Before the NHL, he was a kid from South St. Vital learning the game as a Dakota Lazer. "I knew at a young age that's what I wanted to do," Toews said, reflecting on the dream that would eventually take him to hockey's biggest stages.

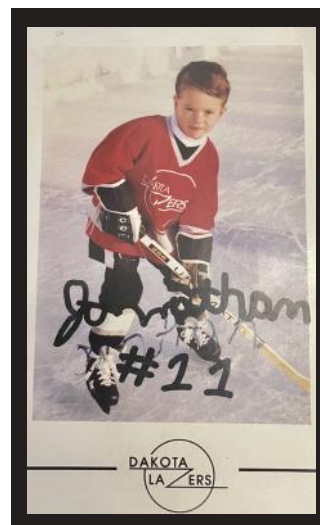
His retirement announcement at Dakota, in the Jonathan Toews Sportsplex, was more than a look back at his NHL career. It was a return to where his journey began. After 16 NHL seasons, Toews spoke with gratitude about what that journey had given him.

"I'm satisfied. I'm fulfilled. I'm so thankful and grateful for the career I had."

For the young athletes and families who come through Dakota today, his story is a reminder that growth often starts in familiar places: early practices, encouraging coaches and a community that gives kids a place to belong.

Few will reach the NHL. But success here can mean confidence, friendships and memories that last long after the season ends.

Toews' return brought his career full circle, connecting where he started with the legacy he leaves behind. That's the beauty of Dakota: a place to start, to grow and, sometimes, to return.



Toews during his Little Lazers days at Dakota

Dakota Fieldhouse Track & Fitness Centre

Finding her place at Dakota



For nearly 40 years, Patty H. knew Dakota Community Centre was nearby, but she never really saw it as a place for herself.

That changed after a health scare and serious health challenges in her family made her think differently about her own wellbeing. After years in a sedentary job, Patty wanted a safe, welcoming place to move and build a healthier routine. She found that at DCC.

The indoor track gave her an even, temperature-controlled place to walk. Introduction to Resistance helped her learn the equipment and build strength with confidence. Yoga became something she wished she had tried sooner, and Zumba brought movement, fun, and friendships that reached beyond the class.

Today, DCC helps Patty stay active, connected, and motivated to keep showing up. Her encouragement to others is simple: come in and try.



Walk, jog, or exercise around the Track & Fitness Centre regardless of the weather. If you are looking to get active, have fun and get healthy Dakota can help with that. Our state-of-the-art indoor 200m, 3 lane track and fitness center with its variety of strength and cardio equipment, have everything you need to keep you active all year round.

Get your Track and Fitness Centre Pass Today! Scan the QR code, visit dakotacc.com, or call (204) 254-1010 to speak with our Customer Service team.



Fitness Centre Pass

	Drop-In	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Youth / Student	\$9	\$40	\$105	\$155	\$252
Senior	\$9	\$43	\$113	\$170	\$277
Adult	\$9	\$45	\$118	\$187	\$303
Family	-	-	-	-	\$866

Start Your Fitness Journey with Confidence

Don't know where to start? Our **Intro to Strength Training** program will teach you everything you need to start your fitness journey. Learn proper techniques to effectively and safely use all of the fitness equipment to get you on your way. Our **Learn to Run** program is designed for beginners with little or no previous running experience interested in completing their first 5K or looking the skills and confidence to start running. If running isn't your thing, join our **Walking Group**. Free for Track and Fitness pass holders.

Learn to Run
Intro to Strength Training
Walking Club

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 am
Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00am

9 weeks - \$100 +GST
6 weeks - \$98 + GST
Free for Track and Fitness
Pass holders

What are you doing with your health?



Get started with a Fitness Centre Pass and find the right fit for your health & wellness journey. Scan the QR code to know more about our rates and to request a tour of the Dakota Fieldhouse.

You can also call (204) 254-1010 to speak with Customer Service.

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A New Game on Familiar Ice

Margaret Erickson grew up figure skating, but when she stepped onto the ice for her first Ladies Hockey Camp at Dakota Community Centre, she quickly learned that hockey was a different game.

"I was the slowest one out there," she laughs. "I wore extra pads because I was sure I was going to fall."

Margaret had been looking for an enjoyable way to become active again after an arrhythmia weakened her heart and led to ablation therapy in 2020. Her husband, Glenn, already rented ice at Dakota with friends and spotted the Ladies Hockey Camp. Her physiotherapist encouraged her to give it a try.

She did, and found a group where learning was part of the experience.

"There was no judgment. Everyone was supportive."

Margaret continued through the camps and joined Dakota's Ladies Hockey League, which attracted around 65 women in its first season. She still has skills she wants to improve and nerves to work through, but neither keeps her off the ice.

"The minute I get on the ice, there's instant exhilaration," she says.

Her experience is one of many taking shape on Dakota's ice. From new development opportunities for adult women and recreational league play through the Dakota Hockey League, to Lasers Hockey Club programs and youth tournaments, there are different ways to learn, play and stay involved in the game.

For Margaret, the next one is easy. Once she has recovered from surgery, she wants to get back on the ice.

"If you use it, you don't lose it."



**Find out more about
women's hockey!
email [hockeyops@
dakotacc.com](mailto:hockeyops@dakotacc.com)**

Adult Women's Hockey

Adult women now have access to a full pathway of programming designed to help them build skills, gain confidence, and prepare for league play. Development opportunities are available to introduce more women to hockey. Dakota's upcoming programs:

- Adult Rustbusters - Wednesdays (October to December)
- Adult Women's Gameplay Sessions - Wednesdays (January to February)
- Adult Women's Spring League - April to June



2026 Women's Spring League - Team Sting

Lazers Hockey Club - Upcoming Programs & Events

Lazers Hockey Club is excited to return to Dakota for its third season! With programs designed for all ages and skill levels, including our highly popular U7 Learn to Play program, there's a place for everyone on the ice. We look forward to welcoming back familiar faces and introducing new players to the Lazer Hockey community this season!



Dakota Adult Hockey League

The Dakota Hockey League is entering an exciting new season with a renewed focus on accountability, consistency, and transparency. To support this vision, we've introduced a new Player Handbook and updated Rule Book that clearly outline league expectations, standards, and sportsmanship guidelines. Our goal is to provide a fun, welcoming, and respectful environment where adults can enjoy hockey and build lasting friendships.

To view the Player Handbook and Rule Book, visit www.dakotacc.com/adults/hockey/adult-hockey-league/



Minor Hockey Tournaments



December 27-29, 2026

The Dakota Winter Classic continues to grow as one of the premier holiday tournaments in Winipeg. This co-ed event guarantees each team four games and provides every participant with a tournament gift.

Divisions offered:

U9 House League
U9 A1
U11 A1, A2, A3, A4, and A5



February 12-15, 2027

Following a fantastic inaugural event, the Female Lazers Cup returns for its second year. This all-female tournament celebrates the continued expansion of girls' hockey while providing a fun, competitive, and memorable tournament experience. Teams are guaranteed four games, and every player receives a tournament gift. **Divisions offered:**

U9 A1, A2, A3
U11 A1, A2, A3

if you have any questions in regards to lazer hockey club programs or our youth hockey tournaments, please email Tyler@dakotacc.com



BILLIE CROSS

Your MLA for Seine River



204-221-7576 | Unit 16 - 1500 Dakota Street, Winnipeg
Billie.Cross@yourmanitoba.ca

MIKE MOYES

Your MLA for Riel



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Dakota Scholarship 2026 Recipients

Congratulations to our 2026 Dakota Scholarship Award recipients! We're proud to celebrate these deserving students and support them as they continue their education and work toward their future goals.

Apply for the 2027 Dakota Scholarship

We're proud to offer \$500 scholarships annually to qualified youth who have demonstrated a strong commitment to Dakota. Know someone who is eligible and interested in applying? Applications for the 2027 Dakota Scholarship are open in January. The deadline for applying is **March 31 before 4:00 p.m.**



Dakota Scholarship 2026 Recipients



Linnae Johnson
College Jeanne Sauvé



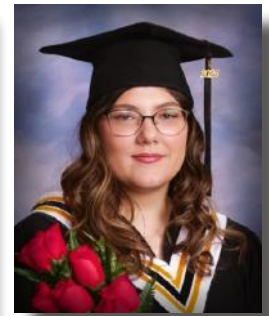
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College Jeanne Sauvé



Alexander Shave
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Events & Facility Rentals



Book your event with us!
Call (204) 254-1010 or email
bookings@dakotacc.com

The Event Hall is one of the building's most versatile spaces. Throughout the week, it can shift from a business meeting or staff training session to a fundraiser, retirement dinner, family celebration, or community gathering.

Flexible room layouts make it easy to adapt the space to different group sizes and event needs. Built-in audiovisual equipment, accessible entrances, and plenty of free parking help simplify planning so that organizers can focus more on their guests and less on logistics.

The hall also offers strong value. With competitive rental rates, it is an affordable option for businesses, non-profits, community groups, and families looking for a welcoming venue in Winnipeg.

No two events look exactly alike. One day, the room may be set for a professional development session. The next, organizers can transform it for a dinner, celebration, or large community event. Whatever the occasion, the goal is the same: to provide a comfortable, practical space where people can come together.

Your next meeting, fundraiser, celebration, or milestone deserves a space that works for you.

Contact us at (204) 254-1010 or email bookings@dakotacc.com today to learn more about the Event Hall, check availability, and book your next event. Jonathan Toews' retirement announcement reminded thousands of people that Dakota is a place where memorable moments happen. The next one could be a fundraiser, a company gathering, or a family milestone. It may never make the evening news. But for the people in the room, it will matter just as much.

Book your next event here and make your moment count.



Lazars Edge Skate Shop & Skate Sharpening Drop-Off Service

Stop by for skate sharpening, hockey tape, & more. Try out our skate drop-off service at the Fieldhouse when we're closed. Pick them up on your next visit, sharpened and ready to go!

Find Your Space At Dakota

Court Rentals

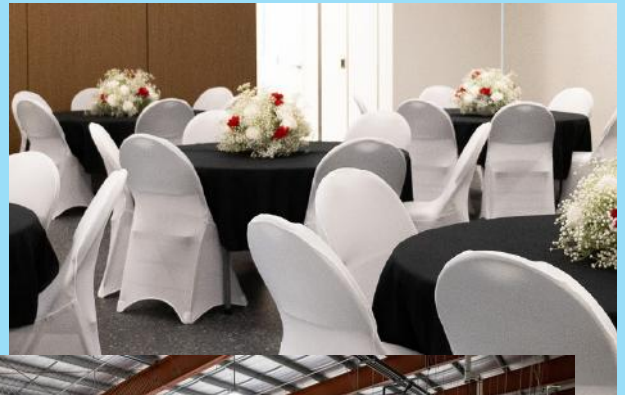
Your court. Your game.
Book space for practices, matches, tournaments, or casual play.
A flexible option for teams, groups, or a friendly game.

Event Hall Rentals

Three halls that can be turned into one venue. So many ways to use it. From small to large events, we can configure the space to fit your plans. Tell us what you're planning, and we'll help find the right setup.

Ice Rentals

Need ice? We've got the rink. Book ice time for practices, games, tournaments, or group skates. Bring your team, your group, or simply your love of the game.



Centre Ice Cafe

The Centre Ice Cafe serves Winnipeg's best authentic Ukrainian Food for dine-in or take-out alongside your canteen favourites.

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Group Fitness, Yoga & Dance

Find your way to move at Dakota. Whether you want to feel stronger, improve your flexibility, or simply make time for yourself, you'll find a welcoming class that suits you. Choose from yoga, low-impact cardio, Zumba, line dancing, strength training, and more.

Want to keep things flexible? Our fitness and yoga passes let you drop into the classes that fit your schedule, try something new and enjoy staying active with others in your community.

	Drop-In	5 Classes	10 Classes	20 Classes
General	\$11.50	\$58	\$105	\$200
Senior (60+)	\$10	\$50	\$92	\$175

Ready to get started? Scan the QR code, visit dakotacc.com, or call **(204) 254-1010** to speak with our Customer Service team. We'll help you explore all the classes we offer and find the program that's the right fit for your goals, interests, and lifestyle.

Structured Group Fitness

Prefer a structured class experience? Multi-week session classes are available, including Tai Chi. If evening programs work best for your schedule, be sure to check out our NEW EVENING CLASSES, featuring Zumba and Cardio Strength Fusion. These longer-format programs are a great way to build consistency, stay motivated, and make fitness a regular part of your routine while connecting with others in the community.

Tai Chi
Zumba
Cardio Strength Fusion

Thursdays 12:45 – 1:45 pm
Mondays 5:15 – 6:15 pm
Mondays 6:30 – 7:30 pm

9 weeks - \$110 +GST
12 weeks - \$108 + GST
12 weeks -- \$108 +GST



For more information or to register: Scan the QR Code or call (204) 254-1010. You can also stop by our Customer Service desk.



Pickleball

Champion of the Court

Rotate partners and opponents through six fast-paced rounds as you climb toward Champions Court. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced events are available, with only 18 spots per session.

Drop-in Pickleball

Enjoy Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced pickleball sessions Monday through Friday, with skill levels rotating throughout the week. Open play is also available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 2:15 p.m.

Learn to Play

Build your skills and confidence in a welcoming four-week program designed for four different skill levels. Classes run from September through June.

Pickleball Flex Ladder

Enjoy friendly competition with similarly skilled players as you move up or down the ladder based on results and DUPR ratings. Women's Ladder runs Tuesdays at 2:15 p.m. and Mixed Ladder Thursdays at 2:15 p.m.

Bring your paddle to Dakota!

Play pickleball, improve your game, or rent a court. Do everything pickleball and more! Only here, at Dakota.



Adult/Senior Programs

Find a fitness routine that works for you at Dakota. Whether you are looking to build strength, improve flexibility, boost your energy, or simply take time to focus on your well-being, our fitness and yoga classes offer a welcoming and supportive environment for all ages and abilities. From gentle, flow or restorative movement yoga to low-impact cardio, Zumba, line dancing and strength training, there is a program to help you stay active, healthy, and connected to your community.

Looking for flexibility? Fitness and yoga passes make it easy and affordable to participate on your schedule. Attend the drop in classes that fit your interests and availability without committing to a single program, giving you the freedom to stay active, try something new, and get involved in a way that works best for you.

Registered Programs

- Floor Curling
- Painting
- Photography
- Acting & Improv
- Tai Chi
- Learn to Run
- Intro to Strength Training
- Minds in Motion

Free Drop-in Programs

- Games Club
- Walking Club
- Speaker Series

Senior Resource Finder

DCC is your community resource finder for adults 55+ who need help connecting with support programs and services.

Call 204-254-1010 today!

Upcoming Events at Dakota

Mark your calendars this winter!



Christmas Market November 14-15, 2026

Start your holiday shopping at the Dakota Christmas Market on November 14 and 15. With more than 130 local vendors to browse, it's a great chance to find thoughtful gifts, support local and enjoy a little holiday atmosphere along the way.



Skate With Santa December 19, 2026

Skate with Santa returns December 19 for another fun holiday outing at Dakota. Bring the family, hit the ice and enjoy some festive time together. We're also looking for sponsors who would like to help support this community event. Email louise@dakotacc.com for more info on how to sponsor this event.



Dakota Winter Classic December 27-29, 2026

There's always lots of energy in the building during the Dakota Winter Classic. Young players, families and fans come together for a full weekend of hockey, making it a fun one to watch whether you're on the ice or cheering from the stands.



Female Lazers Cup - February 12-15, 2027

The Female Lazers Cup is back after a strong first year, bringing young female hockey players together for another great tournament at Dakota. It's a chance to compete, build confidence, and enjoy the game alongside other players who love hockey just as much.



Members of the Dakota Community catchment are invited to the

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday

**November 24, 2026
7pm, Event Hall 3**

2nd Floor, Jonathan Toews Sportsplex



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**We're looking for community members to
serve on the Board!**

The Nominations Committee of the Dakota Board is asking interested individuals to put their names forward for consideration as Board Members for 2026-2027.

Please submit your resume/CV to
info@dakotacc.com on or before
October 21, 2026.

Thank you for your desire to give back to your community. We look forward to receiving your application.

**For more information on upcoming events,
programs, and community news, follow
Dakota on social media:**





Gentle Flow Yoga - Doors Open Dakota



Floor Curling Program - Fall 2026



Female Hockey Summer Day Camp



Pickleball - Doors Open Dakota



Racquet Sports Summer Camp



Hi-Lo Strength Class

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