

CARHA tourney expected to bring hundreds of players to city in 2012

RECREATION: 'Single largest event' city's ever hosted

Posted By ELAINE DELLA-MATTIA, THE SAULT STAR

Sault Ste. Marie will host the Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey Association 2012 World Cup tournament.

A formal announcement is expected Tuesday.

The week-long event is expected to draw hundreds of adult recreational hockey players and their families to the city.

It's been deemed the "single largest attended sporting event that Sault Ste. Marie" has ever hosted by Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, bringing a multi-million dollar economic impact to the city.

Early reports estimate the tournament will inject \$15 million into the local economy.

The tournament will draw 167 teams from 11 North American and European countries for the week-long event.

It's expected the teams will use all hotel rooms in the city and will book every hockey arena.

The city has about 1,700 hotel and motel rooms, including those currently being built under the Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites banner.

The CARHA World Cup is held every four years.

Sault Ste. Marie is also hosting the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the women's national curling championship, in February. That is supposed to inject \$10 million in the local economy and generate the equivalent of 4,800 hotel rooms.

The formal CARHA announcement is posted on its website.