

April 12,2022

To Mayor and Council

On behalf of Douro Minor Hockey as discussed and approved at our 2022 Annual General Meeting, we have developed this letter as a request for Council and Staff to consider required upgrades to our arena facilities within our Township. Although we are very fortunate to have two facilities within our Township as an organization, we are often struggling to manage the requirements of our sport such as inclusion and health and wellness, with facilities that are dated in comparison to similar communities.

We understand that construction costs are significant and external resources such as county, provincial and/or federal grants and loans may be required, however, we feel that they are primary needs that need to be addressed, as well as opportunities to improve the financial model of our arenas.

The suggested approach is to twin pad our Douro Community Centre by adding another pad to the existing structure, along with improvements to the community space. We understand that there are likely architectural and engineering considerations that make this approach difficult, however operational economics are improved with this scenario as only one crew is required to operate both pads as well as shared equipment such as ice resurfacers, HVAC, chillers, etc. Also, with the Warsaw Arena reaching end of life we need to plan for the future.

Arena facilities within the County are strained as the supply is far less than the demand. Even with the new twin pad proposed at Morrow Park, there will still be significant stress on local arenas with the City of Peterborough itself poised to grow by an estimated 30,000 people in the next few decades. The need for arena space is significant now, and with our proximity to the city, will certainly be there moving forward.

We also feel that with a twin arena and community space upgrades there will be many more opportunities for tournaments and special events (conferences, trade shows, weddings, etc.). Upgraded and expanded facilities attract more people to live and spend time in our community, which both brings tax dollars but more importantly improves interest in commercial enterprise in our area. In fact, based on the proximity, a restaurant catering to the needs of the facility as well as the significant traffic may be a consideration and another revenue generator for the facility.

Currently, as a primary user group we are struggling to meet the needs of our youth with adequate dressing room sizes and numbers. Due to economics of the sport, teams are larger than the past and with more girls than ever (and every year increasing!), the need for additional rooms is extreme. Its not uncommon now to have 40 or more participants on a sheet of ice, which we are simply not set up to accommodate.

We are so fortunate to have this accessible space in the centre of our community. We need to invest in our future, and the time is now. We must put forward effort to plan for this upgrade and start discussions with our partners in the community and upper tiers of government. Douro Minor Hockey would be very happy to assist in any way we can with time and fundraising required to get this exciting initiative off the ground.

We would ask that following your review we set up a meeting to discuss next steps.

Sincerely, on behalf of Douro Minor Hockey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Bailey', written over the printed name.

Vice President