

To: Bluewater Council

From: Glen Steinson, President

November 13, 2017



Re: BAYFIELD ARENA

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the Bayfield Optimist Club, I am writing in regards to the Bayfield Arena and its ongoing contribution to the well being of children, youth, and families in Bayfield and surrounding area. With our club focused on the younger generation, we always strive to ensure that our community offers them the best opportunities to flourish and develop into outstanding young adults.

Over the years, our club has successfully interacted with various groups, including Bluewater Council, to achieve common goals and objectives. In light of decisions currently being made, we trust that we can continue supporting one another going forward.

At our recent meetings, our members have thoughtfully considered the ramifications of the loss of the ice surface at the end of this season. In October we hosted Bayfield Facility Initiative Team (BFIT) in order to gain a clear understanding of their goals. We appreciate the efforts that have been made to ensure that our existing hockey and skating programs remain viable instead of being redirected to other facilities. There is no need to impose the hardship of additional winter travel on our Bayfield and area families when the solution does and can exist within our village.

Alternative options are being researched, with the realistic possibility that a self-sustaining, net cash-flow positive facility could be operational within five years. We understand that the Bayfield Arena was originally a privately funded operation.

The BFIT committee has visited *user-pay* facilities in the province and been impressed with their financial results. Since a similar arrangement could be suitable for Bayfield, it is definitely worthy of additional study time before Council makes irreversible decisions.

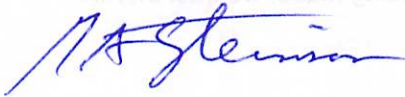
After hearing their presentation, our club passed a formal motion to publicly support BFIT and adopt their objectives as a priority for our club. As a full partner in the project we will remain committed to the goal of having a fully functional facility located in Bayfield - which includes an ice surface - for the enjoyment and benefit of all age groups. We applaud the efforts and endorse the BFIT "One Vision, One Plan" approach.

- **We respectfully request that Council delay the ice removal decision until additional consideration can be made into the feasibility of maintaining the existing equipment for just a few more years.**
- **Given the significant amount of attention this issue has raised, we suggest that it might be prudent for council to conduct a ‘Town Hall’ style meeting to communicate directly with your constituents.**

We look forward to working on a solution that addresses the fiscal challenges that you as a Council contend with, yet ensures that Bayfield remains an attractive and vibrant community with a full suite of youth services close at hand.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter or to identify how we might contribute in any manner to your deliberations, please contact me at 519-440-1025 or glen.steinson@gmail.com.

Sincerely and in good faith,



Glen Steinson, President
Bayfield Optimist Club