



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: April 7, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.013
Title: Response to The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative
Prepared by: Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.013, entitled "Response to The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative";

AND THAT Council direct staff to actively collaborate with The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative to identify viable Town owned properties (including but not limited to 130 King St W) for an indoor racquets facility, conduct a preliminary feasibility assessment of potential locations and operating models, and provide a comprehensive staff report to Council by June 2, 2025;

AND THAT Council direct staff to formally meet with The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative every three weeks to share progress and ensure continued collaboration in the process of bringing forward a staff report to Council by June 2, 2025.

B. Overview

This report seeks Council direction to work with The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative to review Town owned lands for the Georgian Bay Community Racquet Centre presented in their December 2024 deputation.

C. Background

On December 9, 2024 The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative provided a deputation proposing the creation of the Georgian Bay Community Racquet Centre to Committee of the Whole <https://pub-bluemountains.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=24572> .

On December 16, 2024, Council passed the following motion in response to the deputation:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receive for information the deputation of Kevin Rostami and Tom Kern, Georgian Bay Community Racquet Centre Re: Four-Court Tennis Development Leveraging Existing Town Assets at 130 King Street West;

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide a staff report in response to the requests contained in the deputation of the Georgian Bay Community Racquet Centre, by the end of March, 2025.

D. Analysis

Staff are recommending that Council direct staff to continue working with The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative on the proposed Georgian Bay Community Racquets Centre project and identify and evaluate Town owned lands (including but not limited to 130 King St W) that may be suitable for this proposal.

This project aligns with the Town's previous commitment to expanding year-round recreational opportunities and addressing the recognized need for an indoor tennis and racquets facility, as outlined in the Leisure Activities Plan (which stated the need to: "Secure a reliable indoor tennis facility in appropriate location").

While the December 9th, 2024 deputation focused on the 130 King St W location, The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative has since expressed interest in any appropriately sized, readily-available Town owned property which benefits from the necessary servicing and infrastructure to support such a facility. In light of this, staff recommends now collaborating with the group to:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of all Town owned properties that meet the minimum size and servicing requirements for a potential 4-court or 6-court indoor racquets facility; and
- Assess key factors such as zoning, access, servicing, and overall feasibility; and
- Assess potential operating models for the facility, including financial structures, available grants, and partnership opportunities; and
- Engage with relevant Town departments to streamline the evaluation process; and
- Provide Council with a comprehensive report on the same by June 2, 2025.

To achieve this objective and to keep momentum strong, staff suggest meeting with representatives of The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative, either in person or virtually, every three weeks to share progress, review findings, and exchange ideas until the June report is presented to Council. In the meantime, staff will ensure the existing budget allocation of approximately \$365,000 for the enhancement of tennis facilities remains in place.

While the group has indicated flexibility as to site location, the group has emphasized that timely site identification would help maintain project momentum and facilitate planning. They also expressed their belief that a clear commitment to a specific location will provide a foundation for further planning and development, including securing financial commitments, refining operational models, and engaging community stakeholders. The group has expressed that identifying a site by the summer would be instrumental in advancing planning and meeting community expectations.

Finally, given that the group has indicated their willingness to look at locations beyond 130 King St W, staff are willing to assure that should there be any unexpected delays in the upcoming 130 King St W survey, or delays in obtaining the results of that survey, staff will nevertheless

proceed with providing the comprehensive report on June 2, 2025, without cause for further delay.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

None at this time. This will be considered if a project moves forward.

G. Financial Impacts

None at this time. This will be considered if a project moves forward.

H. In Consultation With

Kev Rostami, Georgian Bay Community Racquets Centre

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services directorcs@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gibbons
Director of Community Services

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 28, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Ryan Gibbons - Mar 28, 2025 - 11:12 AM