

**Nipissing Ridge Tennis Club  
Submission to Fees and Charges Public Meeting  
March 7, 2023**

TBM Community Services Fees and Charges identified a new annual fee for 2023 of minimum \$1,500 and maximum \$2,500 based on annual membership numbers. Nipissing Ridge Tennis Club is requesting that this fee be modified to a minimum of \$1,000.

NRTC is a small tennis club but a big part of our sense of community. For many of us, the club is the basis of our social network, where we meet our neighbours and form friendships that go beyond playing tennis together and become central to our lives and our love of the Town of the Blue Mountains. We know that supporting an active lifestyle and nurturing such community spirit are goals that we share with the Town.

NRTC has been run in a low key fashion with a nominal three-year membership fee for many years. For the most recent period (ending in 2022) the three-year fee was \$50, amounting to about \$17 per year. We know that we need to incur new costs to enable NRTC to evolve and offer a better tennis experience to our members. So we have been exploring options for online court booking. We are developing a guest pro approach to give players at different levels the chance to improve their game. We are introducing a website to enhance communications. We have written by-laws to ensure good governance and will hold our first AGM this spring. Our goal is to maintain the wonderful social club we have, with its many semi-retired and retired members, while growing tennis skills and continuing to build community. We believe our groundwork could serve as a model for other TBM courts.

With these goals and plans in mind, and to be able to pay TBM's new fee, we are more than doubling our annual fee for 2023— from \$17 to \$40, of which 25% (\$10 per member) would be designated for TBM. This is a significant jump and we are unsure of uptake. We think the plans we are developing will prove attractive but feel we need a little more leeway from the Town to get ourselves established. We are also conscious that NRTC is only a part-time club with the courts available for public use on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as half of the weekend time. We wonder if this fact coupled with the increase in fee will discourage members.

Consequently, we are asking TBM to lower the minimum payable to \$1,000 this year. This change would give us a little more runway to get ourselves and our program securely established. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

NRTC Transition Team:

Laurey Gillies, Shelley Young, Michael Thompson, Nancy Muzar, Jackie McCluskey, Sandee Roberts, Marty Kilby and Kim Eckersley.