

# Deputation to Town of Blue Mountains Council

July 10, 2024



## Events for Life Centre Inc.

Enriching the lives of individuals with special needs

Kevin Whyte – Chair, EFL Board of Directors

# **OUR MISSION**

**To enrich the lives of individuals with special needs by providing educational, social and recreational day programs geared towards lifelong learning in the Town of Blue Mountains and surrounding area**

# Why are we here today

- After our deputation last August, TOBM Council directed TOBM Staff to work with EFL to find any available land that would satisfy our needs to build our forever location.
- Staff identified some options and the land identified on Peel Street provided us the required space and Staff presented back to Council that location as being the preferred option for EFL.
- After significant pushback from residents on the use of that land for EFL, Council directed staff to continue to look for options that would allow EFL to secure land to build.
- A new, unique option was presented to EFL which would be to use land at the Beaver Valley Community Centre at the Arena end of the parking lot (Elma St).
- We believe, after our preliminary review of the space available, that this would meet our needs. This space would include a multi-purpose facility, a garage/workshop, & drop off/pickup drive through with enough greenspace around the buildings for outdoor programming.
- From a location perspective this is a great solution as we have direct access to the Arena Café, Gym, Arena, BVCC parking lot, Moreau Park and all of the amenities close by including short walks into town for work experience opportunities.
- This space is very different from the 2-3 acres we originally requested. At the time, that space request was deemed necessary for us being in a spot on our own needing significant parking space, gym space & outdoor greenspace which would not be required with the option presented.

# Our Ask

- Our goal continues to be is to have a long term “forever” Program Centre to allow us to deliver high quality support to a growing community and believe this location is in the best interest of all involved including the Town of Blue Mountains
- Our plans would be that once we have land secured, EFL will launch a capital campaign to help fund a build of our permanent centre over the next 2 years to ensure the ongoing long-term delivery of support to the participants we have and will have in the future
- The space would be designed for multi-use purposes and adhere to the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)** and other regulatory standards
- We see an incredible opportunity for community partnerships & collaborations in both the development of the EFL Centre as well as the ongoing use of the space by the community ( i.e., during evenings and weekends when the program is not operating )
- **Our ASK is for the Council to support the selection of the Beaver Valley Community Centre space identified by TOBM staff for Events for Life so we can work closely with staff on a detailed plan to ensure it has the required land and is the right location to build our Permanent Program Centre.**

# EFL Strategic Imperatives

- **Build Strong Foundation**
  - Increase staffing for growing demand
  - Ensure sustainability in funding and support
  - Build strong partnerships in the community
- **Facilitate Access to Housing for Participants**
  - Educate families on planning for aging & housing solutions
  - Collaborate with agencies in securing long term housing options
  - Assist with support models to ensure success
- **Expand Program Offerings**
  - Deliver growing and diverse program streams
  - Manage growing demand for spaces in program
  - Deliver work experience and employment opportunities
- **Deliver a Secured Location “Forever Program Space”**
  - Buy, Build, or partner to secure a long-term space for delivering program
  - Bring awareness to community for need and support of a “forever” property

**Team EFL thanks Council and the Staff at TOBM for your ongoing and outstanding support**

**<https://eventsfor.life/>**

