

I am writing to express my objection to the continued efforts by Georgian Bay Community Racquets Initiative to use the land at 130 King Street West for an Indoor Racquets Facility.

While I support the idea of a Racquets Facility, I oppose the use of 130 King Street West for that purpose.

1. The proposal clearly describes a regional facility for use by regional users from Owen Sound to Wasaga Beach and beyond. Given the cost and complexity, any substantial project like this should be incorporated into the Multi-Use Recreation Feasibility Assessment (MURFA) and developed efficiently with participation from multiple towns. With taxes increasing at more than double the rate of inflation this year, the Town should be seeking efficiency opportunities rather than new spending.
2. Traffic, high-intensity lighting, and noise do not belong in a residential neighborhood.
3. The 130 King West site is less than 3 acres, is not serviced, is accessed from a narrow dirt road, is in the midst of a quiet residential area, and includes the Little Beaver Creek that is an environmentally sensitive area regulated under the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. Any independent and professional feasibility study would quickly conclude that other locations such as 171 King Street or the South Peel lands are much more appropriate.
4. The Town Survey has not been made public for comment in advance. There are many concerns.
 - a. The survey may be biased by responses from non-residents. The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative sent a long email to their members on March 31, less than two hours after the COW Agenda was made public, and they urged their members to respond with a "...pro-tennis response to that survey...". It is a simple matter to require a valid town address on every response before accepting it to ensure that only the people paying the taxes have a voice in how their taxes are spent.
 - b. Any survey should make it clear that this proposal is for Tennis only, "...we've focused our current efforts on tennis..." Some respondents might be supportive without realizing that they will not be able to play pickleball there.
 - c. The survey should also make it clear that, although Town land and Town money is being requested, this will be a private, not public facility, and membership fees will be required.

I urge Council to be decisive. Please end the constant stream of special interest groups after this land. The 130 King Street West land should be removed from consideration by future lobbyists and finally dedicated as a year-round green space, part of the Town's walking trails, and open to the public with no membership required.

Respectfully,




Dr. David R. Lewis