

For Council Consideration

April 7, 2025

RE: Committee of The Whole - Staff Report CS.25.013 dated April 7th, 2025 - Response to the Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative

Mayor and Members of Council

As long-time owners/residents in the Peel Street North community, we are deeply troubled from a moral standpoint that people who don't live in our area have a much greater say in our Town, and residents in my area have suggested these people are getting preferential treatment over the residents and taxpayers of our community.

No one from the Community Services Department has communicated, nor has anyone offered to communicate with the six hundred (600) or so residents in the Peel Street North community (or commonly known as the Trailwood/Cameron Street area). But, the report states that the department is willing to communicate and more importantly and concerning to us, to collaborate with racquet club lobbyists, **every three weeks**, for the construction of a regional racquet facility. We have continually asked, over the past two years or more, for much needed and entitled "Parkland" on the Peel Street North site but the residents are feeling that they have been completely ignored by the Town.

Once again, the staff report before you is suggesting that a full-serviced racquet club facility be constructed on Peel Street North, despite repeated efforts to lead us to believe that other sites will be considered. This report and a recent letter by Georgian Bay Racquet Initiative (GBRI) would appear to undermine the residents survey scheduled to come out on April 25th. The GBRI letter highlights or suggests the following: the \$365,000 Town budget allocation continues to be available to GBRI for a year-round bubble/fabric tension facility; the Town will spend considerable time to conduct a preliminary feasibility assessment of the potential locations and operating models; GBRI will continue to promote the fact that tennis was the top-polling sport in their survey (72%) but they don't say who they are, where their from or how many people responded; GBRI are aware that a non-tennis survey (our residents survey) will be sent out soon and that participants should provide a pro-tennis response to ensure tennis remains a priority; GBRI recommends their members/followers to write in comments to COW supporting a tennis facility in the Town; and GRBRI provides a statement of caution to participants in the public process that "your address will not be read out". It's interesting that there is no mention about a Council-approved PIC, which was supposed to be advertised and given 21 days notice.

You have certainly raised the anxiety levels of the residents in the Peel Street North community. As a friend said to me, "This isn't a fight over a patch of land. It's a defining moment for the neighbourhood values.....Council must remember the

promises they made – because once the land is gone, so is the trust of the community they were elected to serve.”

It is important to note that one of the major policy statements in our Official Plan and proposed update, provides for parkland and greenspace in every existing and newly developing community in the Town of the Blue Mountains. So where is our Parkland?

Just a reminder that development of the Peel Street site with major regional club facility will require Zoning and Official Plan Amendments as well as Site Plan Control. All amendments can be challenged at the Ontario Land Tribunal as inappropriate, unsupported, and taking away prime greenspace/parkland from a community that will not have any other passive recreational opportunities. The Town will also have to close all the unopen road allowances and rescind an entrance agreement to the vacant lot owner to the southeast to permit any development on the site. Finally, the Town will have to compensate the Cameron Shores Tennis Club for all the improvements that are owned outright by its members.

In closing and before you make your decision to continue the attack on changing our community, you should have another look at the Strategic Priorities and standards outlined in Section E of this report - Communication and Engagement, Organizational Excellence, Community and Quality of Life and ask yourself, does this report and or “information” in the report meet any of these standards? We do not think so.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Seguin and Catherine Sholtz 