

Thornbury, April 15, 2025

FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

I would like to bring to your attention the attached correspondence I received from the Georgian Bay Racquets Club. I am not a member of this club and was not even aware of its existence until I was bombarded by multiple email from them encouraging me to complete the Public Survey for the 130 King St W development and to specifically state my support for a large indoor tennis facility.

Attached to their email is a document reproducing the survey and providing "response ideas" to all questions (see attached as well).

This group is lobbying and manipulating a process that is meant for residents of the Town of Blue Mountain. Please note that, in their promotional email, the Georgian Bay Rackets Club say: ***"Please forward this email to anyone who might support this effort – friends, family, neighbours, local players, and beyond!"***

It is, however, confusing because the TOBM's website says the survey is a residents' survey but the email notice that was sent by the Town says it's a public survey. This conflicting information may be the reason why non-residents are given the opportunity to weigh heavily on the decision that will not affect their surroundings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate that 130 King St Lot is the very last chance for this side of Thornbury and all its residents to have a public green space they can bike or walk to. There is no public space and no public water access past Little Beaver River.

Although the construction of a pedestrian bridge above Little Beaver River is planned to link one side of Thornbury to the other on foot and by bike, there is really nowhere to stop, nowhere to sit and nothing to do. A green space with benches to sit, space to throw a ball or a frisbee, enjoy an outdoor fitness class, meet friends, walk the dog, etc. is very much needed. 130 King St is close enough for all Thornbury residents to walk or bike to, thanks to the Georgian Trail and soon the pedestrian bridge.

Needless to say, a large tennis club would not interest the majority of the residents. It would require ample parking space to accommodate players coming from as far as Meaford, Owen Sound and Collingwood, which means a constant flow of cars. Such a facility would better be suited in a more commercial space where traffic and parking are already expected.

Respectfully,

Véronique Ponce

Resident of Thornbury