

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Town Clerk](#)
Cc: [Carrie Fairley](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment to be read at May 26 COW meeting
Date: May 20, 2025 5:42:26 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2022-09-12 at 9.02.53 PM.png](#)

Good afternoon,

Dear Town Council of The Blue Mountains,

As former Davis Cup Captain, Billie Jean King Cup Coach Canada and National Coach for Canada, and a former Davis Cup player, I've been following your community's exploration of an indoor tennis facility with great interest. I commend the Council for taking a thoughtful and forward-looking approach to this important recreational investment. I have frequented Blue Mountains since I was a young teenager and trained there for one summer.

Ontario continues to face a significant shortage of indoor tennis courts—especially compared to other regions across North America. This shortfall becomes most apparent during our long winters, when outdoor play is simply not an option. The Blue Mountains now has a unique opportunity to address this need while creating a first-class facility that could serve as a year-round hub for health, activity, and community engagement.

Based on my experience, a 6-court facility offers far greater flexibility and long-term sustainability than a smaller venue. With six courts, you can accommodate a healthy mix of programming: casual play, lessons, leagues, school partnerships, and competitive tournaments. It also future-proofs the investment, as demand for court time always increases after a successful launch.

Economically, indoor tennis centers consistently deliver strong returns to local communities. Tournament weekends and league play bring families and players who spend on accommodations, dining, and retail—helping to support and grow local businesses. This aligns well with The Blue Mountains' reputation for tourism and hospitality excellence.

If done right, The Blue Mountains could emerge as a premier tennis destination in Ontario, attracting players and events from across the province. I know many in the tennis community—including at the Ontario Tennis Association—are excited by the potential for this project.

It's also worth considering the long-term nature of this investment. Tennis bubbles typically last 20–25 years, and retrofitting or expanding afterward is expensive and complicated. Planning now for the right size and configuration will save significant time and money in the future.

Finally, community-led facilities—those supported by municipalities—are increasingly becoming the standard in Canada. The traditional private club model, by contrast, has become difficult to sustain due to high land costs and prohibitively expensive membership fees. A public-private approach ensures inclusivity, long-term viability, and greater community impact.

As someone who has visited the Blue Mountain area for decades and cares deeply about its future, I would be happy to offer my time and expertise to support your planning. I've advised

communities across the country on facility design, operations, and programming, and would be honoured to assist yours as well.

Warm regards,

Karl Hale

