

May 19, 2025

**Subject: Potential Indoor Tennis Facility
Public Comment to be Read Aloud at May 26th, 2025 Council Meeting**

Distinguished Town of the Blue Mountains Councilors, Staff Members and Residents,

My name is Gerry Wayland. I have been a full-time resident in The Town of the Blue Mountains for over 15 years. I have been a business owner in The Town of the Blue Mountains for over 15 years and have worked in the municipality for over 25 years. I am also an avid tennis player and overall supporter of the sport.

I would like to emphatically state my support for an indoor tennis facility to be built and operated at was once known as The Tees Please golf driving range site.

There is an avid tennis community in The Town of the Blue Mountains. We consider ourselves lucky and grateful to have the Town of the Blue Mountains municipal Bayview tennis courts, Boyer Park tennis courts and Nippising Ridge tennis courts free of charge for our summer use.

We are blessed to live in Canada which brings with it many winter sports and activities, however for we tennis enthusiasts living in the Town of the Blue Mountains our winter tennis playing options are limited to the Montera Tennis / Conference Facility or driving an hour to Midhurst to play at that indoor tennis facility, neither of which are ideal.

The Monterra Tennis facility's primary function is that of a Conference Center. Tennis is an after-thought. The lighting, court surface color and wall color are less than ideal for playing tennis. In addition, conference use takes precedence over tennis use leaving us eager tennis aficionados out in the cold for days or sometimes weeks at a time. The Midhurst Tennis Club is set-up as a true tennis facility with proper courts and lighting, however it is two-hours of driving on windblown highway 26 for 90 minutes of tennis.

I feel a new dedicated indoor tennis facility located at the former Tees Please site would be ideal for our residents and the municipality. Tees Please was for many years a recreational site, well used by residents. There is ample room for an indoor tennis facility along with parking. It's location at the corner of two significant intersections, Grey Road 19 and Grey Road 21 makes it easily accessible to residents. In addition, the facility will not disrupt any residential neighborhood with traffic or noise.

The Town of the Blue Mountains is a wonderful blend of the agricultural, commercial, residential and recreational worlds. We all know the benefits of the snow and water sports enjoyed by residents. Tennis however, is rated as one of the healthiest sports as cited in a study by The British Journal of Sports Medicine in 2016. The following is a list of benefits:

Physical Benefits:

- **Cardiovascular Health:**

Tennis is a great cardiovascular workout, increasing aerobic capacity and lowering resting heart rate and blood pressure.

- **Bone Health:**

The impact of tennis on the court can strengthen bones, particularly in the racket arm.

- **Weight Management:**

Tennis is a high-calorie burning activity, helping with weight loss and maintaining a healthy weight.

- **Muscle Strength and Flexibility:**

The diverse movements in tennis build muscle strength and improve flexibility.

- **Coordination and Agility:**

Tennis requires excellent hand-eye coordination and agility, improving both skills.

- **Reaction Time:**

Playing tennis can enhance reaction time and quick reflexes.

Mental and Cognitive Benefits:

- **Stress Relief:** The physical activity of tennis and the focus it requires can help reduce stress and boost mood.
- **Mental Clarity:** Tennis can improve alertness, critical thinking, and tactical thinking.
- **Brain Power:** The need for quick decisions and strategic thinking during a match can boost cognitive function.
- **Self-Confidence:** Playing tennis can build self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

Social Benefits:

- **Social Interaction:**

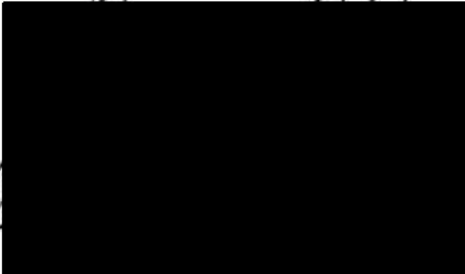
Tennis can be played individually or in teams, providing opportunities for social interaction and forming new friendships.

- **Community Engagement:**

Joining a tennis club or participating in community events can foster a sense of belonging.

In summation, given all the physical, mental and social benefits to the residents a first-rate indoor tennis facility would bring to the community, I sincerely hope Distinguished Councilors you will give your most serious consideration for the Town of the Blue Mountains to approve the proposed indoor tennis facility on the former Tees Please site.

Resident, 



Gerry Wayland