

May 21, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to voice support for the recommendations from Ryan Gibbons
Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services Meeting Date: May 26,
2025 Report Number: CS.25.025 Title: Options for 130 King St. W and Engagement
Response.

I am pleased that residents were heard at the most recent public meeting and that
objectively the site at 130 King West was deemed unsuitable per the study conducted.
(Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services Meeting Date: May 26,
2025 Report Number: CS.25.024 Title: Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative)

This latter report did give me reason though to question the continued pursuit of indoor
racquet facilities in the Town of Blue Mountains. Furthermore, given that this initiative is
being led specifically in consultation with the Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative, I feel it is
inherently biased toward their vision.

Upon reading this Report (CS.25.024) it would appear that we are perhaps putting the cart
before the horse in recommending/selecting a site when fundamental issues such as
demand, funding and operating model should take precedence. The Report in the final
section, Facility Viability, reiterates this: *It is important to mention that successful indoor
tennis facilities are built on demonstrated demand.* Per the Survey: *The most polarized
responses were for four covered courts: while a substantial 47% strongly supported this
option, the highest strong support rating of any, opposition was also significant at 38%
(strongly opposed and opposed), showing a sharp divide in community preferences.*

So, while no doubt, demand from *players, schools, and community organizations*, I am not
convinced there is sufficient demand locally to make such a facility financially viable. The
fact that the *nearest dedicated year-round facility is more than 70km away, does not
reinforce the apparent need for a local option to serve both the Town of The Blue Mountains
and neighbouring communities.* Ryan Gibbons makes this point very clear in his closing
remarks and “recommendation”.

*To ensure responsible development, **a pre-build validation process** to assess
demand levels, (would - my preference versus could) provide further reassurance
that the necessary demand levels exist for this type of facility and confirm the
project's viability before final decisions are made. **This approach ensures the Town
has done the necessary due diligence to ensure that the facility meets both
community needs while also clearly demonstrating financial sustainability.***

I strongly urge Council to ensure that any *facility intended to support regular community use
and long-term sustainability* be vetted thoroughly in advance of making commitments to
special interest groups.

Respectfully,

Svetla D. Los
Thornbury