

**NOTES AND FOLLOW UP INFORMATION  
PUBLIC MEETING RE: DESBORO COMMUNITY CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021**

Mayor Mackey welcomed everyone to the meeting with approximately 150 people in attendance. He indicated that this was the public's opportunity to give input on the Council decision to not put ice back in the Desboro Arena.

CAO Clerk Patty Sinnamon gave a power point presentation (available on the Township's website).

Mayor Mackey then opened the meeting to the public, inviting those representing user groups to speak first and then individuals would have an opportunity to speak.

The following are brief notes from each of the presenters and is not a verbatim commentary. Any information that is being corrected by the Township is in red font.

Following the brief notes are questions that were asked – Mayor Mackey indicated that the CAO would provide answers back via the Township website so that everyone had the same information, particularly those who were unable to attend.

Eleanor Baker – Desboro Agricultural Society

- Not here to just provide a fair – the Ag. Society supports the community in various ways and that includes providing facilities through fundraising over the years
- Does not feel the Township is living up to its' Communication Plan that supports effective two-way communication. She also noted that the Communication Plan is no longer on the website
- Eleanor gave a history of the facility and indicated that in 1996 the arena was condemned. A public meeting was held and the community subsequently raised the funds for upgrades at a cost of \$650737.90.  
(Communication has and continues to be posted on the website under the Council section)
- Township's February newsletter had no mention of the ice coming out of Desboro
- Asking Council to reconsider its' decision.

Ruth Bell – Desboro Lions Club

- What has changed from the Sierra Report in 2016 that recommended to keep Desboro as it is the newest facility.
- **The Sierra Report did not have the benefit of the building condition assessment. The BCA was not completed until 2019.**
- You must listen to all the people

#### Jeff Rosenberg – Chatsworth and District Minor Hockey

- Indicated the Minor Hockey had already presented a delegation to Council in February.
- When we lost Chatsworth, it squeezed some of our teams out to neighbouring communities
- Sierra Report indicated that a Closure of 1 arena can push out to other arenas and the loss of two rinks could be problematic for ice utilization

#### Lori Wake

- Grandkids have skated here, played hockey in Chesley and Tara
- Wondering why we don't limp along until the ice plant quits
- Is it possible to fix until things get better
- Thank you Council for well kept grounds – you have us in your best interest

#### Tammy Klages – Grey Bruce Ladies Broomball

- On behalf of the league, we will dissipate if Desboro goes under – there is no ice elsewhere
- Look at what the community has created here by volunteering and pledging over the years
- Keep this open until we can find elsewhere to go – we're okay with limping along

#### Chris Lembke

- I have lived here my whole life and its heartbreaking to hear that the ice is not going back in
- I started a petition to keep the ice in with 50 names on paper and 1,370 on-line
- It is a lot cheaper to fix 2 arenas than to build a whole new arena.
- I hope you put the ice back in.

#### Wayne Maluskie – former Board of Management Member

- Board never hired an engineer to tell us what to do – we decided ourselves and then did it. I don't know why Council can't do the same thing
- Put the ice back in for now.

#### Al Mills, retired Arena Manager

- Worked in the arena since 1990's – had a good relationship with both the Board and then with the Township – put the ice in most of those years
- The way it worked and a few dollars of dry wall tape over the crack, you didn't have water under the floor
- Never had a problem – 13 ½ years with no issues except when there was a big storm and the ice came out.
- Not a big deal to seal the floor – expands when it is thawing – never had to repair a brine leak in the floor yet.

- Understands that engineers have to put down what they see but those engineers have never put the ice in here

#### Bob Dunn

- Moved here 22 years ago
- Volunteer work that goes in this community is outstanding.
- Mr. Mayor, do you know the history of this arena – probably not
- Keep this ice for the children

#### Nicole Proud

- Born and raised here – talking about moving back; the problem is there has to be a community for my family when I get here.

#### Justin Horton

Has 2 kids starting in minor hockey

- Had to go to Markdale – get up at 6:00 a.m.
- I don't think Council is looking at the big picture
- Rather have put a couple hundred thousand to keep this facility for another 15 years.

#### Darren King

- Understand we elect public officials to make decision, but I think we should make some concessions and get public input
- Engineers are “worry warts” they like playing chicken little “the sky is falling”
- Pipes can bend and stretch
- I understand that with insurance liabilities we have to have those reports but we need to get input from people who are going to be here for the next 10 – 20 years – those people who were making recommendations aren't around here anymore.
- We have to spend money now to keep the ice in

#### Larry Bryans

- 3<sup>rd</sup> generation in this area – I have been here to observe all the fundraising that has happened in this community
- The vision of a community gets lost as we get bigger with amalgamation
- People can work together at a lot cheaper cost
- Challenge to council is to not jump to projects that are going to cost millions
- Understands that the new building is going to cost over \$50 million
- (new building is estimated to be \$15 million, not \$50)
- Understand that Chatsworth was shut down because of mould – you don't close a facility because of mould – my house has mould
- Chatsworth arena was not shut down because of mould -Engineers reports were done every two years, starting in 2000. Each report showed structural issues that progressed to the point that the facility was unsafe.
- I don't know how you will operate with just one ice surface
- Council needs to understand what community means
- There are a lot of good contractors in this area who can do the work.
- The school board is putting a lot of money into this community and I urge council to do the same and bring forward a motion to reconsider.

### Eleanor Baker

- The arena has served many, many organizations (provided a list)

### Shawn Jackson

- Played and coached hockey here, as well as ball
- We seem to lose focus on the community aspect when you only focus on dollars and cents
- Have you asked for other options – engineers will tell you what you want to hear
- let's look for a way to fix this as opposed to shutting it down.

### Celeste Eickholdt

- hates to see smaller community centres shut down
- Heard that it would be a mandate from the Province to shut down small community centres to get a new big one
- **There is no mandate from the Province in this regard.**
- **Mayor Mackey indicated that the initial grant was turned down because our "ask" was too big. They would like to see more fundraising and Township money put towards this as well.**

### Brianna Cook

- The thought of having my family raised here is amazing
- Building friendships, community
- Why do I want to be a part of this community when everything is crashing down?
- What can we do to save this
- COVID has changed a lot of things
- This is devastating to our community, so let's save this.

### Karen Wark

- Lived here all my life
- if we take away the companionship and comraderie, this is damaging to our mental health
- - if it breaks in the middle of the season, we are prepared to go elsewhere
- If they are losing money why does Council keep it – because the people want it for their community.
- You figure out how to fix it – we don't need to spend millions of dollars to fix a building – you need volunteers
- Council has to look at the bigger picture
- If people don't have the ice here now, are they going to give to the new arena – probably not.

### Steven Lembke

- Why did you hire outside engineers when you have a building inspector?
- When was the building build?
- The ice plant brine headers have not leaked, so what's the problem
- This is a community – that is what this ice surface represents – go back to Council and reconsider.

### Calvin Bryans

- 5<sup>th</sup> generation, member of Ag. Society, coached hockey
- My family and the families that settled here had a vision for this community and these grounds are a part of that vision
- To take out the ice is taking away from our heritage
- Big plan for a big hub – 30 – 40 million – are we going to get that funded
- **New hub is estimated to be \$15 million**
- Why are we not investing in the assets we have
- Understand that WOAA has requirements for a bigger surface
- We can build on to this facility – a new floor would cost \$100,000.00
- Hope township reconsiders and maybe will decide tonight to do it.

### Maddy Moore

- Created an online petition to show that the community needs this arena
- If we go to 1 arena, there are a lot of groups that will go elsewhere – if we have to do this, we are not coming back
- Pointless to ask us to fundraise if we are not coming back
- Hard to get groups going again once they are shut down
- Need to keep ice until new facility is built

### Chenille Schultz

- Involved in broomball and hockey
- Community is the #1 piece here – if the ice goes, our community goes
- Kids are proud to wear their Rebel jerseys
- Understands WOAA rules and the need for larger ice surface for some ages
- We need a home centre to play out of
- Kids need to be active and they are not doing so well because of COVID
- Hope Council reconsider

### Josh Walter

- Lived here since 1962 – involved in hockey, sister was involved in broomball – have attended many events and dances here
- 5 grandkids – take them to Owen Sound and Markdale to skate – they won't be able to come here
- Sounds like Council's decision comes down to money
- The Township brought property – maybe they should sell it to pay for the arena

Mayor Mackey thanked everyone for their comments and stated that he appreciated their input. If there are further questions, they can be sent to the CAO and we will answer them and post them on the website.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC MEETING**

1. **Since everything seems to be based on money with this decision to not put ice in Desboro, how much money was saved last year with the COVID.**

shutdowns on the 2 arenas. Was that money set aside to do some of these upgrades?

Revenues from facility rentals do not cover the cost of operating the facility. Revenues for 2020 totalled \$65,282.35 (half of what was budgeted), and expenses totalled \$187,461.14 (b budget amount was \$203,525.00).

2. The costs you gave us last night for the repairs/upgrades for the arena, where did you get those numbers, who are the contractors that priced out the jobs, what items need to be done for the safety of the building. What is the cost going to be to keep the arena open for other uses?

The costs that were provided come from the Building Condition Assessment Report prepared by the Township's engineers. These are not direct quotes, but are used as a guide for budgeting purposes. The BCA is found on the township's website at [www.chatsworth.ca/government/reports-and-studies](http://www.chatsworth.ca/government/reports-and-studies)

There will be ongoing costs to keep the facility open. One of the biggest expenses is the cost of hydro needed to keep the ice plant operating.

4. In this time of covid and kids have already lost so much and are struggling with mental health, why would you not want to help out that cause.

Minor sports from the Desboro facility will be relocated to the Keady facility.

5. Have any local contractors been contacted to see if they would be able to do any of the work to the arena for a fair price?

The decision to not put ice into the Desboro CC was based on the engineers report. Staff were not directed to obtain other pricing.

6. What is the time frame to have the hub built?

The hub is in the ten year capital plan, but is contingent on also receiving federal/provincial grants to assist with the cost.

7. Can you give us a breakdown of what the costs/revenue of the arena is.

See No. 1 above.

8. Why do we need to buy a new Zamboni – there were two last year. What happened to them?

The ice resurfacers have reached the end of their useful life. There were two as the second one was used for parts.

9. Would it not make sense to put some money into these two arenas we have to keep them in working condition until we are closer to building the hub?

The overall cost to keep the Desboro facility in good repair over the next five years (starting from 2019) is \$2,411,950.00. The BCA did not address the refrigeration equipment and is over and above this cost. The chiller is now 20 years old and has an expected life of 25 years. The cost to replace is \$55,000.00. The report from Kore Mechanical indicates that the refrigeration equipment has the ability to run for another 6 years. That report is dated March, 2019.