

January 19, 2025

To: Huron Kinloss Council

Re: Proposed Domed Sport Facility at Kinbruce Park

It was with great interest and concern we reviewed the minutes of the January 13, 2025 meeting of the Huron Kinloss Committee of the Whole. Our concern is in regards to two major issues. The first issue is the proposal by Bluewater Sports Management to construct an 81,000 square foot sports building and 120 space parking lot on the Kinbruce Park land. The second issue, which we consider most fundamental to this discussion, is the instruction to staff to prepare documents for the lease of Kinbruce Park lands.

Our family has lived at 167 Willis Crescent for 40 years. Our property backs onto the Kinbruce Park so we are quite familiar with the park's history and usage. We admit that there is NIMBYism involved here because we are discussing our literal back yard. However we are also residents and taxpayers of Huron Kinloss and do not wish to see a mistake made that current and future generations will regret.

With regards to the domed sport facility, we do not believe that there is a justification for it to be built in a residential area. This monstrosity will absolutely alter the atmosphere and quality of life of our neighbourhood. Sound pollution, light pollution, increased traffic, possible groundwater issues related to the necessary septic requirements and surface hardening are some of the many issues related to this proposal that we have not seen discussed. The fact that this domed building will be an eyesore to everyone living in sight of it should be a consideration to those who have been voted to represent our interests.

The presentation prepared by Bluewater Sports Management has a section for "stakeholder engagement". Nowhere in this document is any feedback from the neighbours of the proposed project. We must also be considered stakeholders. If Huron Kinloss Council believes that a domed sport facility is necessary for the Municipality then we would encourage you to look at siting it in an industrial park area or at least out of sight of a present or future residential area.

The second issue we would like to comment on from the January 13 Committee of the Whole meeting is the request for municipal staff to prepare documents for a lease of the Kinbruce Park land.

Living beside the Kinbruce Park my family is very familiar with how the park is used by Huron Kinloss residents. Every day during the Spring, Summer and Fall people come to the children's playground, to fly kites, launch rockets, play catch or exercise themselves and their animals. Most evenings there are dads teaching their son's and daughters how to bat or catch and throw baseballs. Quite often a family and friends will show up for a friendly baseball game. During the Winter there can be a dozen preschoolers sledding on the gentle hill by the ball field backstop. To say that the Kinbruce Park is not or little used is a misrepresentation.

The Kinbruce Park is a public recreational area and greenspace that belongs to all of the taxpayers of Huron Kinloss. With the rapidly increasing residential development of the Huron Kinloss lakeshore areas, public parkland and greenspace becomes more limited and thus of much higher value to taxpayers. Once a park/greenspace is leased for development it is lost forever and is unlikely to be replaced. The public parks/greenspaces of Huron Kinloss should be considered jewels that are valued and protected. Can there be improvements made to the Kinbruce Park? Absolutely! There is great potential to improve and expand the features of the Kinbruce Park. If there are not the funds or will at this time to commit to improvements at least keep the park in public hands.

We are sure that we are not the only Huron Kinloss residents that are concerned about the loss of a public parkland and greenspace. We are also sure that there are others concerned with the proposal for this sports facility at this particular location. Before any decisions are made, and before a lot of Municipal staff's time and efforts are expended, we request that a public meeting be scheduled to discuss the issues. We suggest an invitation be sent to every Huron Kinloss taxpayer.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Alan and Joanne Wilkins
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Huron Kinloss