

From: Dr. Dolittle <dr.e.k.dolittle@gmail.com>

Sent: April 6, 2025 21:36

To:

Subject: Re: Good morning

Hi there, all you wonderful thinkers and planners.

I have been reading some of the comments about the **Memorial Arena** usage in Goderich and wanted Leah, as Deputy Mayor, to know my thoughts along with Trevor, our Mayor and Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (ACW) representatives, Mayor, Glen McNeil and Deputy Mayor, Bill Vanstone as well as Lisa Thompson, MPP and Ben Lobb, MP. I know that Trevor and Leah have already read much of this feedback due to their enthusiastic engagement in the process. Feel free to communicate these attachments, included above, from our directors to your councilors, staff and representatives in parliament.

Please know that our **MackKay Centre for Seniors** is quite representative of our Ontario Rural population participation of the senior demographic in our and other rural communities since our membership represents over 500 citizens, not including their families. Approximately 10% of our Goderich and ACW current population take part in our programs at the MackKay Centre so take my comments with that in mind since **80%** of our members are from the Goderich community and **20%** are from ACW.

I believe that our seniors are benefiting from the volunteer and paid blessings of our staff from the programming they receive in Goderich and ACW.

I am biased based on my research and past studies of this and other seniors' communities. As you may know, the future of the Memorial Arena is up for discussion lately since it has been completely shut down from a community usage standpoint in 2024. The **Memorial Arena** could augment the wonderful activities that have been introduced to Goderich including, but not limited to: meals programs to challenged seniors and underserved food deserts, shuffleboard, pickleball, line dancing, yoga, cards of all types, meditation, music, tai chi, the library, art club and many other innovative programs such as a myriad of guest speakers and artists that engage this retirement community in realizing their happiness and potential. This cannot be done without significant investment in the structural retrofit or demolition and rebuild of this wonderful community asset.

I feel that it is our responsibility to continue this effort in any way we can, based on our current and previous government and council's initiatives and dedication to our communities. The Memorial Arena is a platform on which to build an ongoing legacy no matter how it proceeds, so your support of the next steps, no matter how they unfold, will augment the future of our population's future enjoyment of activity and happiness.

Thank you for all your hard work and inclusive communication about this challenging transition.

We always have and will appreciate your thoughtful and kind inclusion of this demographic in your decision making process.

Sincerely,

E. Kent Gillin, Chair

MackKay Centre for Seniors

On Sun, Apr 6, 2025 at 8:13 PM Dr. Dolittle <dr.e.k.dolittle@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for the comprehensive reply Larry. I have hopes that the evaluation committee hired to consult will evaluate the huge asset they have in the MacKay Centre demographics and streamline the process to accommodate the senior community in its quest for health and wellbeing. That being said, the taxpayers will take the brunt of this transition no matter what and they need to be consulted and intellectually informed throughout the process. It is great that the Town of Goderich is collaborating with all our citizens in an open and honest forum.

Thanks for all your input,

Kent

On Sun, Apr 6, 2025 at 7:28 PM Eastlink <lpapernick@eastlink.ca> wrote:

Got it ..and thanks..

I was also there.....my only add on to what Pam saidI am interested to know what the financial costs would be notably if it is decided to renovate the building to make it safe and useable what is the approximate cost to bring it up to code etc and then what is the projected annual ongoing P&L...how much will the arena generate in terms of users vs annual operating costs..this data understandably is yet to be presented but as a taxpayer it is useful/important to know...as I understand this segment with the consultants - it was more for them to learn what possible users could benefit from the Arena upgraded etc..

I understand this segment was to focus on potential users ...and based on that information the consultants can then better evaluate the decision to continue or not continue with the arena taking into account the finances...

Putting aside the loyalty that MacKay (which is immeasurable and was emphasized to the Consultants) has with its ongoing 500 plus membership ..the potential MacKay Hall to possibly access more space - call it 2000 sqft to accommodate the increase in growth in the current fitness programs ie YOGA and space for meetings as there is currently in

some instances where we are full and short of space ...as pointed out to the consultants this would be a bonus to MacKay Hall - again dependent for my reference on the finances etc..

I did suggest to the consultants if time permitted for them to tour our premises so they could better understand based on our comments what our shortfalls are ie demand to accommodate increased attendance for fitness groups and from time to time space for meetings etc.... their response was to try and get over to see our premises on Saturday ..Kim indicated she would be there ..whether they had time to go ..don't know but it was an open invite...

One last point ..yesterday at 5.00 ...the consultants as I understand presented an overview of what they learned the past two days ..as of right now I don't know the link to listen to this presentation but it is forthcoming ...this would be a good to hear what they said and once I know the link etc - I can update everyone ...I am interested in what they said..

Thanks for listening..a bit of rambling per se but this is an important topic not only for MacKay Hall for for Goderich resident taxpayers..

Please share with those Directors who don't have email etc..

Larry

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 6, 2025, at 6:07 PM, Dr. Dolittle <dr.e.k.dolittle@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for the concise update Pam. I am happy that the MacKay Centre contingent was there to express the interests of the population we represent.

Thank you,

Kent

On Sun, Apr 6, 2025 at 7:49 AM Pamela Somers <pamelasomers@icloud.com> wrote:

Debrief from Friday session at Comfort Inn regarding the Memorial Arena

Attendees

Kathleen

Sharon

Bonnie

Kim

Pam

After a lot of discussion regarding the use and necessity of the Mckay Hall

We all recommended to convert the Arena to a multipurpose community centre to be used by various groups , and an outdoor space for relaxation for everyone .
The Mckay Hall to remain as status quo with some room available at the new Community centre for larger activity groups with plenty of parking .
The Mayor stressed that there is no interest in asking in asking us to move completely ever!

Best Regards

Pam

Sent from Pam's iPad

--

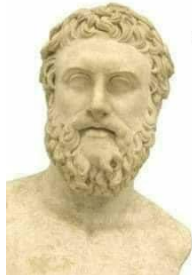
Dr. Dolittle Favourite Quotes:

" Are organisms really just algorithms, and is life really just data processing?

What is more valuable - intelligence or consciousness?

What will happen to society, politics and daily life when non-conscious but highly intelligent algorithms know us better than we know ourselves?"...

(Y.N. Harari, 2015)



"ehh, good enough"
~ *Mediocretes*