

From: Mike Alcock <malcock@morristurnberry.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 4:00 PM
To: trevorbazinetgoderich@gmail.com
Subject: Charette

Hi Trevor,

Further to our discussions at YCW.

I need to say, that the letter and comments from the Goderich Lions Club do not represent my comments.

I do not buy into this process moving too fast, that attitude is what has gotten us to this point and if we procrastinate enough maybe we can put off a solution for another 20 years. It is never too early to start planning and thinking. The sooner we can focus on a preferred solution the sooner the detailed planning can start. That is the part that cannot be rushed. That is the part that needs to be perfect.

I do not get nostalgic over infrastructure, what goes up must come down, and that is the circle of life when it comes to infrastructure. People point to pyramids and dispute that statement, but a pyramid is already built in the shape of a collapsed building. So in essence it has already fallen down.

Nothing prevents anyone from honouring veterans at any time, including a permanent solution to the issue we are facing. Seems to me like this is where the Lions letter gets confused between bricks and mortar and community gathering. To me the latter is the important part. Also there is nothing we can do about the past, so bantering about too much inaction to too much action is irrelevant, and I say, lets get moving on this. No matter what this process will take years at the fastest.

Next we list a bunch of activities that I believe the Lions as well as myself would like to see continue into the future. They all have merit, as well as a lot of other. I don't believe there are many members of Council or the general public that can come to a conclusion now or following the charette about the most appropriate solution to this problem. The Charette should flush out what the problem is, several (i.e. 6 or 7) solutions to this problem should be evaluated for feasibility. If one of these solutions includes private revenue generating ownership, it should be noted that will have a direct correlation to the number of events and the profitability of those events that generate income for the Municipality. My belief is that Community Centers can only survive if they are owned and operated by the Municipality.

This is absolutely like they say in Field of Dreams, "Build it and they will come" (I know that is not the exact quote). If the space is not available the ideas for events will not happen. So going looking for dreams to be held in the new facility, or solution to the problem will not result in anything concrete. It must be built first, and they will come. This will never make money on a balance sheet. Just like roads and bridges don't make money on a balance sheet. But I don't think we can afford the consequences of not having Community spaces like these. Who wants to live in a bedroom community that does not have a sense of community.

If I were to first list the primary problem(s)

- Lack of large Community Space (Centre) – Like the floor surface in Memorial say 1,000 occupancy
- Lack of medium Community Space (Centre) – like upstairs in Memorial say 300 occupancy
- Lack of commercial kitchen to serve the above for various events

Now some secondary “problems” arguably these could be addressed as well in addition to the primary problems.

- Ice time – for something that has had a consultant study done on it, it sure comes up a lot as a problem. Whether this is for practice ice, free skate ice, tournament ice, curling ice, it seems like Goderich could certainly use more ice, when we have groups driving to Bayfield and Blyth for ice.
- Perma frost at Maitland Recreation. A second ice pad would allow annual ice removal of the main arena to allow the frost out of the ground and prevent heaving of the ice surface. This should provide for a longer expected life of the main ice surface.
- Solutions should provide for both short term and long term solutions.

Potential Solutions:

1. Construct a second ice pad at maitland rec centre. It does not have to be as high since it will not need a walking track and it does not require as much seating as the main arena. Other community space could be constructed above or adjacent to this space. Possibly 3 areas with seating for 200 each with removable walls. This would allow event space for 200, 400 or 600 all year round. Ice would be removed from at least 1 venue at a time for the warmer months and possibly both venues for trade shows etc. if needed. I could guarantee an AORS Trade Show at the facility (that is a 1 time event, but there are others) and there would be others. There should be at least one commercial kitchen. Short term would be to salvage as much use of the Memorial for a few years as we could with some minimal investment into emergency egress etc. The architects report seems to elude to this possibility with minimal investment. This also opens the doors to more amenities at Banister. Parking, Playground, Splash Pad
2. Refurb Memorial – Pros and Cons
3. Tent Structure over Memorial seating and surface – Pros and Cons
4. Think of a few more options and add pros and cons. Evaluate those and come to a preferred solution. Raise the money grants, loans, taxes, etc. and work towards implementing. Staff should be able to come up with these details and a business plan
- 5.
- 6.
7. Do Nothing – pros and cons

Truly,

Mike Alcock

Director of Public Works



MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS-TURNBERRY

Public Works Department

PO Box 310, 41342 Morris Road

Brussels, Ontario N0G 1H0

Phone: (519) 887-6137 ext. 227

Fax: (519) 887-6424

Web: www.morristurnberry.ca