

February 5, 2025 Council Meeting Concerns re: Report CRSM-2025-02

From: Meghan Tallevi (meghantallevi@yahoo.ca)

To: meghantallevi@yahoo.ca

Date: Monday, February 3, 2025 at 08:10 p.m. EST

Dear Councillors Van Wyk and Zehr,

It has come to my attention that report CRSM-2025-02 is being tabled at council on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 and I am **strongly opposed to the recommendation** as both a citizen within Ward 1 of East Zorra-Tavistock, and as a member of an affected user group via the Tavistock & District Skating Club. I have attached correspondence from the Tavistock & District Skating Club which points to a number of key factors that need to be considered with the decision to eliminate 'August Ice' including:

- The 60+ hours that the Club has rented in past years to develop the youth within our own community, as well as brining other skaters and their families into the community due to the strong programming the Club can offer as a result of this ice time.
- The ramification of the decision with such late notification of the change as it will prove difficult for the Club to source these 60+ hours in other townships, severely hindering the programming and impacting nearly 100 skaters.

In regards to report CRSM-2025-02, while there does not appear to be concrete evidence to substantiate the costs/claims made within, should one consider these claims regarding the useful life of the compressors as factual, the report fails to draw an accurate conclusion around the financial consequences based on the information contained within the report. The report claims that 'August Ice' would reduce the useful life of the compressors by 5 years (per engineer's report provided with the letter from the Tavistock & District Skating Club, there is no evidence for same) resulting in a replacement 'cost per year' of the 2 compressors of \$11,000 ($2 \times \$110,000 = \$220,000 / 20$ years), in comparison to \$8,800/year at a 25 year useful life ($2 \times \$110,000 = \$220,000 / 25$ years). This is a mere difference of \$2,200 per year. Meanwhile, the lowest earnings generated in the last 3 years per the report is in 2024 at \$7,089.15, meaning the township is willing to forego at a minimum, additional earnings of \$4,889.15 annually noting this increases to \$11,855.36 based on 2022 rentals. The report does not include historical revenues generated under the prior arena management where the use of 'gap ice' is believed to have been more prevalent. The report fails to describe or substantiate what the 'opportunity cost' of a staff member truly is, and the duties that they would be unable to complete as a result of the ice rental. Finally, the report makes no allowance for the lost usage for the weeks in September prior to the fall fair, and for the approximate 5 days following as ice is being made where the arena will be empty. While this only represents 2 weeks for 2025, this will be pushed to 3 years in 2026 where Labour Day falls on September 7th. These latter dates will further impact revenues and put a strain on many other user groups including minor hockey.

With respect to minor hockey, the OMHA has recently announced changes to the Player Movement Regulations whereby players in the U10 age group and above will have the opportunity to participate with the Association of their choice regardless of category beginning in the 2025-2026 season. This is prompting many minor hockey organizations to hold tryouts earlier in the season to finalize rosters in an effort to have competitive programming. Should there be a delay in ice availability in the community, players within the township may look elsewhere to secure a team and the overall minor hockey programming may suffer, similarly to the skating/synchro programs referenced in the attached letter. While my own children are part of the Tavistock Minor Hockey program, at this time they are unaffected by the regulation changes given their age group (entering U7 and U8 for the 2025-2026 season). However, a lack of availability of early ice may hinder the minor hockey programming in the community, and could force me and my family, along with others, to look outside of our home to find suitable programming.

It is my request that Report CRSM-2025-02 be **rejected** at this time to allow programming to continue as in prior years, with township to review added revenue sources as through 'gap ice' as done in prior years. I urge the township to complete a proper financial analysis prior to tabling this change in the future, and take action that notifies user groups of any potential changes well in advance of such a decision that makes a strong impact to their programming.

Respectfully,
Meghan Tallevi
Ward 1 Resident
519-501-0253



EZT Letter re August Ice 2025.pdf

114.9kB