



May 17, 2023

VIA email only

Township of Georgian Bluffs  
177964 Grey Road 18, R.R. #3,  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N5  
[ccraig@georgianbluffs.ca](mailto:ccraig@georgianbluffs.ca)

Dear Mayor and Council

We appreciate the ability to comment on the report #CSD-2023-06 Proposal for Derby/Kilsyth Community Centre discussing the proposed alternative use of the facility.

Our league does acknowledge that Georgian Bluffs staff did speak briefly with us a few weeks ago about the potential for changes to the facility including installation of turf. However, we had believed there would be further opportunities to consult prior to moving forward with any decisions.

Members of our league read the report to Council only yesterday and have not had time to discuss the information contained within among our Board. We have not been able to fully understand the potential impact losing this facility, but we wanted at this time to make Council aware that the future of this facility is of significant importance to our league and viability of Roller Derby in our region. Grey Bruce Roller Derby is the only Roller Derby league in the area and Kilsyth is a primary practice space that the league relies on. Installing turf in Kilsyth would render the space unviable for skating. With no reasonable alternative, we could not operate Grey Bruce Roller Derby.

As Council is aware, Grey Bruce Roller Derby has been a renter of this arena for several years. In fact, our league relies on this space for practice time from September to April every year. Only after the ice is removed in the spring, we are able to use the space in Shallow Lake. With the exception of December and January, our league operates year-round.

Notwithstanding time lost due to the Covid-19 shutdown, our league has hosted regular annual home Roller Derby games since our league formed in 2011, many in Georgian Bluffs.

Our sport is one of the most inclusive sports in the world, providing an accepting and supportive space for women and non-cis gender people to play a contact sport. Many of our events have helped us donate back to the community and support many community causes.

While we understand that Council's must demonstrate fiscal responsibility, we would like the opportunity to further engage with Georgian Bluffs prior to Council considering the report's recommendation:

*Recommendation:*

That Council consider potential alternative use for the Derby Community Centre by Ontario Sports Development; and

That direction to staff on whether to continue to explore an agreement for use is given; and

That if staff are directed to further explore alternative use, that staff be directed to bring a report and formal proposal back to Council for further consideration.

We ask that you not make this motion at this time, but defer this motion to allow more time to consult with us. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Denise McCarl

*On behalf of Grey Bruce Roller Derby*

Cc: Grey Bruce Roller Derby [info@gbrd.ca](mailto:info@gbrd.ca)

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