



Recreation Committee  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, Aberfoyle

## AGENDA

≠ - Denotes Recommendation

1. Call meeting to order
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
3. Approval of Minutes ≠
  - a) January 19, 2016 – Regular meeting
4. Delegations/Presentations
  - a) 7:05 p.m. - Sarah Thomas and Linda Killough – YMCA/YWCA Guelph/Wellington Regarding 2015 Summer Camp and 2016 Summer Camp Proposal ≠
5. 2016 Recreation Committee – Work Plan
  1. Report REC-2016-01 – 2015 Recreation Committee Work Plan Review ≠
6. Regular Business
  1. Pickleball – Verbal Update – Margaret Hauwert ≠
  2. Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Report regarding Puslinch Community Centre Park Master Plan (Phase 1) dated February 4, 2016 ≠
7. Financial Reports
  1. Revenue and Expenses  
None.
  2. Revenue Summaries  
None.
8. Closed Meeting  
None.
9. Adjournment ≠
10. Next meeting – March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Township of Puslinch.



## **MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillor Stokley, Chair  
Daina Makinson, Vice-Chair  
June Williams  
Kevin Johnson  
Margaret Hauwert

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

None.

### **TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Marissa Herner, Communications Associate/C.S.R  
Donna Tremblay, Deputy Clerk

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR TERM 2016**

#### **Nominations for Chair**

Chair Stokley advised the Committee that the Recreation Committee Terms of Reference indicate that the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee and shall serve in this capacity for a minimum of 2 years. As he has been reappointed to the Committee, he will continue to hold the Chair position until the end of the 2016.

#### **Nominations for Vice-Chair**

Chair Stokley advised that the Vice-Chair appointed in 2015 was no longer a Committee member. Therefore, a new Vice-Chair was required.

Ms. Daina Makinson and Ms. Margaret Hauwert were nominated and accepted the appointments as Vice-Chair. Following a vote by the Committee, Ms. Daina Makinson was appointed as Vice-Chair for the term 2016-2018.

### **3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Councillor Stokley welcomed Ms. Margaret Hauwert and Mr. Kevin Johnson as new members of the Committee and expressed thanks to June Williams and Diana Makinson for their continued interest on serving on the Recreation Committee.

### **4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) December 15, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Moved by Daina Makinson and then Seconded by June Williams **REC-2016-01**



That the Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting dated December 15, 2015 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**7. REGULAR BUSINESS**

1. Pickleball – Verbal Update – Chair Wayne Stokley

Chair Stokley provided the Committee with an update regarding pickleball. The free pickleball demonstration in December was well attended. The group that provided their time and equipment for the demonstration indicated, at this time, that they no longer wish to lead in the organization of a pickleball league in the Township and have provided the Committee with the information that was collected at the demonstration.

Chair Stokley advised the Committee that there is an interest in pickleball and is hopeful that an interested group will lead in establishing a pickleball league and bring forth a proposal to Council.

Chair Stokley advised the Committee that would no longer be able to assist and expressed that the Township will continue to investigate opportunities to work with organizations such as the YMCA/YWCA and GWSA (Guelph-Wellington Seniors Association) to discuss possible opportunities for pickleball in the Township.

Ms. Tremblay advised that she would like to see the Committee and not the Township undertake this project.

Ms. Hauwert expressed an interest in exploring opportunities with the Ontario Pickleball Association and will report back to the Committee on her findings.

Ms. Williams also advised the Committee that she will reach out to those who attended the demonstration to seek interest in the development of a league.

2. Trophy Book ≠

Ms. Makinson presented the final draft of the trophy book to the Committee for their approval. The Committee suggested a few minor amendments to the layout.

Moved by Margaret Hauwert and then Seconded by Kevin Johnson **REC-2016-02**

That the Committee expresses their approval of the trophy book with amendments. The committee supports Ms. Makinson providing staff with a price for the trophy book to be considered in discussions at the staff operating budget for 2016.

**CARRIED**

3. Appointment to ORC Pad Committee ≠

Chair Stokley provided the Committee with a summary of the notice of motion and resulting Council Resolution 2016-009 that was brought forward by Councillor Roth at the January 6, 2016 Council meeting regarding the establishment of an ORC Pad Committee.



Ms. Hauwert and Mr. Johnson were nominated and accepted the nominations to the ORC Pad Committee.

Following questions from the Committee on their interests in serving on the ORC Pad Committee.

Moved by Margaret Hauwert and then Seconded by Kevin Johnson **REC-2016-03**

That the Recreation Committee appoints Kevin Johnson to the ORC Pad Committee; and that staff advise Council of this appointment.

**CARRIED**

## **8. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### 1. Revenue and Expenses ≠

November 2015

- a) Parkland
- b) Optimist Recreation Centre
- c) Puslinch Community Centre

Moved by Kevin Johnson and then Seconded by June Williams **REC-2016-04**

That the Recreation Committee receive the following:

November 2015

- a) Parkland
- b) Optimist Recreation Centre
- c) Puslinch Community Centre

**CARRIED**

### 2. Revenue Summaries ≠

- a) Yearly Revenue Comparison – Puslinch Community Centre/Optimist Recreation Centre

Moved by June Williams and then Seconded by Daina Makinson **REC-2016-05**

That the Recreation Committee receive the Yearly Revenue Comparison – Puslinch Community Centre/Optimist Recreation Centre

**CARRIED**

## **9. CLOSED MEETING**

None.



Puslinch Recreation Committee  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, Aberfoyle

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Kevin Johnson and then Seconded by June Williams **REC-2016-06**

The Recreation Committee Meeting hereby adjourns at 8:17 p.m.

**CARRIED**

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



YMCA - YWCA of  
Guelph



Puslinch Power

Camp 2015

YMCA-YWCA of Guelph

and

# To Recap:

In 2013: We offered *three* weeks of camp

In 2014: We offered *five* weeks of camp

In 2015: We offered *five* weeks of camp

2015: Ages 6-8 and 9-12 years

Two themes offered each week to build skills:

- Kulinary Kids
- Ball Hockey
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Girl Power
- Soccer
- Try a Sport
- Art Attack
- Fitness Fever?
- Music Mania

Also offered:

- Extended Care
- Bus from the Y



# 2015:

Enrolment 2013: *121 campers*

Enrolment 2014: *249 campers*

***Enrolment 2015: 239 Campers (no growth)***

***\*When parents were asked to provide us with feedback:***

*-“Great location and the camp counselors were amazing! Arriving early on 2 of the 5 days the kids were singing(ALL OF THEM) and having a great time. My kids were sad that I came early which is a very good sign!”*

*- “My Son really liked the ball hockey and frisbee camps”*

*-“My son who is on the autism spectrum, seem to feel confident and included in activities. They’ve obviously done a great job in helping him to feel comfortable and socially successful”*

*-“They allowed my child to be himself”*

*-“My daughter really enjoyed it and asked to go back!”*



# Girl Power:

## 9-12 year old girls:

- Body image
- True Beauty projects (Self esteem)
- Nutrition (hands on)
- Daily crafts (dream boards)
- Discussions around active living
- Active team building
- Daily fitness challenges
- Friendships



# Ball Hockey:

## 6-8 years/9-12 years:

- Ran twice
- Mostly boys
- Skills and drills
- Full games
- Nutrition (hands on in the kitchen)
- T-shirt making
- Active field games
- Focus on the wellbeing of an athlete
- Team building
- Friendships



# Kulinary Kids:

## 9-12 years:

- 1-2 Recipes per day
- Hands on
- Nutrition activities
- Active group games
- Skills learned each day
- Amazing facility for this type of programming
- Guest speakers from Puslinch Fire Hall to talk about kitchen safety...was well received.
- 2016: would like to offer this program for the younger campers as well.



- Art Attack:

- An opportunity to try out different styles of art
- Amazing hands on projects that engaged our campers
- Local guest photographer came and spend time with our campers to share some hands on photography basics.
- Art projects daily



# Try a Sport:

- Campers were engaged to try a new sport each day that they may have never tried before
- Guests from the Y fitness team came to offer some fitness programs
- Guest Sensei Rob came to introduce the sport of Judo to our campers. Our campers loved this workshop.
- Having access to the tennis courts for one day was amazing.



# Moving forward for 2016

- Our hope is to offer this camp again in 2016
- We would love to discuss the possibility of offering it for **5 weeks again** in 2016
- We have a request for the 2016 fee to stay the same.
- Brochures for 2016 will need to go to print by end of February
- We will be breaking down the age groups more specifically for 2016 (6-7, 8-9, 10-12) to design even better age specific programming.





## REPORT REC-2016-001

**TO:** Members of the Recreation Committee

**FROM:** Donna Tremblay, Deputy Clerk

**MEETING DATE:** February 16, 2016

**SUBJECT:** 2015 Recreation Committee Work plan Review

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Report REC-2016-001 regarding the 2015 Recreation Committee Work plan Review be received; and

That the Recreation Committee undertake the development of a 2016 Work plan for presentation to Council.

### DISCUSSION

#### Purpose

To conduct a review the 2015 Recreation Committee work plan items and to establish goals and objectives for the 2016 Recreation Committee work plan.

#### Background

At the May 19, 2015 meeting of the Recreation Committee, the Committee received Report REC-2015-004 – Recreation and Parks Master Plan which contained the final version of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan prepared by the Township’s consultant Monteith Brown. The Recreation and Parks Master Plan was adopted in principle by Council at the May 20, 2015 Council meeting.

Several recommendations were contained in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan including that the Recreation Committee develop an annual work plan.

The Committee had discussions regarding their annual work plan at both the May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 19, 2015 Recreation Committee meetings.

During the May 19, 2015 meeting, the Committee members indicated that the following items be considered in development of their 2015 work plan:

- establish contact with various community partners;

- actively promote physical activity and healthy communities through participation in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph “in motion” initiative and similar programs;
- undertake a comprehensive review of the Recreation Committee terms of reference;
- undertake a Communications and Branding Strategy to promote local parks and recreation opportunities;
- develop a Community Funding Policy and grant program; and
- strengthen community partnerships and explore options for enhancing the use of existing municipal facilities for community-led programs and events.

The Committee requested that staff bring forward the work plan as an Agenda item at their June 19, 2015, Committee meeting for further discussion.

On June 19, 2015, the Recreation Committee added the following work plan items:

- building relationships with Guelph Evergreen Centre and exploring options for different winter activities.
- replacement of the playground equipment and parkland trail development.

The work plan items discussed were then prioritized by each of the committee members as follows:

Nichole Caswell – 1. Strengthening community partners, 2. Promotion of physical activity and health with In Motion, and 3. Branding.

Tom Jefferson - 1. Developing and strengthening outside community partnerships, 2. The promotion of physical activity and, 3. Participation and parkland trail development.

June Williams 1. Strengthening community partners with such groups as Optimist Club, Rotary, etc., 2. Branding and logos development, and 3. Promotion of in motion activities.

Chair Stokley – 1. Contacting and engaging community partners including Evergreen Seniors Centre, YMCA/YWCA, Aberfoyle Public School, and Conestoga College, 2. Promotion of In Motion activities, and 3. Communications and Branding.

The Committee discussed reaching out to various community groups including Evergreen Senior Centre, YMCA/YWCA and In Motion.

Staff advised that contacts could be made with the YMCA/YWCA of Guelph regarding interest in working with the Township to provide additional programs for senior and youths, and also opportunities for Christmas and March Break activities and report back to the Committee.

The Committee also inquired as to whether a delegation from In Motion could be arranged to speak to the group regarding their activities and staff undertook to see if these arrangements could be made and to report back to the Committee on the results.

The Committee discussed ways in which to promote the facilities and activities at the facilities including the use of Puslinch Today and requested that staff make arrangements for Puslinch Today to delegate to the Committee on how they could assist the Township in promotion of the facilities and activities at the facilities.

### **Achievement of 2015 work plan items**

The Committee was able to achieve the following work plan items in 2015:

1. Contact and meetings have taken place with both Guelph Wellington Seniors Association and Evergreen Seniors associations with respect to the provision of programs and/or services to Township Residents.

A pickleball demonstration was held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> by the Guelph Wellington Seniors pickleball group at the Optimist Recreation Centre. The demonstration was well attended. Committee efforts are ongoing with respect to pickleball.

2. Staff have contacted and meetings have taken place with the Guelph YWCA/YMCA with respect to provision of additional programs and/or services to Township Residents.

Suggested programs have been line dancing to be offered at the Optimist Recreation Centre and a Leader in Training Program For Youth. The YMCA/YWCA has advised that it is their intention to continue with a 2016 summer camp program at the PCC lands. YMCA/YWCA will be coming forward to make a presentation to the Recreation Committee in February 2016 with respect to results of the 2015 Summer Camp and proposal for 2016 Summer Camp.

3. Puslinch Today made a presentation to the Recreation Committee at the July, 2015 meeting which included information regarding their website and services that they could provide in the promotion of recreation facilities and activities at those facilities.
4. Shinny and Sticks and Pucks drop-in programs have continued to run during the 2015/2016 ice season.
5. The Recreation Committee has appointed one member to the ORC Rink Pad Committee which has been established to analyze and evaluate the past and present data related to revenue, expenses and user fees for the ice pad; Current service level delivery for the ice pad both on and off season, and methods of the delivery of those services; and explore new opportunities for optimizing the use of the ice pad including options to extend the ice season and the feasibility of other pad sporting activities.

### **Development of a 2016 Recreation Committee Work Plan**

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan has recommended that the Committee develop an annual work plan.

Committee discussions took place in 2015 with respect to work plan items, a formal plan was not developed by the Committee in 2015.

The purpose of work plans are to provide a detailed accounting of how an individual or group proposes going about accomplishing a specific task, approaching a project or pitching new concepts. Sometimes referred to as a “statement of work,” a work plan generally includes an introduction or overview of a project or activity, a breakdown of how individual project-related tasks will be accomplished, a timeline for completion and cost projections for implementation.

To provide assistance to the Committee in development of a formal work plan, staff researched and reviewed other municipal advisory committee work plans and suggest that the Committee’s work plan include the following:

- a) A list of objectives for the year;
- b) Details of activities, projects and services and associated timelines that will be undertaken to achieve the Committee’s objectives; and
- c) A list of qualitative and/or quantitative measures which will help demonstrate the success of the Committee in meeting the objectives and delivery of the activities set out in the work plan.

The work plan may be in the general form as attached as Schedule “A” to Report REC-2016-001.

Once a formal work plan has been developed it would be presented to Council for approval and will be used by the Committee in advising Council on:

- a) Progress toward delivering the activities, services and projects outlined in the work plan;
- b) Any variances from the time lines and explanations for such variances, and any budget requests and/or implications.

Given that many of the 2015 Work plan items were based on recommendations contained in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, the Recreation Committee may wish to develop their 2016 work plan based upon a review the suggested work plan items from 2015, a review of the accomplishments in 2015 and incorporate any items that were not fully developed in 2015.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

PUSLINCH RECREATION COMMITTEE	
WORK PLAN TEMPLATE	
<b>Committee Name:</b> Puslinch Recreation Committee	
<b>Work Plan Period:</b> January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016	
<b>Name of Person Completing Form:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Committee Objectives:</b> (Please list your committees overall objectives for the coming year)	
1. Strengthen Community partnerships and explore options for enhancing the use of existing municipal facilities for community.	

Main Activity	Provide Details of the main plan, project, programs or services related to these activities	Tell us about any relevant timelines or milestones	Which objective does this support
Pickleball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek out an interested group</li> <li>• seek approval from council to hold free demonstration at Optimist Recreation Centre</li> <li>• provide a demonstration of activity to township residents</li> </ul>	December 31, 2016	Strengthen community partnerships and explore options for enhancing the use of existing municipal facilities for community-lead programs and events.

<b>What indicators will demonstrate the success of the Committee in meeting the objective and delivery of the activity.</b>	<b>Why is indicator important?</b>	<b>Which Committee Activity does this support?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to seek out interest group</li> </ul>	Demonstrates interest from community group	Pickleball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of participants at demonstration</li> </ul>	Assists in demonstrating resources required	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from community on activity</li> </ul>	Assists in seeking out further opportunities	

February 4, 2016

Don Creed, Director of Public Works and Parks  
The Corporation of the Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Guelph, ON  
N1H 6H9

Dear Mr. Creed:

**Re: Puslinch Community Centre Park Master Plan (Phase 1)**

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**Monteith Brown Planning Consultants and Landscape Planning Limited** are pleased to submit our report regarding the **Puslinch Community Centre Park Master Plan (Phase 1)**. This letter outlines the nature of the assignment, a summary and detailed records of public input, and the final set of concept plans that form the Park Master Plan.

We commend the Township for having the foresight to expand the park to serve the changing needs of the community. Further, we are pleased to see such high levels of public interest in this project and believe that this will provide Township Council and staff with the information they need to make decisions that are in the best interest of Puslinch residents.

### **1. About the Park Master Plan**

Located at 23 Brock Road in Aberfoyle, the Puslinch Community Centre Park has long been a destination within the Township of Puslinch. At present, the park contains the following amenities (see images in **Appendix A**):

- Puslinch Community Centre
- Optimist Recreation Centre (built 2010)
- Branch Library (Wellington County Library)
- ball diamond, with lights
- intermediate soccer field
- playground
- three tennis courts
- ornamental garden
- spaces to support the Fall Fair, including a horse paddock and tractor pull area
- works building
- large paved parking lot

In 2010, the Township purchased 4.1 hectares of farmland along the western flank of the park for expansion purposes,



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increasing the entire park size to a total of 9.8 hectares. The new lands are located within the floodplain of a tributary of Mill Creek. There is also a small wetland adjacent to the creek. As a result, development restrictions apply to the rear portion of the site and they are unable to sustain any structures, paved parking lots, or changes in grading, though they are suitable for playing fields and passive recreation uses. Additional consultation with the Grand River Conservation Authority should be undertaken prior to undertaking any site works.

In 2015, the Township completed their first Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The Plan, based on broad community input and various assessments, recommended that the Township “develop a Master Plan for the Puslinch Community Centre Park to more closely examine the layout and features of the entire park site, including the expansion lands.”

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan identified a number of items to be considered for the site:

- one new lit full-size soccer field (11v11) and one smaller unlit soccer field (9v9)
- development of unpaved trail loop
- splash pad (with community partner/fundraising)
- larger playground with barrier-free components
- unpaved parking lot to serve the expansion lands
- Club-led improvements to the existing tennis courts, including conversion of the third court to public use
- potential re-purposing of the ball diamond to alternate uses due to low usage levels, pending capital repairs (new lighting), and to improve flow and safety within the park

The option of including a pavilion to support park uses was also identified in the early stages of this Park Master Plan.

The purpose of Phase 1 of this Puslinch Community Centre Park Master Plan is to more closely examine options for the site, informed by public input. The design of the park has changed as new features have been added over time. Designing the expansion provides an ideal opportunity to examine the functionality of the entire park, such as the potential relocation of the playground and/or the re-purposing of the ball diamond to other uses.

To the best of our knowledge, the Township has not identified a funding source for implementation of this project at this present time; thus, this Master Plan is intended to inform future budget decisions (capital cost estimates would be identified in Phase 2, under separate contract).

## **2. Process**

Phase 1 of the Park Master Plan was launched in October 2015. The Consulting Team reviewed relevant and available background information (e.g., Parks and Recreation Master Plan, trail review provided by GWS Ecological & Forestry Services dated November 2013, servicing plans, June 2012 stakeholder meeting regarding park expansion, etc.) and participated in a meeting with Township staff and toured the park. Based on this information, two draft concept plans for the park were prepared – one with the existing ball diamond and one without.

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The draft concept plans were presented by municipal staff to the Township's Recreation Committee on November 17, 2015 for initial review and were fine-tuned prior to presentation to the public.

On November 26, 2015, a public open house was held at the Optimist Recreation Centre to present the draft concept plans to interested residents and stakeholders. The open house was advertised through posters, the Township's website, and direct email to Council and community organizations. 30 people signed into the open house, although the number attending was likely greater. Participants reviewed a series of display panels and commented using sticky notes, individual comment sheets, and verbal discussions.

The concept plans and display panels were also posted on the Township's website from late November 2015 to January 31, 2016, during which comments were welcomed by the Township. A number of emails were received during this commenting period and have been added to the record of public input.

A summary of the input received at the open house and subsequent commenting period is provided in Section 4. This input, along with the entirety of this report, will be presented to Township Council to seek their direction.

Decisions on the next phase of work – which may include further refinement of the preferred concept plan, capital cost estimation, additional consultation, and approvals – would require Council authorization.

### 3. Concept Plans

Based on direction from the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, two concept plans were developed for the subject lands – one with the existing ball diamond and one without. The base layers were provided by the County of Wellington and were informed by servicing drawings provided by the Township, as well as aerial photography.

Two concept plans were prepared based on the directions contained in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan and the June 2012 stakeholder meeting where this matter was first discussed.

Concept 1 maintains the existing ball diamond and includes two new full size soccer fields. Concept 2 removes the ball diamond, which is replaced with large central hub (picnic area, playground, splash pad) and includes two new soccer fields (one full size, one smaller).

Both concepts include the following new or modified features:

- nature trail loop
- new parking area
- picnic shelter and gazebo
- the relocation of the playground and Fair features (horse corral, tractor pull area)

The concept plans are contained in **Appendix B**.

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#### **4. Context & Public Input**

As indicated above, the public input phase consisted of an open house event and subsequent commenting period. 30 people signed-in to the open house and a total of 45 comments related to the preliminary concept plans were posted on sticky notes. The two-month commenting period (including comment sheets available at the open house) solicited a total of 25 submissions from 22 persons. A detailed record of public input is provided in **Appendix C**.

##### **a) Ball Diamond**

###### Context:

The Township maintains a total of four ball diamonds: the Puslinch Community Centre Park has one lit diamond; Old Morriston Ball Field has one lit diamond; and Morriston Meadows Park has two unlit softball diamonds, one of which is smaller and more suitable for youth practices (adding lights to these diamonds is not a likely option due to the proximity to an established residential area).

Baseball in its various forms (fastball is predominantly played in Puslinch) is a sport in decline across Canada, although interest remains strong in many communities. In Puslinch, baseball is primarily played by both youth and adults, although Puslinch Minor Ball has reported challenges with maintaining its participation levels. Consultation with local ball groups in 2014 indicated that there were approximately 132 ball participants (75 youth and 57 adults). Consultation for the Park Master Plan indicated that there are 7 teams in the Township (Men's fastball, 3 Oldtimers teams, Puslinch Ladies Fastball, Bantam Boys, and Peewee Boys).

Based on the number of players, the diamond supply, and usage rates, the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an oversupply of diamonds in the Township and suggested that repurposing of under-utilized diamonds could be considered at some point in the future. The lower levels of youth participation, also raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of the sport in the Township, as did the programming (fastball), which is not played by all centres in the surrounding region. Consultation undertaken for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan did, however, identify requests for improved ball diamonds, including new bleachers, better field lighting, and new fencing.

In particular, the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified concerns with the ball diamond at the Puslinch Community Centre Park. The diamond will soon require new light standards (a significant expense) and is located in the heart of a very busy park, where there is the potential for conflicts with several adjacent amenities (e.g., playground, ORC, etc.). Furthermore, access to the expansion lands at the rear of the park is likely to create additional traffic alongside the diamond, thereby creating additional safety concerns. It is important to note that the ball diamond outfield is situated over the site's septic bed, which may impact other uses for this space should it be converted in the future.

As a result, the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that the Township consider re-purposing the Puslinch Community Centre Park ball diamond to alternate uses (e.g., splash pad, mini soccer field, etc.) to allow for improved flow and function within this park. It further recommended that the Township engage local ball user groups to identify and prioritize improvements to select municipal ball diamonds.

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Public Input:

*“Eliminating one of the few remaining lit ball diamonds in this community would not only wash away 50+ years of baseball history played here but I believe would effectively destroy minor ball moving forward.”*

*“If the ball diamond is to be removed, 7 baseball teams which require lights will not be able to cohabitate and baseball won’t disappear, it will be pushed out...If you’re going to remove a ball diamond, do Morriston Meadows.”*

*“I may not be popular with my baseball counter parts but I believe that we have outgrown that ball park with the proximity to the Optimists Recreation building, library, and community centre. It is now a dangerous and busy location for all the activities going on ... [but] if the ball diamond was removed, where would these teams play their night games?”*

More than half of the comments received addressed a desire to keep the existing ball diamond (as proposed on Concept 1) – by far the most requested item. Four commenters also suggested adding a second ball diamond to the Park, while only two explicitly identified their support for removing the ball diamond. Additional netting alongside the existing diamond was suggested by some as a way to address safety concerns.

There is little doubt that the local baseball community was heavily involved in the Park Master Plan consultation and it is great to see the passion they have for the sport. It is clear that those participating have a preference for using two ball diamonds in the Township: the one at Puslinch Community Centre Park and the Old Morriston Ball Field, both of which have lights for evening play. The Township also provides two ball diamonds at Morriston Meadows (one adult and one youth, both without lights), though these diamonds do not appear to be as well used; several suggested that they should be the ones removed and/or repurposed to soccer fields instead.

It should be noted that, while many of the comments related to the demand for ball diamonds in the Township, the completion of a detailed needs assessment is beyond the scope of this Park Master Plan. Current and future demand for ball diamonds was addressed in the Township’s 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**b) Soccer Fields**

Context:

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified a need for additional soccer fields for the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club, which currently uses the existing field at the Puslinch Community Centre Park, as well as fields in Badenoch and the Calvary Baptist Church (leased). The Club has reported steady and consistent growth in membership, approximately half of which are residents of south Guelph. Their current allotment of fields are at capacity, limiting their future growth. Furthermore, it is understood that no formal agreement exists for long-term access to the three fields at the Calvary Baptist Church; should access be lost to these fields, significant alterations to the Club’s programs would be required. Lastly, it is noted that there are no lit soccer fields in the Township, limiting opportunities for adult play. As a result, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that two soccer fields – one lit full-size soccer field (11v11) and one smaller unlit soccer field (9v9) – be developed on the expansion lands of the Puslinch Community Centre Park.

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Public Input:

*“I like some of the proposed ideas such as the lit full-size soccer field. This will increase the usage with additional night time availability ... Soccer seems to be a growing sport as the membership keeps growing and it’s good to become less dependent on the field in Arkell but keep using it as long as we can.”*

Puslinch Minor Soccer Club is supportive of additional fields in the Township. Both concept plans illustrate two fields, although the dimensions vary between the two plans. The Club requested three fields: one full size (100mx70m) and two smaller fields (75mx48m). The concept plans have not been adjusted to confirm if this configuration of fields would fit, but it is possible that a three-field complex would result in the loss of another amenity (e.g., Fair activity spaces, ball diamond, etc.).

Overall, the comments illustrated strong support for additional soccer fields at Puslinch Community Centre Park, as long as they were not provided at the expense of the existing ball diamond. A small number of comments addressed the specific details of the fields, such as requests for artificial turf, lights (both for and against), and full size fields. Some suggested that the ball diamonds at Morryston Meadows be converted to soccer fields.

**c) Playground**

Context:

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that the Township assess opportunities to update and modernize the Puslinch Community Centre Park playground with creative play equipment (including barrier-free features) and consider relocating the playground to address safety concerns as well as to complement the potential future splash pad.

Public Input:

Two comments were received regarding playgrounds, both of which were supportive of playground upgrades.

**d) Splash Pad**

Context:

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that the Township seek and engage an interested community partner in the development and potential operation of a splash pad at the Puslinch Community Centre Park. Efforts should be made to pursue funding from senior levels of government and through a fundraising campaign.

Public Input:

*“I have concerns over the cost of the splash pad and the moving of the septic bed in Concept 2.”*

*“If the goal of Puslinch is to attract young families—which economically it should be—Concept 2 with the splash pad is by far the better idea. We need more things for Puslinch kids to do in our township instead of going to Guelph. There are more than enough other ball diamonds.”*

February 4, 2016

While three comments were received in support of the splash pad, there was substantially more opposition, with several citing the high cost of providing this service. If the Township were to proceed with the splash pad, outside funding should be considered and the placement of the splash pad should be more closely examined (e.g., one person suggested it be built in Morriston Meadows; if it stays within Puslinch Community Centre Park, its placement in relation to the septic bed would have to be addressed).

#### **e) Trail**

##### Context:

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that the Township seek opportunities to include trails and pathways within the Puslinch Community Centre Park (existing portion and/or expansion lands).

##### Public Input:

*"I like the proposed trail loop around the new land. This will be great for young and old to promote physical activity. "*

The proposed trail received good support, with suggestions that it should encircle the entirety of the park. Single comments were received for asphaltting the trail, a shorter oval, and for routing of the trail closer to Mill Creek.

#### **f) Other Amenities**

##### Context:

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that the Township work with the Puslinch Tennis Club to facilitate improvements to the existing courts (e.g., installation of wind and noise screening) and to convert the third court (furthest from the road) into a public court without controlled access in order to promote use for non-members.

##### Public Input:

A number of comments identified the desire for accommodating the Fall Fair within any park upgrades, including maintaining or replacing the tractor pull area and horse corral. The Aberfoyle Agricultural Society is pleased to see that the park concept plan incorporates the tractor pull track and the horse riding area in the proposed options as these functions are integral to the Fair. However, it was noted that both the horse riding and tractor pull areas require special surface materials, which they would like to see incorporated into any redesign. The Agricultural Society suggested that any relocation of the tractor pull area include space for tractor unloading and parking and that the size of the horse riding area stay the same (and also include an adjacent staging area). In addition, the Agricultural Society has an interest in ensuring that there is sufficient parking and was uncertain what effect the proposed soccer field would have on this. One resident suggested that the nearby school and/or flea market could be utilized for parking, possibly through the use of a shuttle.

February 4, 2016

In addition:

- Three comments were received in support of the proposed pavilion and picnic area.
- Two persons suggested that the horseshoe pits are not well used and do not need to be accommodated in the park redesign.
- One comment was supportive of upgrades to the tennis courts, in partnership with the Tennis Club.

#### **g) General Input**

Overall, there was good support for park improvements, with several commenting on how the proposed changes will make the park more multi-use and attractive to a wider variety of ages and interests. Some respondents raised questions regarding the cost of undertaking the Park improvements, which are currently unfunded; it is anticipated that these would be evaluated during the next project phase.

A small number of residents also commented on the fact that the plans would generate more use of Maple Leaf Lane in order to provide access to the expansion lands. One concern was the additional traffic that this would generate (and the need for various safety measures). Conversely, there may also be an opportunity to close the internal park laneway on the north side of the ORC in order to mitigate safety concerns.

#### **5. Future Work – Phase 2**

Phase 1 of the Park Master Plan included a review of existing conditions, a public engagement program, and the development of two distinct concept plans for the Township's consideration. More work is required in order to advance these concepts and/or select a preferred concept, which would proceed under separate contract.

The next steps in the planning process are envisioned as follows:

1. Identify Preferred Concept Plan
2. Initiate Phase 2 (refine concept, costing)
3. Additional Public Consultation
4. Approvals and Project Initiation

We wish the Township the best as it moves toward the implementation stage of this important community project. It has been a pleasure working with the Township and engaging local residents, many of whom are very passionate about the future of the Puslinch Community Centre Park. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Consulting Team,

**Monteith Brown Planning Consultants**



Steve Langlois, B.E.S., M.C.I.P., R.P.P.  
Principal Planner

### Appendix A: Puslinch Community Centre Park – Existing Conditions



1. Puslinch Community Centre



2. Optimist Recreation Centre



3. ORC Covered Ice Rink



4. Playground



5. Ball Diamond (looking from east)



6. Ball Diamond (looking from north)



7. Ball Diamond Bleachers



8. Soccer Field



9. Tennis Courts



10. Community Garden



11. Tractor Pull Area



12. Horse Paddock



13. Horseshoe Pits



14. Playground

**Appendix B: Puslinch Community Centre Park – Concept Plans**

*see following pages*



LEGEND

- 1 HORSE RIDING ARENA
- 2 WORKS BUILDING
- 3 SOCCER FIELD
- 4 TENNIS COURTS
- 5 WAR MEMORIAL STATUE
- 6 GARBAGE REMOVAL
- 7 HORSE SHOE PITS
- 8 TRACTOR PULL & BLEACHERS
- 9 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 10 RECREATION CENTRE
- 11 COVERED ICE-PAD AREA
- 12 PARKING LOT
- 13 MILLENNIUM GARDEN
- 14 PICNIC SHELTER
- 15 PRACTICE BATTING CAGE
- 16 GAZEBO
- 17 PROPOSED TRAIL
- 18 PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 19 SENIOR PLAYGROUND
- 20 JUNIOR PLAYGROUND
- 21 BASEBALL FIELD



**LEGEND**

- ① HORSE RIDING ARENA
- ② WORKS BUILDING
- ③ SOCCER FIELD
- ④ TENNIS COURTS(EXISTING)
- ⑤ WAR MEMORIAL STATUE
- ⑥ GARBAGE REMOVAL
- ⑦ HORSE SHOE PITS
- ⑧ TRACTOR PULL & BLEACHERS
- ⑨ COMMUNITY CENTRE
- ⑩ RECREATION CENTRE
- ⑪ COVERED ICE-PAD AREA
- ⑫ PARKING LOT
- ⑬ MILLENNIUM GARDEN
- ⑭ PICNIC SHELTER
- ⑮ PICNIC AREA
- ⑯ GAZEBO
- ⑰ PROPOSED TRAIL
- ⑱ PUBLIC LIBRARY
- ⑲ PLAYGROUND
- ⑳ SPLASH PAD
- ㉑ SHRUBS GARDEN

PLAYGROUND



SPLASH PAD



MULTI-USE



BALL AND SOCCER



TENNIS



SHELTERS



ACTIVE RECREATION



PASSIVE RECREATION



PUSLINCH PARK  
PARK FACILITIES



IMAGE PRECEDENTS

## Appendix C: Record of Public Input

*Note: All comments are verbatim, adjusted only to correct misspellings.*

### Sticky notes from Open House

#### Feedback on Concept 1

- Lighting need for tractor pull tracks
- Bleachers on both sides of poll track
- Horseshoe pits are not necessary at this time
- A bigger playground including equipment for older children is well needed
- Having 2 full-size soccer fields is good for growth in the future
- Baseball diamond can be used by all ages. Splash pad is for children only
- Soccer community gets a great face lift in one location
- Horseshoe pits can be located between library and ORC
- Need vehicular access to horse corral
- Soccer should not be the only option for Puslinch youth interested in sports. This centre should be a multi-sport facility
- I just want to know how much this will cost to build and how much to upkeep yearly
- I like it because I want the ability to actually rent it out for tournaments
- Ball diamond with improved lighting will promote others to come and use the facility
- Concept 1 is more suitable to continue our Annual Fall Fair
- Love Concept #1
- Ball Diamond should have protective netting around it!
- Like Concept 1—all sports activities in Puslinch are represented, great green space
- Concept 1 is great, baseball diamond is there. NO splash pad and there will be lower maintenance
- Use #1 – On soccer fields, look seriously at artificial turf, a solid investment for a long time
- Prefer Concept #1 with ball diamond. There is a splash pad started off Clair Road only 10 minutes away, already dug
- Concept #1 makes the most sense
- Men's fastball, 3 Oldtimers teams, Puslinch Ladies fastball, Bantam Boys, Peewee Boys, 7 teams minimum at this point! How are 6-7 ball teams to play on one diamond? That's just games, not practice time

#### Feedback on Concept 2

- Move smallest soccer field and make splash pad and park area there
- LOVE IT—splash pad, soccer, pavilion
- Make sure pull track is to proper length for insurance, etc.
- Splash pad will not get used
- Public access via Maple Lane—safer with lights for turning
- How many kids in Puslinch play baseball?
- Horse area needs judge booth with hydro on both plans. Also need parking for tracks and horse trailers.
- Take ball diamond away—turn into soccer fields—Morrison Meadows, less usage on these diamonds
- How much to build? How much to maintain yearly? Seems expensive!
- Would be costly to move septic bed under splash pad

- Why is Maple Lane considered a “private road”?
- Option #2—how will the plans impact the Fall Fair?
- Concept 2 has MORE options instead of having to travel out of the community to Guelph or Cambridge. Stay local!

#### Other Feedback

- Close the road in front of the ORC on both designs...use Maple Leaf Lane
- Seems too expensive for a small community!
- Can we really afford either of these options?
- The facilities with 2 baseball diamonds in one location get a lot more use, possibly build a facility with 2 diamonds
- A second baseball diamond at the community centre
- Asphalt trail loop
- Circular trail around the entire park
- Trail ought to be next to the creek, especially as previous owner already cleared an 8 foot path next to it
- Consider moving soccer fields to Morriston as well as having one large field in Aberfoyle
- Turn Morriston Meadows in a park and splash pad for families. Quiet and surrounded by families

#### Comment Sheets Received at Open House

If the goal of Puslinch is to attract young families—which economically it should be—Concept 2 with the splash pad is by far the better idea. We need more things for Puslinch kids to do in our township instead of going to Guelph. There are more than enough other ball diamonds. Please pick Concept 2.

–Alison Kwarta

As a woman with a young family, I would LOVE to see an updated park FURTHER away from the road and splash pad. The extra soccer fields are great. The overall look and feel of the community centre feels more current and will speak to MORE families. I LOVE CONCEPT 2.

–Kelly Wayne

We should seriously consider artificial turf on the soccer fields. It is a huge investment but will pay for itself over and over. Let’s look for infrastructure money to make it happen.

–Ken Williams (Optimist Club)

Two full-sized soccer fields would be better utilized for future growth than one full and a small. The picnic shelter is a really good addition to the park. The trail would be better as a loop, right now the length would only satisfy dog walkers. A splash pad could be for the future. If parking is an issue for Fall Fair Day, the school could be utilized or the flea market with a shuttle.

Horseshoe pits aren’t necessary at this time, haven’t been used for many years. My vote would be to work with Option 1.

–June Williams

We need baseball diamonds more than splash pads—they are expensive to build and maintain. I agree we need more soccer fields, but not at the expense of other sports. Compromise!  
–Sandra Solomon

Will field be lit in soccer area? Will playground equipment, new or existing, be moved over? No to splash pad as we don't have enough people to use it—unless they are coming from the south end of Guelph. Extend fencing on baseball diamond so cars/people playing horseshoes are not hit. Traffic will increase on Maple Lane—if I lived there I would be upset. Who is going to deal with that?  
–M. Hauwert

I would like to see the ball diamond stay where it is because I can walk up four nights and talk to my friends. Ball is a big part of my life.  
–Audrey Mast

Keep the ball diamonds where they are. Put additional soccer fields elsewhere in Puslinch (i.e. Morriston). This will elevate traffic, cars, congestion, all in one day. Farmers' market needs parking too. To spend money moving a septic bed is the wrong use of town money. Place things like splash pad in another spot in the design. All in all, DO NOT move forward with either concept as the tax base and budgets don't allow for such spending. OR Put street lights along the Aberfoyle sidewalk so old time residents can walk safely.  
–Mark Mast

I would like any future plans for the community centre to include and not disturb the baseball diamond. It is a part of the community!  
–Brian Jefferson

All options seem far too expensive. What are the upfront/annual costs for these? Why lit soccer fields? Kids don't need that in the summer I don't think.  
–Kevin Johnson

I like the idea of three soccer pitches plus baseball field. Baseball field should have protective netting around it. Concept 2 could be 2 9x9 and 1 11x11 (full size).  
–Bruce Joy (PMSC)

I like Concept 1. I have concerns over the cost of the splash pad and the moving of the septic bed in Concept 2. If the ball diamond is to be removed, 7 baseball teams which require lights will not be able to cohabitate and baseball won't disappear, it will be pushed out. The ball diamond was originally donated by people of the township, not tax dollars. If you're going to remove a ball diamond, do Morriston Meadows.  
–Cameron Tuck (Oldtimers Baseball President)

### **Additional Written Correspondence Received**

Thank you for hosting the meeting last night. Had a lot of great discussions. Could you pass on these notes to the planning consultants as I don't have their email? The field dimensions on the proposed concepts plans were: Full sized field: 100mx63m; 9 v 9 field: 75mx55m. Ideally would like full-sized field to be: 100mx70m (current Arkell field) and 9 v 9 field to be 75mx48m (current PCC field).  
–Bruce Joy (President, Puslinch Minor Soccer Club)

Thanks for the work you have done on the concept plan for the Puslinch Community Centre lands. In our discussion I mentioned that I would like to see an extension of the trail to start at the Community Garden, follow the fence line, and around the tennis courts by Mill Creek, and follow the creek to the newly purchased lands and the previous trail head. As I indicated before, this would probably increase the trail length to about 1km.

–Wayne Stokley, Puslinch Councillor

Don't know how you could even consider removing the baseball diamond!

–Anonymous

Concept 1 for sure. Our family has used this diamond for baseball many, many years and would wish to in many coming years. This baseball diamond also serves as the only diamond in the community. There will be many soccer fields in this new plan, let's keep the only diamond.

–Troy Cox

This email is in regards to the new plans for the Puslinch community centre. Myself, my teammates who all play baseball for Puslinch, as well as my family and friends would all appreciate that in the new design for the community centre, that the baseball diamond remains intact. Most all of us have been playing on that diamond since we could swing a bat or throw a ball. We all have many fond memories of playing there and would like to create many more.

–Troy Cox

Strongly prefer the Concept 1 that retains the baseball diamond. This has been a hub for activities and baseball for a few generations. It should be there for our grandchildren and future generations to play ball. Especially for the minor age groups.

–Brian and Janice Cox

Concept #1= Awesome. Don't get rid of the ball field.

–Brandon Viol

I was at the Open House for the Community Centre Park Concept last Thursday night and observed the drawings and proposals presented. I have lived in the community my entire life and am a proud Puslinch resident and have participated in countless activities offered at our Community Centre hub. I have been involved in Puslinch Minor ball and have coached softball/fastball for 25 years and still coach our Puslinch Intermediate Men's team that play out of the Aberfoyle ball park. I may not be popular with my baseball counter parts but I believe that we have outgrown that ball park with the proximity to the Optimists Recreation building, library, and community centre. It is now a dangerous and busy location for all the activities going on whether it is a Community Centre booking, Saturday Farmer's Market or arena rental. My concern, however, is that there are presently 6-7 teams that require lights to play 8:30 pm games and 'if' the ball diamond was removed, where would these teams play their night games? Would lights ever get installed at Morrision Meadows where that location is under-used? Baseball is a long and traditional part of Puslinch history and unfortunately has lost its minor ball registration due to more sport activities being offered to our youth, primarily soccer. Maybe we have let our baseball voices go quiet because there has always been a facility for us to play at but this has me concerned.

–Mark Slade

Some of my opinions regarding future uses of Puslinch parkland: I like some of the proposed ideas such as the lit full-size soccer field. This will increase the usage with additional night time availability. The size of the second field if it was built should be contingent on what happens elsewhere in the park. Soccer seems to be a growing sport as the membership keeps growing and it's good to become less dependent on the field in Arkell but keep using it as long as we can. I believe over half the members of soccer come from the city of Guelph so we are accommodating kids from outside the township. I commend soccer for their promotion of our facilities and programs. I like the proposed trail loop around the new land. This will be great for young and old to promote physical activity. Our playground equipment does need to be updated, not only in Aberfoyle but in the other parks as well. Picnic areas with a shelter similar to Morriston would be a nice addition. Upgrades to the tennis courts are due but should be done in partnership with the tennis club addressing their needs. In respect to the relocation of the tractor pull area or other Fall Fair related events, it really depends on whether the second soccer field is built and the size and location of it. It seems the construction of new soccer fields could directly affect the whole layout of the "Park". As more people are coming to the park, the parking will need to be addressed also. The cost of the proposed splash pad I think would be excessive considering it may only be used a couple months of the year. The possible removal of the ball diamond I don't think is a good idea at this time. We have two great lit ball fields in Morriston and Aberfoyle and even with the reduced usage of them nowadays once you take them away, they can't be replaced. I realize that the lights are a concern but couldn't we start to budget now for possible replacement in the future if the diamonds are kept? Maybe an alternative would be to convert Morriston Meadows' large ball field into a soccer facility. You would still have the smaller ball field that is there for use (it does need a little work though). Along with the playground and picnic shelter, it makes for a great park and relieves some congestion in Aberfoyle. One of my main concerns is the under usage of our facilities. What if we could do a better job of promoting and coordinating sports and activities within the township? We have great parks and community centers and it would be nice to see them used more. I wonder if a recreational coordinator would be a feasible option, even on a trial basis. They could encourage and set up sports programs and recreational activities for township residents. Keep up the good work Puslinch!

–Tom Jefferson

Hello, another member of the township has given me this email and the instruction that you are the audience to whom I can express my opinion regarding the Aberfoyle ball diamond and its future. My name is Brian Jefferson and I have been a proud Puslinch resident all my life. I take great pride in our township and have represented it with the same pride at countless tournaments. Puslinch has won titles at the inter-county level (6x) and provincially (7x). Some of those games were won on our home diamond including last year when we won our 7<sup>th</sup> ORSA title. I very simply would like to strongly express my hope that our diamond remains where it is. More than welcome to discussing improvements and renovations.

–Brian Jefferson

I am a long-time Puslinch resident and have been playing baseball for Minor Ball/Puslinch Kodiaks (Mens) for over 20 years. The new planning for the Community Centre, from my understanding, involves the removal of the Aberfoyle Baseball Diamond. I am strongly opposed to this idea, as removing this ball diamond will only further hinder baseball endeavours for this community and I believe the damage in doing this will be irreparable. If the community were to actually install a second baseball diamond, the dividends/tournament hosting opportunities would increase tenfold which could potentially bring in annual revenue per tournament hosted. Many other rural Ontario communities (Mitchell, Waterdown, Shakespeare, etc.) thrive off the ball tournaments that they host and our community centre has such great potential to do that as

well! For example: we hosted a tournament here last year during the market on a Saturday morning and the activity and buzz around the diamond was really impressive, with large groups of people flocking over to the diamond to watch our team play and, eventually, will the tournament. So many community people were asking when we played and wanted to see more baseball at this venue moving forward, not less. And I truly do not believe installing a gazebo, etc. is going to offer our centre the same benefits as having multiple home grown teams representing our community and continuing the use of this field. Not only has this diamond hosted multiple generations of ball players that now compete on a world stage, but if we eliminated the diamond, we are only further hindering our children from being active within the community, as the connection to our town centre becomes a thing of the past. In conclusion, eliminating one of the few remaining lit ball diamonds in this community would not only wash away 50+ years of baseball history played here but I believe would effectively destroy minor ball moving forward.

–Joseph Gallo Jr.

My name is James Gallo. I wanted to voice my support for the ball diamond in Aberfoyle to stay intact. Few reasons being... there are still local clubs who use the diamond, namely the Puslinch Kodiaks who have represented this town on the world level (ISC 2014). It is also part of our history in Puslinch when it comes to fastball/softball. Many generations have played on this diamond. Tearing it down will hurt the town's presence when it comes to fastball/softball and negate the growth of the sport. I firmly believe there is more than enough space for the ball diamond and multiple soccer fields to co-exist.

–James Gallo

For 176 years the Aberfoyle Agricultural Society has serviced the Township of Puslinch by increasing the awareness of, and improve the quality of agriculture, home crafts and the rural lifestyle. Each year the Society puts on an agricultural fair during the second weekend in September on what is now the Puslinch Community Centre grounds and which is now being looked at under the Puslinch Community Centre Park Concept. The Fair has been held on these grounds since 1867 based on an agreement that the lands would be deeded to the municipality in return for allowing the Agricultural Society to hold the fair on these grounds as long as they existed. The Aberfoyle Agricultural Society is pleased to see that the park concept plan incorporates the Tractor pull track and the horse riding area in the proposed options. These functions are integral to our fair. However we do have some concerns. The existing horse riding area is built on special soils (mainly sand) which provides a soft surface for the horses and excellent drainage. We would be concerned if the new areas proposed did not incorporate similar services. As well it is our request that the size of the area stay the same and that there is a staging area next to the horse riding area for the horses. Secondly, we need to ensure that there is sufficient parking. In the past we have used the acquired lands as parking. If these lands are going to accommodate new soccer fields will there be sufficient parking on fair days? For tractor pulls, there will need to be space were tractors can be unloaded, parked until it is their turn to pull and where tractors can weigh in. As well the tractor pull surface needs to be constructed of special material. I hope that this information provided is useful. We look forward to working with the Township in helping to upgrade our community centre grounds while maintaining our agricultural heritage through our annual fair.

–Don McKay, Aberfoyle Agricultural Society