


Nancy Payne  
433 Cheese Factory Road  
Lindsay, ON  
K9V 4R3  


Ron Taylor  
Chief Administrative Officer, City of Kawartha Lakes  
cc: Mayor Andy Letham and all councillors

24 November 2020

Dear Mr. Taylor;

I hope you and all members of staff and council are continuing well in these uncertain times. I am writing to express my disappointment at council's sudden and unexpected decision to close the Ops Community Centre. While my family has a strong personal attachment to the arena — my father, Philip Payne, was a member of the Ops Recreation Commission that secured land and funding and oversaw construction of the facility — that's not a good enough reason to ask council to reconsider.

What is important is that council allow its own review process to be completed so that the best possible decision can be made about closing recreation facilities based on evidence. My understanding is that city staff are due to present the results of this review to council early in 2021. Surely it would make the most sense, and be the most rational use of city resources, to wait for all the information to be gathered and analyzed before deciding which arenas to close.

If the results show clearly that, when all the evidence is weighed, Ops should close, well then, so be it. The city can't upgrade all of its existing arenas, many of which, like Ops, were brought to life by volunteers many decades ago; finances and shifting demographics dictate that some will have to close. What's critical, though, is that any decisions be based on hard data and comparisons applied fairly across the board. (I trust that the ball diamonds at Ops would still be maintained for community use.)

Although it doesn't show up on the bottom line, the Ops Community Centre has played a pivotal role in fostering community in the former Ops Township for more than forty years. The ice surface is well used in winter and the ball diamonds are busy all summer long. Of course I hope that the review recommends that Ops should stay open, but I recognize there are people all over the city hoping the same for their community centres. All we ask is that the final decision be based on an impartial assessment of the facts, and that when the time comes, the closures are treated with dignity, and the contributions of thousands of dedicated volunteers in the creation of these facilities be honoured and celebrated.

Sincerely,

Nancy Payne

Ops Township  
December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Mayor and Council**  
26 Francis Street  
Lindsay, Ontario  
K9V 5R8

**Re: Ops Community Centre Closure**

We write this letter on behalf of the many concerned citizens of Ops Township and, indeed, the surrounding geographical area. We are but two of the families that were intricately involved in the planning and construction of the Ops Community Centre.

To those on Council who may not be totally familiar with the history of this facility, it came to fruition out of a sense and a reality of Ops never having a central place to gather; - in essence, a home for recreational and social activities. For years approximately three thousand to four thousand citizens of Ops never had an arena, baseball diamond, banquet hall, figure skating centre or curling club. Families always had to travel elsewhere. So, in the early 1970s dozens of families (with the support and backing of Council) came together to first envision this idea and then see it through to completion. It was truly a remarkable community effort and achievement. This new Community Center gave to Ops a tangible identity and a much needed place for families and community to come together re: anniversaries, weddings, dances, fundraisers and of course a much needed arena.

This Community Centre has truly served our area well over five decades. We do realize that some centres are not utilized as fully as they once were. Communities change, age groups change, preferences change and Council always has to make decisions in the best interest of all it's citizenry. We understand this fact. However, if Bobcaygeon or Fenelon Falls with approximately the same population base as Ops lost or had their arenas closed, curling clubs and banquet halls shut down, community meeting spaces all just gone, it would be devastating. Well, that is what is being proposed to our Ops Community.

Some of our citizens had the opportunity to provide input into the meetings of the earlier 2000's concerning arena closures. To our knowledge findings indicated that Ops was one of the more successful and profitable arenas and was never discussed as a possible closure.

When the report comes forward in the New Year we ask Council to give this decision further consideration. And, as part of these deliberations, please take into account the future anticipated growth of the Ops community (approximately several thousand new people with the subdivisions and housing starts forthcoming).

Our Community Centre has been and remains the 'heart' of our community. Lose this facility and we lose much of our identity and what so many of us worked so hard for, for many, many, decades.

**Sincerely,**

**c: Ron Taylor**

**MURRAY and ELEANOR WALDEN**

**RON and LENORE PEARSON**