

REQUEST TO BE A DELEGATION BEFORE COUNCIL – PROPOSAL OUTLINE

Ice-Rink at Mountainview Parkette

Delegation Representative

My name is Stephen Sargent, and I live at 11 Kenneth Avenue in the Village of Erin. I moved to Erin in the summer of 2021 with my partner Nicole and our two children ages four and seven. Last year I built an ice rink in our backyard for the kids to enjoy (picture attached at document end), but I noticed that many of my neighbours did the same. Speaking with neighbours, I learned that years ago there was a community rink at the location now called Mountainview Parkette, for all the residents to skate at together.

Purpose of Delegation

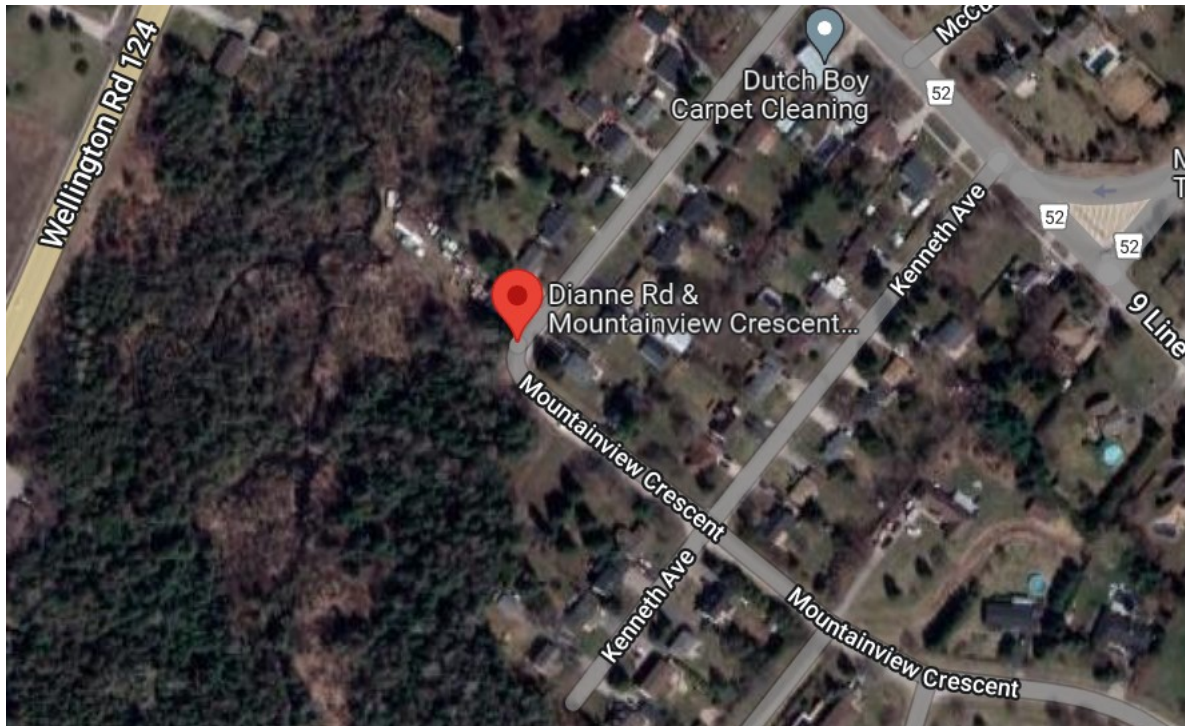
To request the support of the Town of Erin to construct an ice-skating rink at the Mountainview Parkette in the winter of 2022-2023.

Desired Action of Council

To pass a Notice of Motion, if and as necessary, to support the Mountainview Parkette rink, to the extent that Town Council is willing to do so. Costs options vary depending on the level of support offered.

Details of Proposal - Location

The Mountainview Parkette is located in the southeast side of the Village of Erin, at the corner of Mountainview Crescent and Dianne Road.



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The Parkette is listed as a “Sports Field” on the Town of Erin website, but it is essentially a flat, empty grass field.¹ To the Town’s credit, it is well-maintained in the Spring, Summer and Fall as far as grassy fields are concerned (discussed below, it would be better served as a playground). In the winter it sees occasional use for building snow-people but otherwise sees little-to-no use.



The width of the Parkette is greater than 50 feet. The depth of the Parkette is greater than 95 feet.

Support Options

There are a range of support options available to the Town, depending on level of investment. In all levels of support, it is proposed that local residents would be responsible for maintaining the surface of the ice, limiting any budgetary impact to the Town to supporting the initial set-up.

¹ <https://www.erin.ca/living-here/recreation-and-culture/parks-and-trails/sports-fields>

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Minimum Support – Permission

At the bare minimum, the Town could give the residents permission to use the space at Mountainview Parkette to construct and maintain the rink. The most significant difficulty created by this option is that the location would be difficult to fill with water and otherwise maintain (rinks require occasional watering).

Moderate Support – Permission and Water Assistance

According to longtime residents of this corner of Erin, the Town previously assisted with the rink at that location by installing a small hydrant which was accessible to residents to flood and maintain the rink surface. It is believed that the hydrant is still there, shown below:



An alternative to using a nearby water access is a one-time filling. Water trucks are available to fill the rink. The majority of water that is needed is only needed at the outset of the rink. Assuming the rink is well constructed, water will stay throughout the season until drained at the end.

Periodic flooding of the rink is beneficial to keep the surface smooth for skating, therefore it would be helpful to have continued water access. However, if the Town was only willing to provide an initial filling, Rubbermaid containers can be used by local residents to flood the rink.

Full Support – Permission, Water and Structure

The fullest level of support would be the Town providing the necessary materials and construction. The basic build of an outdoor rink is a short frame (~12 inches high, depending on slope), with a white plastic tarp to prevent the water from draining before freezing.

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With respect to framing wood, 2x12 planks, plywood, or OSB are all suitable options. The frame needs to be supported in some fashion, as the weight of the water will push outward. Framed triangles or stakes at various intervals are both options.

With respect to plastic tarps, they are widely available online from small Ontario companies. They are available in a wide range of sizes. Seeing as the location is 50' x 95', the space can easily and comfortably fit a rink of 40' x 70', which would cost approximately \$450 CAD. Smaller tarps are less expensive, larger tarps more so. This would leave more than enough space around the rink for navigating around, or putting in benches or even tree stumps to sit and tie skates.

There are also full rink kits available online. These provide optimally cut materials to support the frame, tarps, and everything else that might be needed for the project. The increased cost to obtain a full kit is justified by the convenience. It is conceivable that companies would be willing to negotiate the cost with the Town in exchange for some acknowledgement to the company – eg. a sign saying rink generously supported by (company name), and/or acknowledgement on the Town Twitter account.

Justification

This section of Erin village is severely lacking in outdoor activities for children. In September 2019, the Town published a Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.² The Master Plan report acknowledged, in 2019, that there is a gap in the provision of playgrounds in this pocket of Erin. It was recommended at that time (recommendations 43-45, page 96), to address this gap in playgrounds. To date, this section of Town remains underserved for young families.

The justification is furthered when considering the effects of the Pandemic on the Town population. With the rise in remote work, many families, like my own, came to Erin looking for a better place to raise their children than the bustling City. Within my first week here we quickly met several other neighbours who had moved here in the past year, all with young children of their own. While the 2019 Master Plan was based on the outlook of the age of population *at that time*, it is suggested that the COVID Pandemic accelerated the growth in young families in Town.

One example demonstrating the significant population change is the HEADS Soccer League, where I am volunteering this year as a soccer coach. I was advised by the League that there were over 200 more children registered this year than they expected. The effect of this population growth of younger children is that previously identified gaps in outdoor activities are now greater problems than they were in 2019.

While a playground structure would be the most welcome addition to the Mountainview Parkette, the cost of same would require a much larger investment from the Town (with a correspondingly larger benefit to the residents) than a rink. Though I do welcome discussion about installing a playground.

² <https://www.erin.ca/media/2016/erinprcmasterplanfinalsept2019.pdf>

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It is acknowledged that there is an outdoor rink at Victoria Park in Hillsburgh. The rink was supported by the Lions Club. I have not canvassed with local organizations, including the Lions Club, as to whether they are willing to support the rink project at the Mountainview Parkette, but that is an option. Since the cost of the rink is very reasonable, local businesses could offer their support, recognized by a sign at the location thanking them for their generous support.

The outdoor rink at Victoria Park is wonderful, but it requires a 10-15 minute (or more) drive for many residents in the Village of Erin, which is a considerably higher bar for engagement than a rink that residents can walk to easily. Instead of serving as an alternative, it should be seen as an example of what is possible at Mountainview.

As a final point, it is noted that many other communities are similarly supported in the construction of multiple outdoor rinks by their local government/council. For example, both Orangeville and Mississauga.

Thank you for considering this request.

APPENDIX – PHOTO OF THE SARGENT 2021-2022 BACKYARD RINK

