

To: Mayor Crombie, Council Members, and City Staff

From: David Shum and Family, Mississauga Resident (22yrs)

Re: BCC Outdoor Rink and Summer Sport Facility.

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council Meeting

In follow up to my deputation to Council of Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, I remain very concerned regarding the timing and serious implications of this impending demolition.

The Mississauga Community Recovery Framework, published in June of 2020, anticipated that we would be much farther ahead than we are now vs. the pandemic. Key points include the need to re-engage/update communication, “build back better”, consult more often, and include modifications such as the “Older Adult Plan for Recreation, the Youth Plan, and the Sport Plan”. The target for the “Build Back Better Approach was Fall 2020.” This is very serious, and we are at least 1 year behind. Until we are all vaccinated, we need to pause on the removal of any outdoor facility. Especially one that is unique, with no similar option in Mississauga.

The BCC Outdoor facility includes a galvanized steel roof, lights, a smooth concrete floor, boards and a change room. The current boards need replacing for ice hockey, but remain suitable for the current Ball Hockey Leagues. The refrigeration system and floor are good and not near “end of life cycle”; the cost quoted by City Staff, \$1M to keep going for eg. 3yrs; is false. The est. cost for new boards is \$65k.

The City statement that the rink is not well utilized is mis-leading at best. When available after school, weekends and Holidays, free of charge, the rink is highly utilized. The demographic of the East Mississauga area is diverse, as is Brampton and Toronto, where they have 60 refrigerated rinks and we have 3 (only 2 allow stick and puck). We are not different in our desire for outdoor ice.

The current demand for this rink is very high, partly due to the “covid relief” that we all continue to need. The demand for this rink would normally be even higher but, understandably, shinny hockey is not allowed this year.

It is apparent that key facts regarding utilization, maintenance and capital needs, have been altered or selectively omitted by City Staff in order to achieve their desired timing of demolition.

On Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, I spoke with a Dad who was tying up the laces for his young son on the open back of his SUV. It was a bit cold, our conversation was brief. When asked, he said that he knew of the demolition almost a year ago but the City had already decided to build a pool instead and there was “nothing anyone can do”. I thought this to be a sad example for his young son, and my 2 older ones. What do they take away in regard to their future interest in community affairs?

I also thought of our younger kids’ day camps for this summer. They often spend the day indoors at BCC with activities from artwork to archery. The camp supervisors and kids should have the option to use this outdoor, covered facility, rain or shine. Outdoor with distancing is the best way for us to combat the pandemic while maintaining our normal life activities!

Finally, after talking with many, there seems to be a common and real sense of loss in my area of wards 3 and 4. We all appreciate that a new indoor pool and an upgraded, indoor Community Centre is good.

We are certain, however, that taking away something of such value to our community, at this time, is definitely the wrong thing to do.

I appreciate your attention to this important community matter.

Sincerely,

David Shum (Mississauga Resident)

Mary Shum (Mississauga Resident)

Steven Shum(Pocock S.S, U.Guelph grad.)

Ryan Shum(Pocock S.S, Yr.2 Bus.Admin at Sheridan, Hazel McCallion Campus)