

From: Breanna Abbott [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 11:00 AM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaibert@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>

Subject: Closure of Stephen Township Arena

Good morning Councillors,

The South Huron Minor Hockey Association has informed all of its members that there are some of you who believe that the Stephen Township arena should be closed after the 2020-2021 season concludes. I sincerely hope that the vote on February 16th is in favour of keeping the Stephen Township arena open. Closing the arena will significantly reduce the ice time available for teams and force practices and games to later time slots at the remaining arena in Exeter. I have two young children who use the ice surface in Huron Park, and we have rented the ice surface several times for birthday parties. In addition, closing the arena would take away valuable community space used for non ice surface activities, such as "play group". If some of you are not familiar with "play group", it is a free program run by Huron County where parents can bring their children for play and learning (obviously these programs would not be running at this very time due to the pandemic). The year 2020 was difficult for all of us due to the pandemic, and 2021 has not started off much better. Closing the Stephen Township arena would be another blow to a community where we are all just trying to survive. I realize

difficult decisions, such as closing arenas, must be made in our communities from time to time, and I don't envy you all for being tasked with making these decisions. However, it is my hope that the community will be heard and Stephen Township arena will be saved. Thank you

Breanna Abbott and Doug Kloss

Exeter

From: Jessica Borden <jessica.borden@southhuron.ca>
Date: January 30, 2021 at 8:29:41 PM EST
To: gfinsh@southhuron.ca
Subject: Huron park arena

Good evening George

I really hope you consider the differences taking away the Stephen arena verses building a double arena in Exeter. I grew up only ever playing in Stephen. It's were all my memories come from and I am sure you can say the same with kids.

My team while I played midget won all Ontario's. We were the first girls south Huron team to win all Ontario's. That all stems from our practises in the Huron park arena, our warm ups around that arena, and our dance parties in the dressing rooms before our games. Please take this into consideration while deciding what to do with the arenas. Huron park deserves an ice rink. That gets used every single day. Being the first girls team to hang up in that arena, this is very hard.

Thank you George & I hope you have a great day.

From: [Rebekah Msuya-Collison](#)
To: [Justin Finkbeiner](#)
Subject: FW: Thoughts on the recommendation to close Stephen arena.
Date: February-01-21 9:18:48 AM

From: Mayor Finch
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Darren Boyle [REDACTED]
Cc: Dan Best <cao@southhuron.ca>; Rebekah Msuya-Collison <clerk@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Thoughts on the recommendation to close Stephen arena.

Thank you for your email Mr. Boyle. I will ask that it be added to a future meeting agenda.

George Finch
Mayor of South Huron
322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759
Exeter Ontario
NOM 1S6
Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304
Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747
Cell 226-377-8886
www.southhuron.ca

From: Darren Boyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:56 PM
To: Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaibert@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>
Cc: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Thoughts on the recommendation to close Stephen arena.

Good day all!
I hope the new year finds all of you well, and weathering the current stay-at-home order as best you can.

I am sending this after reading this week about the recommendation from the committee of the whole to close the Stephen arena permanently. As I am sure a great number of my fellow citizens are also concerned about this and are likely reaching out as well with their own thoughts, I would like to share my own.

As some of you know me, and some don't, I will take a moment here to explain who I am & why I am sharing my thoughts and opinion with you. I am

the current Vice President of the Exeter Hawks Junior Hockey Club, although this email is only my thoughts on the matter, not the thoughts of anyone else on the executive. I am also a current coach for a number of years now within the South Huron Minor Hockey organization, I have a daughter in the Exeter Skating Club, I am a Past President of Exeter Minor Ball, a Past President of the original Optimist Club of Exeter & District before it folded in the early 2000's before being reborn (yay!), a member of the South Huron Community Theatre and currently the Co-Chair of the South Huron Community Committee for the United Way. Not to mention my family connections before me to this fantastic area and communities which we now call South Huron which influenced me to be very active in the life of South Huron. Thus, I think my perspective as a highly community minded resident allows me some insight to offer a bit of advice on this decision which will be coming to council soon.

First off, I spend a lot of time at the Stephen arena. I also have spent a lot of time in it for many years now. I learned to skate in it, as my family lived in Huron Park from my birth until 1978, then in Exeter. So, while it does hold a tremendous place in my heart, I do know it is not long for the world. I will be incredibly sad to see it go.

I fully understand the idea and thought that went into the recommendation, however I think the recommendation is somehow short-sighted yet, still forward looking. Let me explain:

South Huron Minor Hockey is blessed with being one of a handful of area minor hockey programs that is growing. Yes, growing. Currently they use about 35-36 hours of ice a week at the Stephen arena. Closing that arena means a shortfall in time that a growing number of kids can be on the ice. It would mean that a South Huron based organization which is funded by, and participated in almost exclusively by South Huron tax paying residents and their families would have to travel outside of their municipality of residence for some of their "home ice". Now, one way of making up that shortfall would be to use their leverage of being the largest consumer of ice time and thus, the largest customer to the Rec dept to take all of the available ice time in the municipality. Which has the potential to mean that there is no longer ice time for the Exeter Skating Club, nor my beloved Exeter Hawks. This could kill the Exeter Skating Club, as they would not be "in" Exeter, and that the Hawks would have to play their games out of town as well, meaning we are no longer the Exeter Hawks, and end over six decades of a wonderful community owned and South Huron fan supported tradition. Would minor hockey do this? I hope not, and don't think so, but it is an attractive option for them nonetheless. It does weigh on my mind when I think of Stephen closing. A community owned and run organization my Grandfather, a former Councillor and Mayor of Exeter himself founded, which my Dad and uncle played for (on the first team when founded), and I have been involved with as an executive for over the years. That would be awful and devastating to the community, as we have fans of all ages, and a huge core of seniors who come to every game.

As a parent who works until 5pm and a spouse who does the same, I can tell you that there are days of the week we have scrambled to get our kids to either hockey or figure skating. And that is with two arenas in the municipality both within easy access of my house. I have even had my parents have to drop my kids off and pick up for me due to the hectic pace of life for families in these times. The toll of that stress added to the stress of work and home means adding a drive to a neighbouring municipality for "home ice" exacerbates family dynamics and home life further.

Add into this situation and recommendation that we may indeed as municipality get a grant for a new recreation facility. That would indeed be wonderful as the SHRC hasn't had any upgrades beyond the compressor done to it since it opened in the same year I moved to Exeter. It is really showing its age and is becoming an eyesore. Even the outside with it's now faded to bare metal paint is somewhat embarrassing. But closing Stephen before a new facility or at least a decision on the grant is a HUGE mistake not just short term but long term. Huge! In a best-case scenario, we get the grant and construction starts. Meaning we are without use of the SHRC for 18-24 months. Add into that no Stephen arena and suddenly we have two years of nobody regardless of organization using any recreation facility in South Huron for that time. Two years. No hockey, no figure skating, no Junior Hockey, no pickleball, no karate rentals, no dance, no community theatre rentals, nothing.

Sure, thanks to the sand floor, Stephen cannot accommodate anything but ice sports during that time. But it is also used by the YMCA for programs currently in the lobby, and that would also stop.

So, I think this paints a bleak yet accurate picture of what two years of recreation in the community will look like if you vote to follow the recommendation. That two years will do a vast amount of damage to the sense of community and the mental health of those who use the facilities if they cannot participate in the activities we use those facilities for.

Recreation is paramount to mental health especially when they are community facilities being used by community organizations. The pandemic has taught us that mental health of youth, adults, and seniors is almost on a precipice thanks to those lockdowns, restrictions and stay-at-home orders with COVID Fatigue, none of which are factors we can control. Youth ice sports in winter give kids an outlet for that mental health, and something to do to keep them off the streets, getting into trouble and limiting "screen time". As does indoor karate, dance, and other things a recreation centre and an arena provide. Those have already been taken away now by factors out of the municipality's hands, image the toll that is taking now. It will be multiplied if we take away a chance at those returning to normal in the future by closing a well-used and relied upon facility.

I am asking that you all acknowledge the recommendation as that. Merely a

recommendation and to vote to not accept it at this time. It is not one that has arguments or facts foreign to any of us. But I am asking that the "inevitable" be put off. You can do that and should do that. For the long-term health and growth and stability of the community we NEED the Stephen arena, if only until we at least know IF we have a grant we are not guaranteed. I remember quite well the uproar of the discussion of the plan put in place for the grant to begin with. All of that aside, I also remember some councillors who were in favour of moving ahead with a single ice pad option for that grant, and even the mayor himself, saying then that (to paraphrase) "it is just a recommendation in a grant, nothing is for sure yet". The implication of those statements is that until we know for sure, there was no reason to close Stephen. That is actually clearer as we look at it further for all the reasons I specified. There is no (good) reason to close Stephen permanently at this time. It would be a huge mistake with a very negative impact on over 500 families that rely on ice sports in the municipality to keep their kids healthy, active and out of trouble or off electronics. The sense of belonging by being on the ice with your friends be it figure skating or hockey goes a long way to shaping positive traits in youth which lead into their later years. Long term it will of course have to. For now, it is incredibly short-sighted to do so. For all the reasons and more which I presented.

I ask you as a resident and taxpayer which you represent, regardless of ward as we all live in South Huron, listen to my advice as a constituent, and my experience as a South Huron born and raised kid who came back to live and raise my kids here because of how fantastic we all know this municipality is, to make the best decision you can for the future of South Huron and its health and mental health as a community by voting against this recommendation when it comes before council and instead defer it until we have more answers. It is the right and prudent thing to do long term for our community.

I thank you for your time.
My kindest regards,
Darren Boyle

Mayor George Finch, Councillor's Aaron Neeb, Barb Willard, Marrisa Vaughan,
Deputy Mayor Jim Dietrich, Councillor's Ted Oke, Dianne Faubert

Role of Council – To Represent the Public

- To Consider the well-being and interests of the Municipality

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about”

Margaret J. Wheatley

To the Members of Council

As a South Huron resident, I feel it is my responsibility to address concerns about the potential closure of Stephen Arena. You, as a council, need to give our community a clear plan of what is envisioned for our recreational facilities and a projected timeline for completion of this plan

I have lived in South Huron all of my life, 34 years, and have never seen any changes to the Exeter Rec Centre itself. Stephen Arena, however, with the support from its community, was able to upgrade its facility to a useable, inviting space. I was lucky enough to play ringette and hockey in my youth and continue to this day. I played girls hockey at Stephen Arena. I even worked at the Stephen Arena Booth in my high school days. I have three children who all play hockey now and we are at Stephen Arena mainly for all practices and some games. I believe that Stephen Arena is more welcoming and is better set up than Exeter's building. Nice bright spacious dressing rooms, clean, and I feel their spacing seems sufficient on an Accessibility level. Updates for wheelchair access around the rink level could be of value.

South Huron Minor hockey, Can Skate, Exeter Skating Club, Ringette and Power Blades, Kathy McIlwain all register many female and male members. We utilize

two arenas ice times. You would happily shut down one ice surface which would send us to other communities to find ice to use. Our closest options are Hensall, Lucan and Zurich and in my family's case St Mary's and Mitchell. Spending money in other municipalities will just hurt South Huron more, as people won't come to Exeter as often for shopping or just in general. As well those arenas already have their optimal or prime ice times booked. Going to a practice later with added driving times puts more strain on families.

Never have I once by phone, letter or mail been contacted for a survey on what kind of facility I would like to see in South Huron. I feel that a lot of my rural friends are similar in experience. If I am not aware of what is going on, how am I supposed to give my input. You are not being transparent in your planning and as such it does not give us much trust in this community relationship. These are things that should bring our community together not divide us. I think if you actually talked with more of the community you would be surprised with the support that would come forward for a rec center that we all desire! I think that the closure of Stephen arena should not be contemplated until we have finished double pad arena and rec center in Exeter. These discussions and plans have taken so long to come to life, and we still have no solution! Getting this done is everyone's priority, but it seems that this council and past ones have wasted precious time and opportunities.

We as a community need somewhere to go and enjoy recreational activities. Many children, youth and adults in our community come together to use arena ice. What municipality would not want that kind of outlet within their community? I know from personal experience how much happiness and great memories I have from my own playing days and continue to enjoy my children's participation. It is a huge asset to have a place where kids can gather and burn off extra energy and keep engaged in an activity they love, versus having our youth getting into trouble on the streets.

Not all facilities can be profit driven, as there are intangibles that cannot be measured in dollars and cents. I realize that building a two-pad arena in Exeter will be a costly venture. Drawing people to our community is something that we should take pride in. There is a small convenience store located beside Stephen Arena. I can tell you without a doubt that many people using the arena patronize this store. It boosts his business and enables Huron Park to have a store in their small town. I live just outside of Kirkton and to be sure I know how fortunate I am to have wonderful small store so close. As well with many coming in for recreation, there are a lot who go to Exeter after, whether it is for a snack, meal or some shopping. I'm not sure our community would like the loss of the business that sports bring. From personal experience I know what we spend on extras from snacks, meals or shopping in the community.

All in all, I hope I may have swayed your vision to see from a young parent in our community that we need to keep what we have for our children here. We have two primary schools and a secondary school in Exeter. There are lots of kids who participate in hockey, ringette, public skating, baseball, soccer and ball hockey. Don't forget the many functions that are held at the Rec Centre. I have benefitted from the programming that was able to be offered because we had two arenas. Having sport in my life helped me and shaped me. I wish for my children to have the same opportunities. Closing Stephen Arena does not help anyone. Look at the signage and sponsorship plaques in Stephen Arena. The community was behind it.

I encourage you to consider all the points I have given. I know many others will have called or sent letters as well. I am a parent who is at Stephen Arena 5 days each week, just to give perspective. As to my introductory quote you can see where my passion is.

A COMMUNITY THAT LACKS SPORTS LACKS A HEART

A Concerned Resident of South Huron

Jaci - Jaclyn Brand

From: PaMeLa [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>
Subject: My input regarding STA

Good Afternoon,

I would like to take this time to voice, on behalf of my children and others within the South Huron community who over the years have enjoyed skating at STA. I understand that financially it may not make sense to keep this arena running and to close it would be the easier solution. This doesn't only effect the ever growing south huron minor sports, leaving them with less ice times but it also means people losing their jobs. It means the rec leagues probably will not get to play as often or at all and people that just enjoy public skating wont be able to or will need to drive further to participate.

Maybe a long term plan is to make exeter a two pad arena. I know this would have helped me in years past where two kids have the exact same ice times at different arenas. Maybe we can do some fundraising to fix up STA and start looking towards a two pad arena. We know that the ice will be used. Or if that would be too costly for a new build then throw the money into STA and get it up to proper standards if need be.

But to go down to one arena and having to travel to Hensall or Zurich, we could potentially be pushing some families from participating in any skating activities just because of travel.

Im sure as a community and a council we can come up with a solution that doesn't leave any skating participants feeling left out.

Just my two cents,

Thanks

Pamela Campbell of Kirkton

Sent from my iPhone

From: Matt Clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Rebekah Msuya-Collison <clerk@southhuron.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Closing Stephen Arena

To the Mayor and members of council

I understand that as of February 16th council meeting you will be discussing the closing of Stephen Arena.

As a past business owner and resident of South Huron it has always been my opinion to find ways to enhance and increase the value of living in such a prosperous and thriving community. The closing of one of our major recreational facilities goes against the very idea that we are a progressive community. There is no doubt that we have challenges with our current recreational facilities but with the help of the stake holders and the community we can find ways to enhance our recreational facilities. To just close a facility is the easy way out to solve the current problem. Unfortunately that just creates future problems for our community.

We must come together as a community and find solutions to our current and future needs for recreation. I ask council to please reach out to your community and the stake holders within it to come together and define what we need and want for recreation within South Huron.

Sincerely,

Matthew Clarke

From: Tracy DeGroot [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Stephen Township Arena

Dear Mayor Finch and Councillors,

Times advocate has recently advised the public, that council has voted to
Close the Stephen Township Arena.

Please take into consideration many children that will be affected due to this decision. Many
young children use the arena for public skating and recreational activities.

The loss of the Stephen Township Arena would be detrimental to the community and children/
families.

On a personal level:

Without the Stephen Township Arena, I would never have played hockey as a young girl.

Watch the Chicago Blackhawks there. I would not have played AAA hockey, or made the
Western University team, which lead me to giving back and coaching girls hockey as an adult.

Please remember this will have a ripple effect in a community and if we take away an arena we
would be displacing the community and opportunities for other young children. Thank You

Tracy DeGroot

-----Original Message-----

From: info@southhuron.ca [mailto:info@southhuron.ca] On Behalf Of Lori Dietrich
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 9:02 AM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Huron Park Arena

Mr.Finch please change your vote to close our Huron park arena. We need the arena in our community. We have so many youth coming up through hockey, skating we need the facility. Our children will Suffer from this shut down. Further more this arena's new booth provided not only good food and drinks for all hockey peeps. Mr.Finch it was many of nights us hockey parents sat in the arena and got to see first hand the littles from Huron Park coming into to buy dinner at the booth. Darren provided great food and great staff that they could bring people in for a take out option. Which I personally think is wonderful. Please take into consideration the impact this closure would have on our whole community for more reasons then just the ice surface. Thank you Mr.Finch for you time.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Dietrich [REDACTED]
Date: January 31, 2021 at 9:21:29 AM EST
To: Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Huron park Arena

Hello Mr.Dietrich we can't afford to close the Huron Park Arena. All skaters need this facility. There will be closure to a lot of senior and ladies hockey as well as not enough ice time for the skaters South Huron already has. I also want to mention the booth that provided many of meals for the hockey peeps and the locals in Huron Park. Please DON'T Close our arena!
Thank you for you time Mr.Dietrich

-----Original Message-----

From: info@southhuron.ca [mailto:info@southhuron.ca] On Behalf Of Lori Dietrich
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Huron Park Arena

Save our arena, we need the facility. We can't afford not to have it. So many persons play out of Our Huron Park Facility. Our ladies hockey, our men's hockey and our youth program. We all need this facility to be saved. With our growing community we need both facilities in South Huron. Thank you for your time Lori Dietrich concerned mother and wife of hockey players.

-----Original Message-----

From: info@southhuron.ca [mailto:info@southhuron.ca] On Behalf Of Lori Dietrich
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Our Huron Park Arena

We need our Huron Park facility to be saved. We have so many skaters that need this facility open. As a mother of two hockey players and a wife of another I know the importance Ice time is to my family. Old timers and ladies hockey play out of Huron Park. Also so many youth skaters in our growing community. The employment the arena provides is as important to our community. We simply need you to consider and change your vote! We need you Mr.Neeb! Thank you for your time, Lori Dietrich concerned mother and wife of South Huron Hockey Players.

From: info@southhuron.ca on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Closing huron park arena
Date: January-31-21 7:48:32 AM

Please dont shut down the arena in huron park this will effect ice time so much for all the hockey players think about what your doing.

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-----Original Message-----

From: info@southhuron.ca [<mailto:info@southhuron.ca>] On Behalf Of Suzanne Draper
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 7:51 AM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Shutting down huron park arena

Please stop this from happening if they shut down the arena this is going to affect so many people and kids.

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To: George Finch gfinch@southhuron.ca
Jim Dietrich jdietrich@southhuron.ca
Dianne Faubert dfaibert@southhuron.ca
Ted Oke toke@southhuron.ca

RE: Closure of Stephen Township Arena

First of all I would like to Thank Jim Deitrich, Dianne Faubert, and Ted Oke for voting to keep Stephen Arena open.

I had put the thought on hold to write a letter in regards to this subject until a minor hockey parent was asking citizens to write to council members to dispute the decision made by South Huron Council.

I have read and will make reference to the letter found on the MYFM website

The question that arises in regards to arenas is the same one that was asked in 1975-1976 when the South Huron Arena was built. Why do we let these facilities get in such "poor to fair" condition? A quote from council's letter. Sounds like we are back in 1975-1976 when they took a look at the Old Exeter Arena it was the same issues only a bit more critical than the current issue.

Being a dedicated minor hockey mom in the 1980's the groups were a lot smaller than they are today which creates a much bigger problem. Parents in today's South Huron's minor hockey and the all the skating club will have to run children all over as there will be a shortage of ice when the Municipality will have NO ice. Double trouble!

The 2.3 million to refurbish Stephen Arena is that an estimate from council or an engineer's report? Also does it all need to be completed right away?

The plan that we put forth 24.7 million which includes a walking track and a gym and probably a facilities similar to the hall. I'd have to agree with Ted Oke that we should do as St. Marys and Dorchester did by keeping the existing and adding a second pad. If the second pad does not go in initially it will be a tuff struggle to make it happen in the future. So not only will minor hockey and the skating clubs be without 2 ice pads for a short time during construction but could be for the long haul.

I think it is a poor decision to make during the trying times of COVID. Strange that we can make a definite decision for Stephen Arena but so many unanswered questions about the new facility and/or contingent plans for the current South Huron Arena both financially and physically.

Concerned tax payer

Dianne Finkbeiner

From: Chris and Sarah Glavin [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 2:06 PM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>

Subject: Stephen Arena

Council,

We are reaching out to you today in regard to the closing of the Stephen Township Arena. The recommendation that you put forward to close the arena at the end of this season affects my immediate and extended family on many levels. My family grew up playing Hockey with Stephen Township, all 4 of our kids play hockey-3 of them out of Stephen, we rent the ice 4 or 5 times a year and enjoy an hour of fun with extended family of 30 people! IF you close Stephen-Exeter will not have the open ice availability and we will spend our time and money in another municipality. During the week, we are out and about 5 evenings with hockey. We may choose to grab dinner from someplace in Exeter, or run into a grocery store, kill time during practices to run into the dollar stores, grab a coffee for the game. We however CAN NOT make the 25 min drive to Zurich or Hensall for a 5 pm practice(especially when Zurich or Hensall don't have the ice time), our jobs do not allow that much flexibly. We would make it just in time for 5 pm at Stephen (a 9 min drive). Therefore, we would

be looking at taking our family to another municipality to play and in turn spend our dollars there.

Taking away something from our youth, especially after the last year, is a MAJOR thing that you should remember when making your decision. I am sure it has been brought to your attention many times by now, but lets recap all the different COMMUNITY groups that will be affected . South Huron Minor Hockey-their tournaments alone put money back into our local economy throughout the weekends they attend-hotel, eating out etc, Exeter Skating Club, The YMCA, The different leagues of mens & ladies teams, The Lions club that sponsor free public skating. As well as all the other members of the community that rent or use it for public skating.

You were voted in by members of the community, to act in the best interest of the COMMUNITY. Please listen to the stories people have written about, read the comments people have posted under the articles on the Exeter Lakeshore Times-Advocate. See what the people of this community want. Hear what the people of this community need. To make things a bit easier for you, we have attached some links for you to view. We are relying on the people voted into office to represent us and remember that there is more to South Huron than Exeter.

We hope that council takes this under serious advisement. It really is more than just an arena for many in the communities in and around Exeter.

Thank you for your time

Chris & Sarah Glavin

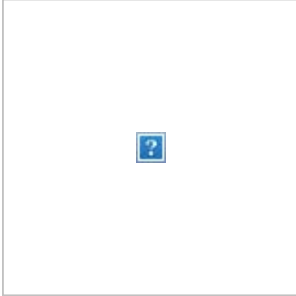
https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/do-not-close-stephen-arena-we-need-our-arena?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=email_welcome_to_ipetitions&loc=view-petition&fbclid=IwAR3hn1UzwQSeYr8O9IPQroBRwnSvK4EB9Afkj1rNYDWwPPpLcoLZoJFMRgg

	<p><u>Petition DO NOT CLOSE STEPHEN ARENA - WE NEED OUR ARENA!!</u></p>
	<p>Stop taking the Ice out!! Stop trying to sell Our Arena</p>
	<p><u>www.ipetitions.com</u></p>

(https://www.exetertoday.ca/2021/02/03/south-huron-minor-hockey-president-talks-about-recommendation-to-close-stephen-arena/?fbclid=IwAR1gmaWouzqbxGnkT0Z0SHbBTceCToijmt_Ma5WgF4prYmS2yOd-lx0gg7Y#

<https://www.facebook.com/Exeterskatingclub/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TimesAdvance>



[Exeter Skating Club - Home | Facebook](#)

Exeter Skating Club. 41 likes · 21 talking about this. Exeter Skating Club is a not for profit Skate Canada sanctioned skating club offering Skate Canada programs.

www.facebook.com



[South Huron Minor Hockey President talks about recommendation to close Stephen Arena](#)

Finding 35 hours per week of ice time! That's one of the many concerns of South Huron Minor Hockey President D...

www.exetertoday.ca

From: [Rebekah Msuya-Collison](#)
To: [Justin Finkbeiner](#)
Subject: FW: Stephen Arena
Date: February-04-21 8:37:43 AM

From: Mayor Finch
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Amanda Glavin-Griffith [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Dan Best <cao@southhuron.ca>; Rebekah Msuya-Collison <clerk@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Stephen Arena

Thanks for the email Amanda.
I will have it included as part of an upcoming agenda item available for discussion.

George Finch
Mayor of South Huron
322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759
Exeter Ontario
N0M 1S6
Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304
Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747
Cell 226-377-8886
www.southhuron.ca

From: Amanda Glavin-Griffith [<mailto:amandaglavin@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Vaughan <myvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>
Cc: jeff@wkfinancial.ca
Subject: Stephen Arena

Hello all,
I have went back and forth on what I want to say. However I have many emotions and so much of my past tied to this arena that I was struggling to separate the 2 for my opinion to truly matter to you. I am aware you don't base your decisions on sentiment, that's what I kept going back to. When we did Kraft Hockeyville, that was all based on Stephen Arena not Exeter. I have seen so many posts that are sick of Exeter getting everything, Exeter this Exeter that. I live in Exeter and totally respectfully disagree with anyone who is saying and posting those things. I grew up as part of the Huron park arena family. I spent much of my childhood there cheering on my brothers while trying to trick both my parents that they were being cheap not giving me knuckles and dimes for the booth, when I usually ended up with more then enough to share with friends as they watched my brothers and shooed me away handing me change. My friends and I would run away giggling and go to the booth for gummie bears and sour keys. This is why I was struggling to explain why this is a ridiculous decision to close Stephen arena. It kept coming back to memories that I hold dear of a wonderful community I grew up in. Then I read Jeff Keller's comments and realized he put into words exactly how I felt when I get past my emotions. I appreciate Jeff being able to get past emotions as that is what so many are feeling and see the side of this that WILL affect where we live



Write a reply...



Jeff Keller

South Huron has a tough decision to make - the fewer services that are available for younger families will directly result in these families leaving the area. (We were one of them). The community will get older. The workforce will disappear. Fewer businesses will want to set up in South Huron and fewer

to set up in South Huron and fewer people, in return, will want to live in the community.

This lowers tax revenue, thereby decreasing available services even further. "Snow Ball" effect. They need to actually disclose to every tax payer what the result of building or improving on what they already have would be on their property taxes. Then make some tough decisions before there are no decisions to be made at all. I was on many boards and committees when I lived there. I moved 9 years ago - they are still talking about the same issues. Less talk more action - before it is too late.

9m Love Reply



Donna Mosurinjohn



Write a comment...



I love where I live, however raising 4 children is my priority, not where I grew up. If we aren't looking to keep young families around then we will need to look for somewhere that is. I am a mother of a daughter, I am a mother of sons, I am a mother of an autistic child with GDD. These decisions matter. Please look outside your own box, look at what others are saying. You need a plan before deciding to close Stephen arena. You don't yet have one from what I can see that is valid. This isn't about you. This is about our community. Please rethink this decision

Amanda Glavin-Griffith

February 5, 2021

Delivered: Via Email

Re: Closure of Recreational Programs for South Huron Residents

Attn: The Municipality of South Huron Council

George Finch, Jim Dietrich, Diane Faubert, Marissa Vaughan, Aaron Neeb, Barb Willard, Ted Oke

Council,

We are writing to you with our concern with the closing of the Stephen Arena and the effects that it will have on the local area and residents.

The loss of the arena and potential services that could be made available there will greatly affect the residents of Huron Park and area. The arena is busy in the fall and winter months with ice sports and this gives all residents something to do whether it is watching the sport or playing the sport. The Stephen Rec Centre also provides a snack bar that local families go to for a night out.

Non-profit groups have also used this arena to hold their groups through the week during school years. Here is a small list of groups that we could think of that have used or tried to use the Stephen Rec Centre in the last four years : YMCA summer program, mommy and me-early on, Rural Response, New Outlook, Library, Hockey Organizations.

We have also noticed that there are residents that use the Stephen Rec Centre's free Wi-Fi .

This decision by our current council to close the Stephen Rec Centre has not been met with any direct community engagement, like how the affected services will be accommodated. We are concerned how this is going to affect our community youth and seniors with one less place to meet and connect. Without having a plan in place as to what to do with the location proves to be a huge deficit in our community. As you are all aware many of the residents of Huron Park are without transportation and the Stephen's Area gives them a public space to connect with others, without which leaves the

community isolated. with others being taken away without a plan in place to replace it. What does this say to our future?

We are aware of the cost it takes to run this Rec Centre and for that matter any rec centre, we feel that the cost is outweighed by the benefits that are brought to the community by having the Stephen Rec Centre.

-----Original Message-----

From: info@southhuron.ca [<mailto:info@southhuron.ca>] On Behalf Of Karen Hodgins
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Loosing our Arena

I do not understand why you would close Huron park Arena.
Not that long ago fundraising and government funding was given to update the old arena.
Yes we are in a Cvoid pandemic, and the ice has not been used.
In previous years the ice was booked. Always.

To me, this another hit to the rural south Huron residents!
I'm in totally disagree with the closing of the arena in Huron Park!

Regards
Karen Hodgins
519-709-5247

Origin: [https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?
a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.southhuron.ca%2fen%2fgovernment%2fcouncil.aspx&c=E.1,DWA1OBzICCqEYEV9S910Hkan-
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This email was sent to you by Karen Hodgins [REDACTED] through [https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?
a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.southhuron.ca%2f.&c=E.1,soRWwWY7leDh03Zp91ppTuk9-OVp-
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From: hushnkeesh [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:12 AM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Stephen Arena

To the Mayor and Council

Started this petition, in regards to you wanting to close the Stephen Arena.

The public voters don't want it closed you can see their comments recognize their names ..they're from South Huron.

We want to fit it, the governments are giving away millions Ontario and Federal. It's time to put money into South Huron..not just Exeter.

You all think of Huron Park as drug capital, low income..you need to rethink again, with stricter rules etc and landlords not tolerating late rents etc its moved the riff raff out..a couple years ago..our town isn't perfect, but our crime is down and so are the drugs..

You need to look in Exeter back allies, parks etc.

MANY of us work, some own businesses have nice autos, bikes, cottages, were far from low income just because our rent is a decent price.

Some have owned properties some still do..We shop local..we support local..but we're tired of South Huron not being recognized as ALL...surrounding communities..when was the last time Huron Park, Crediton, Centralia, Dashwood, been given any attention other then fire departments ..services.

We matter ..we're not Exeter we're South Huron and we matter.

Our voices should matter as well. We vote!

It's time, to stop judging and favoring

It's time to build..ALL OF SOUTH HURON NOT JUST EXETER.

look for the grants..heck Td even gives out grants..talk to the lions etc..connect with the communities ALL BANKS give out grants search government websites for free money available. For communities..talk to Lucan..ask them how they recieved their new arena..Start working with the people. We care and we matter.

Please don't close this arena..rebuild it add onto it..possibly a side building library or redesign..get us involved fundraising for ice time..etc..

We love our arena it holds alot of memories and now even more..with new generations using it.

I'm attaching the petition..you can read the comments from members of South Huron.

We care and want to build not tear down and make South Huron Stronger.

Thanks for your time and I truly hope you reconsider your decision on closing it.. Kathy Kenney

https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/do-not-close-stephen-arena-we-need-our-arena?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=email_welcome_to_ipetitions"e_id=quote1&title_id=title2&recruiter=15674557&loc=view-

From: Jeff Kerslake [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:39 AM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>

Cc: Dan Best <cao@southhuron.ca>

Subject: South Huron's Recreation Centre Situation

Greetings Mayor Finch, Deputy Mayor Dietrich and South Huron Councilor's,

First off, thank you to all of you for the time that you put forth with being involved with Municipal politics. I expect you put many volunteer hours in that people don't realize, or appreciate. So thank you for this as I understand its not an easy position to hold.

I would not normally email the entire Council (actually, I've never even contacted a Councilor about any issue in the past) as I put the trust in the elected Council and staff to do what's right for South

Huron.

However, I feel compelled to comment on our Arena/Community Centre situation, as I hear some things that concern me. While I would doubt that I am up to speed on or have all the accurate facts, I feel my family needs to have input as you prepare yourself to make decisions on our arenas.

We all have a situation here. Both of our arenas are past their life expectancy with one grossly past its life expectancy. You do not need an engineers report, to know that Stephen arena simply needs to be shutdown. Yes, that's a sad fact, as it's a beautiful old arena, but assets simply do not last forever. But this is a surprise to no one. Or it better not be a surprise to anyone on this email. I have heard that the Stephen arena loses almost 500K annually in operating costs, if this is accurate, a plan should have been put in place many years ago on how to replace it, but it was not. Now we have a dire situation due to lack of proper municipal asset management.

We need a plan. But we all know we needed a plan two years ago, yet Council and staff couldn't come up with a plan to replace our aging arenas. Your job as Councilor's is take staff's recommendations, all of them, and the taxpayers requests, all of them and figure out a way to suit everyone's needs, in a financially effective way, with minimizing tax increases. But doing nothing and making no hard decisions does not solve the issue, it ends up costing the taxpayers more money by doing nothing. When managing physical assets **"doing nothing costs more money"**. Yet, here we are, nothing has been done, now we're in a jamb.

Somehow, some way, with responsible yet minimal financial commitment, we need to keep both arenas open for 24 months, two more seasons. It may be ugly and you may need to put band-aids on things. But ice users and pickleballers will understand why. They will understand why, because starting now, we need that plan. We need to build a Community Hub. We need to start fundraising tomorrow, set goals and milestones. Double pad (yes, I know the needed ice usage hours fall 20 hours short weekly) but if anyone on this email supports sending ice users to neighboring arenas, you should be very ashamed of the job you are doing for South Huron, and embarrassed that you could not get a plan to solve this problem years ago. Its not all about ice users, build me a darn indoor walking track so my aging parents have a safe surface to walk on during the winter months. User pay system? Charge my parents a buck each time they use it? Ice users pay for ice, why shouldn't everyone pay for what they wish to use? And if it helps your business case in any way, let's look at it. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America. Where are all of these folks that want to join going to play? In the worn out Exeter Rec Centre? Really? That arena will not entice new seniors into our community.

We need a plan. We need a community hub where young, old and people with challenged mobility can utilize. Where and how to build this showpiece is in your hands. Make the hard decisions. Sure, 20 million is a lot of money. Municipalities can borrow money terribly cheap right now, and there are many options on how to finance infrastructure projects. Using the 500K that we are losing on Stephen annually goes along ways to making payments towards a properly built hub.

Asset Management needs to improve in South Huron. I'm not putting this all on Council as staff plays a part in this. We need a 5 year asset management plan, and a ten year plan. And you need to follow

it. Your tennis players have no where to play, and now your ice users have no where to play. Not great optics folks! Not much to be proud of here.

If Council makes a decision to close Stephen arena and send ice users elsewhere and on top of this pump any money into Exeter arena, this is the wrong focus. Actually, there would be no focus on your behalf. It would be a bandaid, and millions of dollars' worth of bandaids. Exeter arena will never suit the needs of this community, no matter how many millions you sink into it. It will never be fully accessible, it only has one ice rink, no indoor track and not enough room for pickleballers. You cannot satisfy the community needs with retrofitting this building in any financially responsible way. It would be like putting lipstick on a pig.

Get me and all of your constituents a plan. Something that **you** can be proud of. Something to bring new families to this town, something that can effectively add enjoyment to all ages. **Build us a Community hub.**

The Kerslake Family has been a part of this area for five generations, and I hope they are for another five generations. Do the right thing, make the hard decisions for the future of my family, please. Should any of you prefer to chat, I can be available. Drop me an email and I'll share my cell with you.

Sincerely,
Jeff & Jill
Cullen, Ridley and Jax Kerslake

From: Jennifer Kramer [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 3:24 PM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaibert@southhuron.ca>;
aneed@southhuron.ca; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke
<toke@southhuron.ca>

Subject: Support for the Stephen Arena

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jen Kramer and have been a resident of Exeter since 2003. I was immediately drawn to the sense of community Exeter offers. Raising my children surrounded by family, friends, sports and recreation has always been important. As the saying goes 'It takes a Village.' Instilling these values in our children prepares our community for future success and growth.

This email is sent today to voice my personal concerns closing the Stephen Arena. South Huron Minor Hockey has grown significantly in the last 6 years. For 5 years I was actively involved as the organization Secretary. Closing the arena means there is no guarantee our

children can continue leading active lifestyles. Closing Stephen will not allow for enough time to host programs South Huron offers. Hockey alone would be short approximately 35 hours per week for programming. Will South Huron Minor Hockey be able to support growing registrations and host 5 annual tournaments that keep registration cost lower than any other organization in our area without Stephen? How will our local businesses, motel/hotels and restaurants feel about losing income our tournaments bring?

In addition to South Huron Minor Hockey there are numerous other programs that utilize the ice rink in Huron Park.

What about the young children and families that use the public skating in their village that lacks other amenities? Where will these families go?

What about men's hockey programs?

What about Broomball?

The list goes on. Not only South Huron Hockey but Ilderton supports this ice pad.

I personally feel that because Covid has shut down our community it becomes easy to disregard the importance of our arena, the 'community hub.' Permanent Closure is a decision that will impact our community for many years. Stephen and Exeter arenas are both needed for our community to thrive.

As a proud member of our community I do not support closing Stephen Arena. I would support a community fundraising project to allow Stephen to remain a part of our community.

If you have been or are involved in Minor Sports you will understand the importance of these facilities. If you are not, I strongly encourage you to go. Watch a five year old enter the building with complete joy, stick in hand. Watch the lessons he learns from his coach. Then in 10 years go back and see that same child. Hundreds of hours spent at South Huron and Stephen Arenas, lessons that can not be taught anywhere else.

This is not possible when there is no facility. Please reconsider your choice to permanently close Stephen.

Thank you kindly for your time,

Jen Kramer

-----Original Message-----

From: Noah's Ark [<mailto:eptcan.noahsark@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:39 PM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>

Subject: Stephen Arena

Good Evening

I am writing to you tonight to express my concerns about the closing Stephen Arena. I am very concerned about the lack of opportunity for youth recreation in South Huron and I even more concerned what closing this arena will do to this. As a community member and a huge advocate for youth, we need to be better at ensuring our youth have as many opportunities available to them for recreational purposes, especially in the way that this benefits their mental health. With losing another ice pad this will mean that there is less of these opportunities available, but also less opportunities for families who can not get into Exeter. I ask that you please reconsider this decision or at least look for some community input before making this decision.

Andrea Loohuizen

Volunteer Coordinator at

Noah's Ark and The Community Table

From: Exeter Skating Club <mailto:exeterskatingclub@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:56 PM

Subject: Ice loss

Municipality of South Huron Council,

We would like to start by thanking you for giving us the opportunity last month to provide feedback on what we as a regular ice user would like to see happen with the ice once the current lock down is lifted. We really hope this coming week brings good news and Exeter Skating Club will be back on the ice soon! We appreciate you not having the ice at the South Huron Recreation Centre removed immediately like so many other municipalities and for giving us a chance at returning this season.

We do feel however that we need to have our voice heard on the topic of South Huron reducing to one ice pad. The Exeter Skating Club has been in our community for over 60 years. We look forward to a strong future within our community. The reality however is that one ice pad in South Huron does not currently and never will meet the needs of the entire community. The community of South Huron needs sufficient facilities that will continue to meet the needs of the community now and into the future. We need a solid plan that allows all current programs to continue with a commitment for the future and to potential growth for all programs. It would be great if members of council and the municipality met with regular ice users to discuss what it is we all need now and into the future, to share what the master plan is for ice facilities and to provide regular updates as they come available. Losing Stephen now will leave an immediate shortage. What happens if we lose Stephen now and then potential renovations to the South Huron Recreation Centre begin? Will we have no ice in the municipality for a time when ice sports would normally operate? How and where will we run our programs? We need a plan from the municipality so that we too can plan.

The last year has been very hard on everyone and sports are well known to have huge physical and mental benefits to those who participate. When it comes to making decisions on what is best for the community please consider the negative impact taking away ice in South Huron will have on all users, especially our youth.

Thank you for you time,
Tiffany Morley
Exeter Skating Club President

From: Carrie Noyes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>
Cc: ben.lobb.c1@parl.gc.ca; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaubert@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Stephen Township Arena

Hi George

I am writing this email with our opinion on the closing of Stephen Township Arena. We should NOT CLOSE Stephen Township Arena. This arena ran in the black for many many years. I feel like this council forgets that South Huron goes beyond Exeter...lots of little hamlets. We used this facility a lot before and will continue to use it. One ice pad is not enough for our community, for hockey, ringett, figure skating and family time with public skating. Our little family of are extremely disappointed and will fight our best to keep our arena OPEN.

Thank you for your time
Carrie Noyes & Scott Gaiser
22 William Dr.
Crediton, ON N0M1M0
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Stewart [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 8:04 PM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>; m.vaughn@southhuron.ca; Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaibert@southhuron.ca>
Cc: lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org; Ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca; Scott Currie <scurrie@southhuron.ca>
Subject: Closure of Stephen Arena

Attn: The Municipality of South Huron Council George Finch, Jim Dietrich, Dianne Faubert, Marissa Vaughan, Aaron Neeb, Barb Willard and Ted Oak

January 31, 2021

From: Jennifer Paff & Family
19 Victoria Ave West
Credition ON N0M 1M0
519-234-6544

Re: Closure of Recreational Programs for South Huron Residents

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family including my children 5yr old Merrin and 8yr old Willem. My

children have enjoyed the use of Stephen arena not only for skating, but as small infants/toddlers we participated in mom/tot groups inside the arena.

Closing this arena will be detrimental to the surrounding communities; especially the children. Your recommendation to close Stephen arena at the end of the 2021 season is a poor choice; to my knowledge there have been no outreach to the community to gather input or opinions on this decision. There have been no public forums that allow concerned community members to express their feelings, or how this closure will impact them.

Upon your recommendation to close this arena you will be displacing 35hrs per week that South Huron Minor Hockey uses, but to my knowledge council has no plan in place to accommodate these hours. As it sits there is no available ice in the other surrounding municipalities to accommodate these hours; something council has been aware of since February 19, 2019.

What I fail to understand is if you as council knew this arena required repairs, why weren't funds set aside to complete the repairs when they came up? Why did council wait until the building was in such a state that you have voted to close it? It makes no sense to me. The municipality is operating two aging arenas with no plan in place to get either of them up to the standard they should be.

As a resident of South Huron I am appalled at the thought that the children will have no place to go for skating; moms/babies will no longer have access to the arena foyer to attend mom/tot groups. How will parents get their children to Exeter to take advantage of the recreational activities there if they don't have access to a vehicle or the ability to get there? What do those families do? I feel that by choosing to close this arena it puts the youth at further risk for traveling down the wrong path!

You need to open your eyes and realize that this is a bad decision, a decision that will in the long run not benefit the community! You as the council of South Huron MUST work for the municipality as a whole instead of only focusing on the town of Exeter.

You need to gather community input regarding this decision to close Stephen Arena at the end of 2021; again as of yet, I am unaware of any community forums that have been competed.

Please reconsider this decision until you our council has a concrete plan in place to make sure ALL communities in South Huron are supported!

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Paff



Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: info@southhuron.ca [<mailto:info@southhuron.ca>] On Behalf Of Barb Potter

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 8:28 AM

To: Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>

Subject: Stephen Arena

Please do not close the Stephen arena prior to providing an alternative solution for our community

Origin: [https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.southhuron.ca%2fen%2fgovernment%2fcouncil.aspx&c=E.1.WD17t7hnT8eWPlzpxGPGC-gAjpvv7lPdxrhns7B2Vqo0B2eTjN3NVlxb0snR-2FiKpem7y8LGRSPUzbBr1vmMR5ws9PX6NeqLv3LumbCILY0bSpN6AJ5TY.&typo=1)

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[a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.southhuron.ca%2f.&c=E.1.fZdSmm_nqHPvKyJWtH67EeE_TQ2lrv5MfhQsl9-Qa9WLuQL2uiy-Jh-rL5_1SE_pHuHZ8feM9oXtNCBnSyU0KGtmEqK3rlOb9imZOEg_uA.,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.southhuron.ca%2f.&c=E.1.fZdSmm_nqHPvKyJWtH67EeE_TQ2lrv5MfhQsl9-Qa9WLuQL2uiy-Jh-rL5_1SE_pHuHZ8feM9oXtNCBnSyU0KGtmEqK3rlOb9imZOEg_uA.,&typo=1)

From: Rachel Skillen [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:54 AM

To: Mayor Finch <gfinch@southhuron.ca>; Deputy Mayor Dietrich <jdietrich@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Vaughan <mvaughan@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Faubert <dfaibert@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Neeb <aneeb@southhuron.ca>; Councillor Ferguson Willard <bwillard@southhuron.ca>;
Councillor Oke <toke@southhuron.ca>; Dan Best <cao@southhuron.ca>

Subject: arena recommendation

Mayor Finch and members of council,

I am writing to express my concern about the recommendation to close the Stephen arena at the end of the current season. I have several questions that I am hoping you can provide answers to prior to considering passing the recommendation at council on February 16th.

1. If Stephen arena is closed, how will we meet the needs of all of the ice user groups in South Huron? Please have your staff provide a detailed schedule, including the hours that would be sent out to neighbouring communities (in alignment with the number of hours that are

available at those arenas based on the report that was presented in 2019). Please be transparent about how this will impact hockey, figure skating and other recreational user groups in our community. The unknown of this is creating a great deal of anxiety in the community.

2. What is the plan for upgrading or replacing the South Huron Rec Centre if you are not successful in obtaining grant funding? What would "Plan B" look like and what would the timeline be? I support Councillor Oke's suggestion of building a 2nd pad onto our current facility similar to what was done in St. Mary's and Dorchester.
3. If a new multi-use facility was to be built on the current site (as indicated in the grant proposal), and Stephen arena is closed, how will we have winter recreation during construction (I am assuming it would take 1-2 years to build such a facility). With this question in mind would it not make sense to keep Stephen open until we get final word on the grant? If we don't get the grant, then maybe you are looking at an alternate site and we can continue using the SHRC during the construction period?

I would really appreciate council members considering these questions and responding. I would also ask that you consider deferring a decision to close the Stephen arena until these questions can be answered and communicated with the people of South Huron.

Thank you for your time.

Rachel Skillen

January 29, 2021

Delivered: Via Email

The Municipality of South Huron
322 Main Street South P.O Box759
Exeter ON N0M 1S6

Re: Closure of Recreational Programs for South Huron Residents

Attn: The Municipality of South Huron Council

George Finch, Jim Dietrich, Dianne Faubert, Marissa Vaughan, Aaron Neeb, Barb Willard and Ted Oak

Council,

Our South Huron Community Group is reaching out regarding council's recommendation to close the Stephen Twp. arena at the end of the 2021 season on January 25, 2021. Please note that this decision by our current council's term has not been met with any direct community engagement, including any impact discussions with the effected community service providers, nor a structured plan to relocate the effected services within our municipality. For example, South Huron Minor Hockey currently rents 35 hours of ice at the Stephen arena that cannot be accommodated by the adjoining municipalities of Bluewater, Lambton, St. Mary's, and Lucan-Biddulph as reported in delegation to council February 19, 2019. Further, the YMCA also provides Youth Service programs in the summer period at Stephen arena.

We agree with the municipality's report that both Stephen and Exeter arenas have surpassed their life expectancy and need to be replaced with a new multi-use facility, that can accommodate services year-round for the community. Additionally, we agree not allocating any further tax dollars with these aging facilities for repairs unless safety driven.

As you are aware, our South Huron Community Group is comprised and supported by most of our local Business's, Associations, Community Service Groups, Non-for Profits, Residents of South Huron and the adjacent municipalities program users. Our group has reached out with an olive branch to council on several occasions (delegations, research, emails, letters and a petition with over 1200 community signatures) to help guide informed decisions with experience & education that promotes and delivers a multi-use facility, with no response over the course of the current council's term.

We cannot agree with closing of our facilities with no plan but to ask our community to locate themselves to another municipality for the current service's already provided. It is unfortunate what the COVID pandemic has done to our local communities to include the mental health of our South Huron seniors and children. We need to ensure our services are there for support in the coming weeks, months and years. Our South Huron Council has the ability and responsibility to support the Health and well-being of our community and not take away further recreation services. A South Huron multi-use facility is more than just recreation!

Planning of a new-multipurpose facility cannot hang on the threads of a grant for the future development, sustainability and recruitment of our municipality's residents and business. Financial planning and reserves must be established.

The information and reports are available to make informed decisions for a multi-use facility. However, the feasibility study contracted was never completed for a multi-use facility at the direction of this council, despite awarding a contract for \$30,000 and paying \$10,000 to cancel per our understanding.

Our South Huron Community Group is again reaching out to help deliver a multi-use facility for the community. Our grant submission to the Provincial and Federal levels has also had no response to date but was supported in letter and fundraising acknowledgement by a large majority of South Huron's local Business's, Associations, Community Service Groups, Non-for profits, Residents, Studies & Petitions. We only need to look for council's support to move forward, grant or no grant.

If any council members wish to remove any activities within our community that support the health, sustainability and recruitment of our community, we ask them to step-down and hold a bi-election so the appropriate decisions can be supported by the community.

Respectfully, we request holding off the closure of the Stephen arena until the proper multi-use facilities are in place in the South Huron Municipality to accommodate the services currently provided.

Here for the community,
The South Huron Community Group

CC (email): **Scott Currie** - South Huron Municipality Manager of Community Services

Rebekah Msuya-Collison – South Huron Municipality Clerk

Scott Nixon – Exeter Lakeshore Times-Advance

Lisa Thompson – MPP Huron-Bruce

Ben Lobb – MP Huron-Bruce

"the only thing worse than making a wrong decision is not making any decision."