

September 8, 2024

Dear Council Members,

I am writing this letter requesting an exemption from fees being charged for the Cargill Community Center for an annual event being held in memory of my partner, Brad Wilken, taking place August 23, 2025.

For anyone on council that did not know Brad, he was an entrepreneur from a very young age. Brad opened his own car oiling business, Brads Oil Shop at the family farm in Brockton when he was 17 years old. He was a millwright at Canada Packers in Walkerton, sold real estate with Wilfred McEntee Real Estate, owned Mel's Diner and the Walkerton Car Wash. He was a member of the Walkerton Kinsman and the Walkerton Legion. Brad lived his entire life in Walkerton, volunteering and supporting many events in and around our area. He was proud of where he lived and encouraged progressive building and expansion of our town.

Sadly, in 2021 Brad was killed in a motorcycle accident. As a way to continue remembering Brad and others that we have lost; Dave Al (2021), Bill Metcalf (2022), and more recently Tim Lippert (2024), all of whom were residents of the Municipality of Brockton, I created an event that encourages the community to celebrate the lives of those we have lost while supporting a cause Brad very much believed in, the Saugeen Hospice Inc.

To date this event has collected just over **\$38,711.14** which has gone directly to Saugeen Hospice Inc. It is my aim that, since the money raised is coming from community members (no corporate sponsors have contributed to this amount), I keep costs down and give back as much as possible to the Saugeen Hospice Inc.

In the past, there have been charges from the Cargill Community Center that have had a negative impact on the amount I am able to give back, mainly paying for bartenders when several helpers are Smart Serve certified. Last year this charge was removed, and I would like to thank council for that change. This allows much more of the funds collected to go to Hospice as well as involving community members in a volunteer capacity.

I have booked the Cargill Community center for next year, August 23, 2025, for the 4th Annual Brad Wilken Memorial Poker Run and Car Cruise. In my rental agreement it lists the ball diamonds as being rented. While this event does not make use of the ball diamonds, it does involve motorcycles and classic cars being parked on the grounds. Having a ball event would have a very negative impact on this event and I would like to **request exemption** from this charge. In addition, as part of the registration for the poker run in the morning, I only use

the kitchen for making eggs and using the grill, toaster and coffee makers (4 hours). The fee for the kitchen has increased significantly this year, and I am **asking for a reduction on the fee for the kitchen use** as this is a fundraising event for a substantial addition to the Municipality of Brockton.

I recognize that costs increase for everything and can appreciate that there does need to be a fee, however I am hoping that council recognizes that most of the money raised by this event is from Brockton residents giving back to their community. It is currently my plan to hold this annual event for many years to come in support of the Saugeen Hospice. Please help me to keep operating costs down.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn MacKay", written over a horizontal line.

Dawn MacKay