

Members of Brockton Council,

As you are aware Walkerton Minor Hockey has been using the agriculture society's "Horse palace" building for an additional ice surface this season to meet our ice demands. The ice surface will be removed in mid-March. Once the ice is taken out and everything is cleaned up, we are left with approximately 20 skids of plastic tubing and related materials that require storage during the off season. In previous years we were fortunate to have access to two 53' trailers donated by a local business for storage purposes. Unfortunately, that business has since been sold and the trailer option is no longer feasible for us. As a result, we are now faced with alternative storage for the off season.

We have explored our options and determined that we would require two 40' sea cans. The rental cost for seven months is approximately \$4000 and the cost to buy them to own is approximately \$7000. These prices include both tax and delivery. We have decided, based on the cost, it makes more sense to buy the two sea cans.

Minor Hockey is respectfully requesting financial assistance. We believe it is important to emphasize that the only reason our volunteers commit the significant amount of time and effort to install and get the Horse palace ice surface operating is because our municipality currently does not have sufficient ice facilities to meet the demands of our growing population and our increased demand. Registration numbers are already at full capacity and likely over capacity for what we can provide. We are on the verge of implementing waiting lists and potentially turning children away and sending them to other communities due to limited ice availability.

The Horse palace ice surface has allowed us to allocate the appropriate amount of ice time to most teams. Without it in previous years we had to rent ice in Hanover, Mildmay, Teeswater, Ayton and Belmore for our teams to practice and play some of their games. As of now we do intend to operate the Horse palace again next season provided circumstances allow, however beyond that is a major question mark and very uncertain. To operate the Horse palace, it costs an additional \$30000-\$40000 per season plus the many volunteer hours. The municipality has staffed it and maintained it for the hockey season, and we are very thankful for their support.

We hope there will be a strong and focused effort toward developing an additional ice pad and/or upgrading existing facilities to better accommodate the needs of our municipality. In the meantime, we are asking for your support to help us secure two sea cans to provide storage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrett

on behalf of Walkerton Minor Hockey