

Report to Council

Report Title: Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request Follow up

Prepared By: Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: March 24, 2026

Report Number: REC2026-09

File Number: C11REC

Attachments: Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request Report REC2026-07

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2026-09 - Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request Follow up, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, and in doing so authorizes Option 4 in regards to request of financial assistance to purchase two sea cans for up to \$7,000.00 to store vital equipment for “Ice Palace” operations.

Report:

Background:

During the March 10, 2026, Council Meeting, Council considered Walkerton Minor Hockey’s request for financial assistance to purchase storage sea cans and permission to store them on municipal property behind the PWU Centre. During the discussion, Council identified a potential fourth option: the Municipality of Brockton purchasing the sea cans and leasing them to Walkerton Minor Hockey. As a result the motion was tabled until more information was provided.

To support Council’s consideration of this option, staff were directed to provide additional information related to:

- Condition and appearance of the sea cans
- Other options explored to address the storage requirement
- The organization’s plan for the sea cans if/when the program ceases
- Whether Walkerton Minor Hockey would lease sea cans from the municipality if purchased by Brockton

Analysis:

Staff contacted Walkerton Minor Hockey to obtain the requested information and confirm the feasibility of the proposed purchase and lease option. Based on the information received:

- Condition and appearance: Walkerton Minor Hockey has purchased mid-grade sea cans.
- Other options explored: Walkerton Minor Hockey advised that they contacted all local companies that rent or sell storage trailers and/or sea cans, requested donation or discounts and determined the most practical long-term, least expensive option was to purchase two sea cans.
- Walkerton Minor Hockey planned to sell sea cans when no longer required for equipment storage in the future.
- Leasing from the Municipality: Walkerton Minor Hockey confirmed they would be willing to lease sea cans for storage from the Municipality of Brockton at a reasonable fee.

To ensure a consistent and comparable approach, staff reviewed the Municipality’s approved 2026 Fees and Charges By-Law 2025-069 and considered an equivalent fee structure. Staff determined that the Minor Sports Room Storage fee—currently charged to main user groups for storage provides the most comparable and reasonable benchmark. This 2026 fee is \$400.00 per year, and staff consider to be a suitable rate to apply to a potential sea can storage lease arrangement.

Historically, Walkerton Minor Hockey has not been charged a fee by the Walkerton Agricultural Society for equipment storage. However, beginning in 2026, the Walkerton Agricultural Society was intending to implement a storage fee of \$100 per month.

For additional context, staff also reviewed recent registration levels among local ice user groups, as summarized below.

Ice User Group Registration (Membership) Numbers:

Ice User Group	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Walkerton Figure Skating	103	104	106
Walkerton Minor Hockey (Boys)	300	315	231 *1 st year of Amalgamated Rep Leagues
Walkerton Minor Hockey (Girls)	191	208	222
Midwest 49ers	—	—	198 *45% or 80 Walkerton Residents Members

In addition to options provided in Report Number REC2026-07 “Walkerton Minor Hockey Storage Funding Request” staff have provided Option 4 based on Council’s input and further consideration:

Option 4: Municipality purchases sea cans and leases to Walkerton Minor Hockey

Approve the Municipality of Brockton purchasing two sea cans to be leased to Walkerton Minor Hockey for a storage fee of \$400.00 per year (consistent with the 2026 Approved Rates and Fees for Minor Sports Room Storage).

- Considerations: Ensures operational continuity and asset protection, requires \$7,000.00 tax-based municipal funding, may set precedent for other organizations seeking funding for facility-related storage needs, provides municipality with ownership and control over the units (including location,

appearance, and maintenance expectations), potential additional seasonal storage capacity for municipal use or could be sold in the future.

Staff recommend Option 4 as it provides the strongest balance between supporting a key community organization's effort in increasing municipal service levels and protecting the municipality's interests. This approach:

- Provides municipality with ownership and control over the units regarding placement, appearance, and maintenance, addressing Council's interest in condition and visual impact on municipal property.
- Applies a consistent fee model aligned with the 2026 Approved Rates and Fees, supporting transparency and fairness for user groups.
- Supports volunteer efforts to increase ice capacity levels within our local community

Staff seek Council's direction on the preferred option related to Walkerton Minor Hockey's storage request and the potential municipal purchase-and-lease approach.

Brockton's Community Goals:

The content and recommendations in this report support advancing the priorities to **Build a Better Brockton** in one or more of the following areas: **Heritage, Culture, and Community, Quality of Life, Municipal Governance, Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment, and/or Economic Development.**

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Funding sources are limited. Staff recommend either Capital (\$100,483.19) or Tax Mitigation (balance \$882,202) Reserve.

Reviewed By:




Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer