



**West Northumberland
Curling Club**

MAILING ADDRESS

West Northumberland Curling
Club
206B Furnace Street
Cobourg, Ontario
K9A 2G1

PHONE

289-252-2289

EMAIL

info@wncc.ca

WEB

wncc.ca

March 18, 2021

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West
Cobourg, ON
K9A 2M2

Attention: Ms. Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Ms. Vaughan:

I am writing you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the West Northumberland Curling Club. As you may be aware, the West Northumberland Curling Club (WNCC) has leased Jack Heenan Arena since 2011. During this time the club has put thousands of dollars into maintaining and improving the facility. Most recently, the WNCC has replaced one of the furnaces and upgraded all of the lighting within the building.

The current lease calls for WNCC to pay \$7,200.00 per annum in rent as well as \$2,000.00 for snowplowing/grass cutting and \$9,000.00 for insurance. As well, the curling club maintains our own insurance and pays all utilities and other costs for the building. As with all organizations during COVID, the 2019/2020 curling season was a very tough year for the curling club, but it managed to break even. However, 2020/2021 is expected to be a very difficult year for the WNCC and we are anticipating a loss of approximately \$70,000.00. This type of loss will significantly reduce any contingency funds we had set aside. We also anticipate that it will be difficult to bounce back in the 2021/2022 season and in fact it will take a few years to be able to operate at a break even point.

The Board of Directors are looking at ways to increase the monies to the curling club to help sustain the revenues during these difficult times and help prevent closing our doors in the next couple of years. Curling is a very popular sport, and we know curling is a draw for some people moving to an area. As well, curling provides an economic benefit to the businesses and restaurants in town from the members and visitors patronizing their establishments after league play and bonspiels.

As previously stated, the Board of Directors are looking at various options to increase revenues to try to offset the losses sustained during these trying times. These initiatives include organizing activities during the

months when there is no ice in the arena. In reviewing the lease, the following clauses need to be considered:

1. *During the Term of this Lease the Premises shall not be used for any purpose other than the normal use by a curling club of an arena without the express consent of the Landlord given in writing.*
2. *Shoulder Season. The Tenant shall pay the Landlord on September 1st each year any rental payments from any subtenants or Licensees received by the Tenant in the prior year of the Term during the time when there was no ice on the arena floor pad, and/or for any rentals outside of curling activities.*

Therefore, the WNCC is requesting the consent of the Town of Cobourg to utilize the Jack Heenan Arena for alternative activities during the shoulder season. The curling club is looking at partnering with members of the community and starting up a corn-hole league. This would be operated in much the same manner as the curling leagues but for corn-hole therefore would not involve subtenants or outside rentals. The WNCC feels that a corn-hole league could be a draw to many of the curling members and offer them an activity during the off season. The league would be run during the evenings so as not to take away from the day activities that our members currently enjoy. The league(s) would be open to all members of Northumberland and would provide yet another attraction that the community offers while providing much added revenue to the curling club to help sustain the future of curling in the Town of Cobourg and Northumberland County.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned. Take care and stay safe.

Yours truly,

Ian Hartford, President
West Northumberland Curling Club

cc. Emily Chorley, Coordinator of Parks and Recreation Services