



Lucan Minor Hockey

P.O. Box 446, Lucan, ON N0M 2J0

www.lucanminorhockey.net

August 22, 2024

To: Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Mayor
Dave Manders, Deputy Mayor
Darcey Cook, Director of Community Services & Facilities

CC: Lucan Minor Hockey Executive

Lucan Minor Hockey (LMH) was established in 1949, making 2024-2025 our 75th season – an anniversary in which we'll also surpass a membership milestone of over 500 players and countless volunteers from the community. Throughout the years we've been able to deliver programming that is built on a foundation of the Lucan community and branded under the lucky Irish clover.

Recently, Lucan undertook a refresh to the community master plan and allowed LMH the opportunity to provide input to the roadmap that will help guide our recreational investments which associations such as LMH is a direct beneficiary of.

Overall, we commend the analysis and resulting detailed report that provides the prescriptive vision for Lucan in 2, 5, 10 years and beyond. One key aspect that impacts our future is the availability of ice to support our young hockey players and specifically the reality of a second pad within the coming years.

In order to ensure that the goal posts are anchored in facts, we are requesting that you hear additional context to our utilization and realize the impact that incorrect assumptions have on the current forecasts.

As quoted in the report there has been an increase in membership for ice-related youth sports of 50% from 2015 to present. While we cannot comment on overall numbers of the community, our own programming has grown from 325 in 2021-2022 to just over 500 in 2024-2025 which tabulates into a growth of 50% during the last 3 years.

This growth demands ice availability and results in LMH operating programming in a condensed format, which hinders the growth and development of our players through most of the age groups. We've currently secured 42 hours of weekly ice in Lucan and 6.5 hours of ice in Huron Park to meet our bare minimum needs of 1 practice per week for all teams along with sufficient, albeit barely enough, game ice and development programs. The reality is that practices may be cancelled for the priority of games. Under this model we are providing programming at a level below all of the surrounding centres which puts our players at a disadvantage and our programming at risk (as players go elsewhere).



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With these shortcomings, it is our community membership and volunteers who still find ways to persevere. Last year, we had 6 of our representative teams participate in the OMHA and OWHA provincials out of a possible 14 with one team being awarded the highest placement of champions. These successes leave no doubt about the potential that our organization has.

When we do an analysis building a hockey program from scratch to support the composition of LMH demographics we find ourselves committing to 75+ hours per week assuming access to a double pad facility. Overall, the increase to 75 hours would allow programming aligned with neighbouring centres with an appropriate increase in registration costs.

- Increase ice for U5 from once a week to twice
- Increase in practice ice for LL teams from 1/week to 5-6/month
- Increase in practice ice for Rep teams from 1/week to 7-8/month
- Improvement to non-shared ice for U11 teams once every other practice
- Improvement to non-shared ice for U13 teams for every practice versus once every 2 or 3 ice times
- Ability to host exhibition games throughout the season (1-2 per team)

In addition to our current challenges, LMH is entering into an arrangement to operate our representative OMHA hockey in partnership with the neighbouring centres of Ilderton and North Middlesex. Through this arrangement comes an increased requirement for additional ice (estimated at 10 hours per week above our current allocation) to support hockey at a higher level of competition starting in 2025/2026. We are also seeing our OWHA programming reach these levels of advanced competition due to population growth amongst OWHA membership numbers and attributed to the strength of our program.

While we are finding creative solutions in order to register and retain any ambitious hockey player, there is a reasonable likelihood that our current ice allocation simply cannot support all community members wishing to participate. This will become a reality in the next few years, not 10 or even 5, without access to a second ice facility.

Regards,

Mark Millar
Lucan Minor Hockey President