

Alana Richards

Subject: EH Municipality and EHCA - Needs Assessment
Attachments: 20250220_092951.jpg; 20250220_125154.jpg; 20250220_160237.jpg; 20250220_175905.jpg

From: Harold MacNeil
Sent: February 21, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Craig Merriam <cmerriam@easthants.ca>; Alana Tapper <atapper@easthants.ca>; Jo Swinemer <jswinemer@easthants.ca>
Cc: Kim Ramsay <kramsay@easthants.ca>; Harold MacNeil
Subject: EH Municipality and EHCA - Needs Assessment

EHCA requests that this email be placed in the Correspondence For Information File so that all councillors are aware.

The following pictures and words/thoughts/wishes/communications are a means to express East Hants Curling Association members desire for information on the Needs Assessment (EH Master Recreation Facilities Plan) that was identified in July 2023.

The pictures were taken on 20 February 2025. The desire for communication and the present void in information is the reason for this approach by all members of EHCA. EHCA acknowledges that there may be work being completed on EHCA's behalf, but members are not aware and this leads to frustration week after week.

The first picture is of the EHCA Morning League that has been yearning for information on the way ahead for an East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility for which in 2020 there was an updated business plan developed and forwarded to EH Municipal Council. The plan remains valid, will need updating, and is the template for the construction of an East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility. EHCA is well positioned to move the project/process to completion.

The second picture is of a Home and Home curling challenge between EHCA and Brookfield on Thursday afternoon, 20 February 2025 at the East Hants Sportsplex which involved 8 teams involved in socialization, healthy lifestyle that keeps people out of Emergency Rooms, Hospitals, complements Mental Health, and helps minimize the demands on the Nova Scotia Health system, seniors being active and getting to know your neighbours and surrounding community members: positive portions of one's day.

The third picture is of the youth involved in the partnership of the EHCA and the East Hants Youth Links with funding from Sport Nova Scotia under Equity Diversity Inclusiveness Accessibility (EDIA) grant. Some of the dedicated youths have been with curling for three years and the program has had as much as 40 youth curlers on the ice on any given Thursday. Note the grandparent in the picture that is supporting youth curling and the grandmother was on the side-line taking pictures, memories, life skills and future curlers.

The fourth picture is of the EHCA Evening League curling and collectively they also want to know the status of a New East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility.

East Hants Curling Association has touched between 400 and 500 (and probably more) local curlers and surrounding community members over its seven years of operation, one day a week, Thursdays and would/and is a strong, viable and fully financially sustainable non-profit recreation activity: A dedicated facility is needed to grow the recreation activity/sport in East Hants. Please let us move forward together.

TIMELINE:

July 2023 - EHM Council acknowledges EHCA as part of way ahead for recreation in East Hants.

November 2024 - EHCA request, 16 months later, for status of Needs Assessment
24 December 2024 - E mail saying the Needs Assessment is progressing. Some follow up 6 January 2025.
20 February 2025 - Two months later and no further information or contact in regards to Needs Assessment.

The reason for this communication is that the East Hants Curling Association would very much appreciate an update on the status of the Construction of an East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose Curling Facility. The process of presenting EHCA request for communications in this manner is a result of curlers, taxpayers and community members, wanting to know the status of an East Hants Curling Association Multi-purpose curling facility attached to the East Hants Sportsplex. A reply from East Hants Municipal Council is warranted to inform the EHCA members of construction timelines.

The East Hants Curling Association after seven years of exceptional operations and growing of the sport/recreation activity of curling was fully expecting shovels and backhoes to be moving ground and laying foundations, summer/early fall of 2025, considering the period July 2023 to present day.

As President EHCA, I am inviting Council members on any Thursday Morning and Evening to address/discuss the way ahead for the Construction of an East Hants Multi-purpose Curling Facility attached to the East Hants Sportsplex. The absence of direct communication between EH District Council members with EHCA continues to leave more questions than answers and as Elected Officials is it not your duty to the community who elected you as District Councillors in East Hants.

EHCA awaits EHM Council reply.

Respectfully on behalf of the EHCA Members and community followers,

EHCA BOD has been BCC's on this email.

Harold MacNeil, President EHCA

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