
WOLVES LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

PROPOSAL FOR A DRY FLOOR FACILITY





PURPOSE

- Discuss the immediate and important need for a dry floor sport facility. With the rapid growth of lacrosse in Nova Scotia and the introduction and growth of other dry floor sports to the province the lack of a permanent facility is not only creating a road block for our youth and adults to participate in sport, but it is in fact putting all dry floor sports at risk of extinction due to lack of access to facilities.

CURRENT STATE

- Even with losing a full season in 2020 due to Covid we still saw record numbers of youth and adults register for the 2021 season.
- Lacrosse in the past five years has become a sport for life activity with programs and leagues being offered from U6-U22 along with Junior, Senior and Master's leagues now established and stable.
- The East Coast Junior Lacrosse League has seen an expansion and provides an opportunity for High Level Athletes to remain in the province to continue their development, attending school in the province vs leaving the province in search of the opportunities not found in NS.
- With the increase number of athletes playing we have seen a growing demand for more development opportunities for athletes and have strong reputable groups like the Jr Privateers, Sr Privateers, Indigenous Players Association, Black Youth Lacrosse and the NS Sirens Female Lacrosse Club stepping up to offer programming however are limited due to not having a facility to use in the “off season” and limited access in our regular season.
- With Lacrosse being included in the Canada Summer Games for the first time since 1985 we have also seen the growth across the entire country including the Maritimes with PEI, NB and NS planning on sending Male and Female teams to participate in the 2022 Games.
- The NLL Halifax Thunderbirds arrival in 2019 introduced the sport of Lacrosse to many who had never seen the sport played. As witnessed by attendance levels throughout a shortened first season the community have embraced the team and sport and created unprecedented interest in the lacrosse community and opportunities to try the sport. Thunderbirds are focused on supporting grass roots level leaders in an effort to grow the sport. They introduced the Thunderbirds Inclusion and Equity program which focusses on introducing the sport and supporting communities that may not have had the opportunity to play sport. They have partnered with the Indigenous Players Association, The Black Alliance group and the NS Sirens Female Lacrosse Club to offer programming and support to these specific communities.



NEED

- The current youth lacrosse season runs yearly between May 1-July 1st. Every year clubs compete with each other, other dry sport groups such as Roller Hockey, Ball Hockey, Roller Derby and “For Profit” Spring Hockey groups to book facilities to get our seasons in. We must wait for the arenas to take their ice out in an effort to provide practices in April prior to season’s opening. We have always struggled to get a full season in around the ice programs but with the rapid growth and restricted facilities we are now seeing athletes playing 3-4 games a week with no opportunity to practice or development opportunities. With the lack of practice and development needs this has created the demand for programming that falls outside the season however currently is limited in what can be offered to youth and adults due to no facility to accommodate the programming. There just is not enough floor time to accommodate lacrosse’s growing numbers and the emergence of other dry floor sports and activities

OPPORTUNITY /ASK FROM COUNCIL

- Land has been offered to our group to accommodate building a specific dry floor facility as part of the community development proposal at the Bedford Commons. This would create a community activity hub with our facility joining the newly built Atlantic Tennis Center along with the proposed soccer and all weather football fields. With the proximity to the 102 and the soon to be completed Burnside/Sackville/Bedford interchange it would be accessible from all over HRM and public transit. This hub will no doubt be a jewel not only in the HRM area but provincially, encouraging youth and adults to remain active through sport and draw many people from Canada and the USA for tournaments and usage opportunities.
- We are requesting Council to support the developers proposal that this parcel of land be re-zoned as residential to be considered for a Bedford East Secondary Planning Strategy similar to the Bedford South and West SMPS in the current Municipal Planning Strategy



SUPPORT FROM THE MI'KMAW NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE





CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF LACROSSE

- Lacrosse was brought to the Mi'kmaq by Kluskap himself. In the story, “Glooscap and Winpe,” Kluskap wins lacrosse as a prize in a competition with another Mi'kmaw spirit named Winpe. Early lacrosse was characterized by deep spiritual involvement and significant personal sacrifice. Players were warriors. The goal was to bring glory and honour to individuals and their Nations, a reality that drove the British to try to outlaw the game in the 1700s. These games were played for the Creator as part of ceremonial ritual—it was referred to as The Creator's Game.