

- Tonight I am Representing Firebirds Jr C Hockey team – Jr hockey as enjoyed a rich history in the township– the team was established 1953 and has operated continuously since then which means we will celebrate our 70th anniversary next year. One of Oldest in province
- The Secret to our Survival – has been the strong support from community – businesses that sponsor us, the fan base, the township. We were also fortunate to start play in a new arena that featured a bowl type structure with seating on all 4 sides and seating capacity of 1500 – (1800 2000). Which was amazing considering that our population at the time, was under 4000. It became know affectionally as “the Old Barn’ ahead of time
- 2000 55 yrs later– we started hearing about the need for a second ice pad – where to put it – space an issue – parking a concern – free land available 2 locations – The council worked with community involvement to chose the current location – this was the right decision because future growth was predicted to be between NH – Baden.
- By 2005 decision was made to proceed with the build – the design was completed – a public meeting held to review the plans – WE asked what the capacity would be and told design one side only total 750 seats – 1150 standing room - which is 50% less then arena built 55 years before – we were told that it was too late in the process to change the plans.
- So here we are now 15 years later – the capacity limits still exist and have become even more of a problem as the population and the fan base has increased significantly since then. Also after we move to the new facility, we soon learned that site-lines in both of the new ice pads are very poor and make it difficult to see the entire ice surface. We still get all kind of complaints and comments that any future facilities being built need to address the capacity and site-line problems.
- So here we are today = User Group is asking to be part of the planning process as early as possible so we don’t reach the same point where we are again told that it is to late in the process to make changes.

There are 2 options for a new arena that we feel will meet our requirements and will serve the township well now and in the future.

Option # 1 – the most desirable would be to build a “Bowl Type” arena with adequate capacity to meet the growing needs of the township now and for the next 30 – 40 years. It should also be noted that This is our last opportunity to build a pad that is link to current structure on the current site (because of the limited space available).

A perfect example of the type of arena we need is the new arena that was recently built in Ayr that has seating for 1,200 and a total capacity of up to 1,500.

Option #2 – another option which we believe may be less expensive but still viable, is to expand the current Schout pad by adding an additional 500 – 600 seats to the west side of the pad, as part of this project. This would help to partially address both the capacity and the poor site line issues that exist with our 2 pads now.

So our User Group is willing and ready to help in any way we can and we hope to be part of the planning process and to work with Township to build a facility that will meet every ones needs now and in the future and ***that we all can be proud of.***