



For: Township of Wilmot Council

April 3, 2023

I am writing today regarding the news that Wilmot Council is considering revisiting the New Hamburg Arena as an additional ice surface in Wilmot Township. After several years of studies, discussions and decisions, it is disappointing to be in this place again.

The Community Players of New Hamburg have been a volunteer-run organization based in Wilmot Township for almost 40 years. Many from across the township have volunteered in our productions, and many more have enjoyed seeing our shows.

When conversations began in 2019 about making the New Hamburg Arena into a more permanent space for TCP and other organizations, we were thrilled. We have always been so appreciative of the space made available to us for our productions, but the temporary and limited nature of that space has presented challenges. The opportunity for an anchor tenancy and a more concrete partnership was such an exciting next step in TCP's ability to deliver community theatre at its very best, right here in Wilmot.

To learn that, out of the blue, these previous decisions were being questioned and potentially reversed has been difficult news to hear. We highly value our partnership with Wilmot Council, but acts like this make us question how much you value us as a community partner.

We firmly believe that Wilmot is about more than just hockey and ice time - while these are vital parts of our community, Wilmot could also be known for its thriving arts and culture community and TCP is committed to being a key part of that goal. Even through the past several years, where COVID threatened these types of community expression, TCP (with the support of Wilmot Council and staff) has innovated and continued to provide inspiring artistic experiences for those across the township and beyond.

TCP is on the cusp of an exciting new chapter. We are literally rooting ourselves in Wilmot Township with building and sponsoring a new community sign on Highway 7/8, and the hopeful potential of a key partnership in a revitalized community space in the New Hamburg arena.

We are asking Wilmot Council to uphold your commitment to the arts and honour the decisions that have already been made. We're ready to move boldly into the future, but we depend on you to partner with us in that journey.

In Good Faith,

Nicole Cote,
President

The Community Players of New Hamburg

P A S S I O N F O R P E R F O R M A N C E , P R I D E I N C O M M U N I T Y
C O M M U N I T Y T H E A T R E A T I T S V E R Y B E S T