

Friends of Ayton  
401 Mary Street  
Ayton, ON  
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September 23, 2024

Dear Mayor Eccles and West Grey Council

The former Normanby Recreation Committee (NRC) were appointed by Council attending and representing Parks and Recreation for the Ayton and surrounding Community. Our last meeting pre-covid was held January 29, 2020 and reconvened in May of 2022. The NRC was informed at our September 21, 2022 meeting that given a new term of Council would be starting December 2022, this would be our final meeting with the present term of Council; and that the new term of Council will be determining committee structure and appointing members. Since these Committee's of Council were not put in place some of the members from this former NRC wanted to continue our annual Family Ball Tournament, so it was decided to start our own group now known as the "Friends of Ayton". The funds raised by this group is donated or invested back into our community under the "Friends of Ayton" jurisdiction. To date our proceeds have been donated to the Normanby Community School towards their new playground equipment project and nets and pennies for their school gymnasium equipment.

The Friends of Ayton deliberated how the funds raised by the former Normanby Recreation Committee and held in a reserve by the Corporation would be handled. In speaking with the Director of Finance we were advised to submit a written letter of request to you as Council as to how we would like the funds utilized. In 2024 some of the NRC proceeds funded for the newly installed "Armor Stone Bleachers" at the Ayton Centennial Grounds". It is our understanding that there is still approximately just over \$51,000.00 in the NRC reserve account.

We the Friends of Ayton, former Normanby Recreation Committee request the funds be allocated and supported by the West Grey Council for the following projects:

#### Ayton Centennial Hall Kitchen Project

1. Expand kitchen into the meeting room (suggest to remove the cupboards currently along the south wall of the existing kitchen and install them along the east wall where the wall is extended into the meeting room – see attached map)
2. New electric outlets, lights and upgrade panel box
3. New dishwasher and stainless-steel tray
4. Exhaust hood for dishwasher
5. Commercial refrigerator and deep freeze (2-door)
6. Upgrade cupboards and island (i.e. replace doors and re-paint cupboards - see attached photos)
7. New countertops
8. Paint kitchen
9. New flooring

The Friends of Ayton acknowledge that currently \$20,000.00 has been set aside for the Centennial Hall Kitchen renovations and the Corporation has matched the funding in the amount of \$20,000.00. We would be willing to negotiate and add another \$5,000.00 towards the project if the Council of West Grey would match the same, leaving a commitment by both the former NRC and West Grey in the amount of \$50,000.00. It is anticipated that the costs for the renovation of the Centennial Kitchen will exceed the \$50K and if so would the Municipality budget the extra amounts needed to complete the project. If Council endorses this project, the Friends of Ayton would be willing to assist as volunteers with some of the Kitchen renovations to keep the costs at a minimal, just as we experienced with the Armor Stone Bleachers (ASB) project (see attached for the ASB project costs)

#### Ayton Diamond Ball Lights Project

1. Recommend replacing the existing 2 lamp fixtures on the 4 towers (8 in total) and adding an additional light fixture to the 4 towers (4 in total) to accommodate better lighting to the outfield. (If needed on all towers)

There has been some concern over past years that the lighting of the outfield has not been ideal, experiencing shadows in sections of the outfield. The Friends of Ayton would be willing to contribute the funds to install the additional lighting on the 4 towers to administer extra lighting for the outfield (if needed on all towers), and in conjunction of this project the Municipality of West Grey provide the funding for the replacement of the light fixtures currently in place.

The Friends of Ayton are seeking if the Council of West Grey would approve and waive the fees for two (2) annual rentals being the Family Ball Tournament (last weekend in July) and Winter Volleyball Tournament (Saturday of Family Day Weekend) for the sole purpose of proceeds going back into the community.

We the Friends of Ayton would like to thank Council for your time and consideration and look forward to seeing these projects completed to the Centennial Hall and Grounds. These enhancements will better suite the needs for these facilities and provide increase rentals.

Yours truly

Friends of Ayton

(Aaron Culliton, Jess Farquharson, Sherry Pfeffer, Tom Culliton, Mary Lou Pfeffer, Mike Turner, Joyce Nuhn)