

Communication to Town of Kingsville Council

For Council Meeting May 25, 2020

To All Councillors for the Town of Kingsville:

My name is Rick Stephenson and I am representing the Executive for the Kingsville Tennis Association. This communication is really a housekeeping issue to bring any new Councillors, or anyone who isn't aware of the rich history of tennis in Kingsville, up to date. We thank you for your time.

The Kingsville Tennis Club began in 1893 and transitioned to the Kingsville Tennis Association (KTA) as it is today. Our records start in 1968, where the Kingsville Gosfield South Tennis Association played at the Lion's Park. In 1972, KTA was officially formed and began fundraising to build new tennis courts at the arena location. By 1974, KTA made the initial investment of \$260,000 and the new courts opened. In 1976, KTA raised another \$20,000 and installed outdoor lighting and built the covered viewing area. We were very fortunate that in 1972, KTA had a Town Council with great foresight and a partnership was forged. Our partnership has continued with KTA contributing an additional \$82,000 in maintenance along with financial support from the Town of Kingsville.

Seven years ago, KTA agreed to become hosts for another group to play their sport. At that time, they didn't have the means to make any financial investment towards courts, so KTA graciously accommodated for what was to be a year or so, until they raised money to move forward. That time has past and KTA has a mandate to move forward.

KTA has been working with Tennis Canada and the Ontario Tennis Association (OTA) to begin development of programs for youth training, those with special abilities (Wheelchair Tennis) and Network Tournaments.

We want to play a part in culturing young players towards a professional career and to promote over-all elevated health in anyone wishing to participate. KTA reaches Members from Wheatley to Windsor were everyone, of varying skills, can play league matches and take weekly training/practise sessions. We plan to develop our partnership further with our Town and are doing the ground-work for a year round facility which we hope to present at a later date.

Since 1972, our partnership has worked well and our future relies on it.

We hope to see a motion put forward today to continue the partnership between the Town of Kingsville and Kingsville Tennis Association.

Thank you

Rick Stephenson (on behalf of the KTA Executive)