



# Saugeen Shores Winterhawks

PRESENTATION TO SAUGEEN SHORES COUNCIL

JANUARY 26, 2026



# Who We Are

- Senior “AA” Hockey Club playing in the Ontario Elite Hockey League
  - Our players are former junior, collegiate and professional hockey players
- Sanctioned by the Ontario Hockey Association and Hockey Canada
- We play primarily at The Plex, with occasional home games at Southampton Coliseum



# Why We're Here

- Arena and Sports Fields Needs Assessment Report - November 24, 2025
- The Winterhawks were disappointed by the process and strongly disagree with recommendations of the report
- Simply stated: We cannot wait until 2036 (or beyond) for a third ice surface in Saugeen Shores



# The Process

- The consultant held one consultation session on August 19, 2025
- Held on Zoom, all “regular” ice users were invited
- It lasted less than an hour
  - Minimal opportunity for each group to provide meaningful input
- The Winterhawks felt we were not able to provide full context and information.
  - We offered to have additional discussions with the consultant
  - The consultant declined the invitation



# What We're Seeing

- There is not enough ice time available to meet demand for ice sports in Saugeen Shores
  - Strains relationships between organizations
  - No room for growth for any organization
- Kids from Saugeen Shores are forced to travel an hour+ to find ice
  - Bruce Grey Bulls regularly practice in Ayton and Belmore
- Zero room for growth for adult rec. hockey



# What the Winterhawks Experience

- We receive regular feedback from fans that our games are too late at night.
  - We generally play 8:30 p.m. on Friday nights, games end around 10:30 p.m.
  - Families with small kids generally don't come or go home early
  - Outside of playoffs, early start times around Christmas are our best crowds
- We struggle to schedule playoff games
  - If we don't have home ice advantage, we usually need Sat. or Sun. ice
    - Minor hockey generally can't use our late ice, so "trading" ice not practical
  - We recently have relied on adult teams giving up their ice
  - Weather postponements cause chaos



# What We're Asking For

1. That plans be shaped for a second ice pad at The Plex
2. That the date for construction of a second ice pad be moved ahead to reflect ever-growing need for ice-time.



Thank you!

QUESTIONS?