
Why Saugeen Shores Needs a Third Ice Pad — Now

*SSMHA Delegation to Council
Ice Demand, Capacity, and
Assessment Discrepancies*



Arena and Sports Fields Needs Assessment Report

- Minor hockey is not declining in Saugeen Shores
- Lack of engagement with ice user groups
- All of the ice users were not fully accounted for in the assessment report and significantly understates community ice needs
- Returned ice was overstated



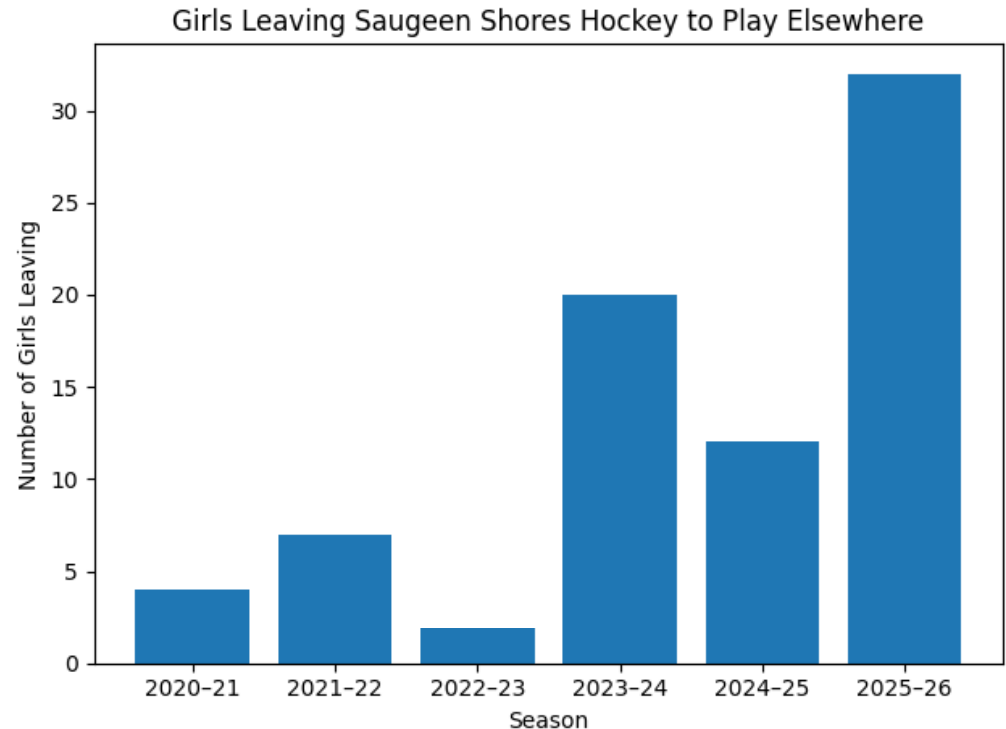
SSMHA State of Affairs

- **Largest Minor Hockey program in Grey-Bruce-Huron**
- 40% growth over the last 5 years
- Participation in girls hockey has **more than tripled** over 10–11 years.
- **Extraordinary local talent:** Our U11 Girls Rep teams are among Ontario's best — U11B ranked **4th** and U11C ranked **5th** province-wide.
- In 2025, the U11C team won the All-Ontario championship



Girls Hockey in Saugeen Shores

- Girls' hockey participation continues to grow
- Limited ice = limited development opportunities
- Result: Players leave to access higher-level hockey
- This season we lost 32 girls to neighboring centers
- **Over the last six seasons, 75 girls have left Saugeen Shores to play hockey elsewhere.**



What Happens If Arena Capacity Is Not Expanded

- Forced to implement registration caps – we will have to turn 20-40 kids away next season.
- Significant demand for the younger ages – we have the demand to double the U5 program
- Larger team sizes reduce development quality.
- U9 teams cannot move to full ice when required.
- Girls leave town annually to access higher-level hockey elsewhere.
- Ice constraints limit development programs, junior teams, women's hockey and community events.



There Is No Slack in the Ice System

- Minor hockey is using 100% of its allocated ice.
- Since season start, only 30 minutes of ice went unused — less than 1%.
- Returned ice only occurred on Halloween and the Santa Claus Parade.
- All other ice was redistributed to teams or Bulls programs.
- Current capacity is fully saturated!



Current & Displaced Ice Users – 1,500+

User Group	# of Users	Notes
Saugeen Shores Minor Hockey	610 (190 girls & 420 boys)	2025 – turned away a dozen kids 2026 projections – will turn away 30-40 kids 40% growth over the last 5 years
Grey Bruce Bulls 'A'	196 (120 live in SS)	Very little ice in Saugeen Shores
Saugeen Shores Skating Club	400	Limited ice restricts programming and competitions
Old Timers Hockey League	145	Consistent adult recreational use
Lakeshore Men's Hockey League	128	Turn away 12 people every year
Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey Association (Women's Rec league)	30+	Many Women are travelling to Arran Elderslie & Owen Sound to play One ice time per week in SS
Sr. A Winterhawks	25	
Sr. A Saugeen Shores Gulls	25	Very little ice in SS – more exhibition and playdown games. Most games are out of town
SDSS Varsity Girls and Boys Hockey	30+	No home practice time available Using daytime ice for home games Third pad is essential for varsity growth and development

Potential Users

User Group	# of Users	Notes
Grey Bruce Highlanders 'AAA'		Many Saugeen Shores youth play for the Highlanders They have expressed interest in having home games in Saugeen Shores
Saugeen Maitland Girls 'AA'		Opportunity for Saugeen Shores youth playing in Maitland to play in their hometown.
Lakeshore Lightning U9 Development team	15	Currently using 4 hours/week out of town
Adult Syncro Skating Team – Team Continuum	16-24	Currently using Tara and Chesley Ice
Youth Development Opportunities		Power skating, Skills Development, Goalie development, other development opportunities

Economic Impact of Hosting Hockey Tournaments

Annual Saugeen Shores Girls Silver Stick Tournament

- 36 total teams
- 24 visiting teams (1/3 local)
- ~15 players per team

Overnight visitors

\$181 night (x2)

\$171 Food and Beverage /trip

\$141 Transportation cost

\$675 Total spend per family

Total spend = \$240,000

Day Trippers (local teams)

\$312 per family

12 local teams/180 families

Total spend=\$56,160

Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$296,160

**from Bruce County Visitor Data*



Unlocking our Community's Full Potential

- A destination hockey centre that serves our region
- Retention of our talented local females' athletes
- Home for The Gulls Sr. Women's Hockey Team
- Home of the Grey Bruce Bulls "A" Centre
- Hockey Tournaments throughout the winter
- Figure skating competitions
- Youth hockey development opportunities
- U21 Juvenile teams



SSMHA Request to Council

- Recognize that arena ice is currently at full capacity with growing demand.
- Re-examine the Arena Needs Assessment using:
 - 2025–2026 ice allocations
 - Full adult/external user data
 - Real waitlist and turned-away numbers
- Meaningful involvement in the development of the Town's future ice allocation policy.
- Begin planning for a third ice pad

