The Southshore, Barrie Sports and a Revitalized Downtown

Coming Together at a Key Point in Time



Barrie

A Report to the Mayor, Council and Citizens of the City of Barrie

Marshall Green
With invaluable assistance by Bill Scott

I want to start by saying that although I have read a lot of these types of reports in my former career, I seldom (maybe never) had to write one. So, a strong "E&OE" is a part of my introduction. My most important "caveat" is that I was not asked, and have not included, any thoughts on how my recommendations would be municipally funded. I have made some suggestions for how various organizations could help with fundraising, but I do realize that my recommendations may include the expenditure of, literally, millions of municipal dollars. I feel that my recommendations are very important for the City and I am hopeful that the City will seriously consider prioritizing these and putting them all into place over time.

1. How I Got Myself Into This:

I didn't vote for Mayor Nuttall either when he was running as an MP candidate or for Mayor. I didn't know him other than to recognize his picture in the newspaper. Then, October 7th happened. A few days after that, he called me, and as a member of the Jewish Community, asked me questions about what the civic response should be. A flag ceremony was held, and he attended a service at Am Shalom Synagogue. We had a couple of calls after things got messier. I now had his cell phone number and more respect for him as someone who wanted to do the "right thing".

When the Lakeshore Sports Park (I refer to it in the report as the "LSP") issue arose, I was approached by a friend and signed a petition to oppose it. I also sent an email. I told the Mayor that I was writing this email looking out from my new condominium unit, onto the North Shore Trail for which former Mayor Willard Kinzie was much revered. I told him that I hoped he and the current Council don't end up remembered as the ones who destroyed the South Shore Trail. I got a call back in 20 minutes. The rest I detail in the report.

2. The Beginning of this Project:

In that initial call, the Mayor indicated that he would be grateful if I were to co-ordinate the response of the various groups who opposed the LSP. This would include three local citizens groups, and a number of environmental groups or, at least, those persons who were very much interested in the environment and the potential danger to the environment of that part of the Allandale Station Park that they worried might develop from the LSP. I organized a meeting which was held in the boardroom of the Lakhouse Condo where I live. That boardroom, interestingly, looks across the lake at the Southshore. Those who attended that first meeting, and a few others who were added to my list of concerned citizens (and who, through Arnie Ivsins I tried to keep updated from time to time), included:

Barbara Mackie of the Allandale Neighbourhood Association

Arnie Ivsins from the Friends of Allandale Park

Barbara Marshall, Friends of Allandale

Terry Forrester of the Allandale Neighbourhood Association

Cathy Colebatch, co-chair of the Allandale Neighbourhood Association

Tom Pechkovsy, representing his wife Kristin Pechkovsky of the Minet's Point Community

Brian Miller, Friends of Allandale Station Park and

Janie Harris, Friends of Allandale Station Park

Bill Scott, Allandale Neighbourhood Association

Following that first meeting, I reported the concerns to the Mayor. This included the concern raised by several of the attendees of my first meeting that this was already a "done deal" and that there was a "hidden agenda" in all of this – likely that some major potential donor was behind this. The Mayor denied all of this, assured me that none of this was fact, and invited me to widen my involvement to include interviewing all those who had expressed even a passing interest in the LSP. And, at that point, my role changed from simply coordinating those opposed to the LSP, to looking at the needs of the sporting community of our City, the use of our lakeshore, and some other interesting pieces of community development.

3. Why?

It is VERY important to look at why the LSP developed as an idea in the first place. My wife and I moved to Barrie in 1973. Some years before that, Barrie's then Council signed a 99 year lease with the Navy League/Sea Cadets that allowed them the use of a prime piece of real estate at the foot of Bayfield Street. Keep in mind that at the time, Barrie was a very different place. There were railroad tracks separating the City from the water and there was literally NO downtown development that would have been impacted by the loss of this piece.

However, things changed, and the lakeshore certainly is one of those things. Almost every Mayor since we moved to Barrie has been trying to convince the Sea Cadets to move. The current Council and Mayor finally got them to agree. The condition – they had to be given another piece on the waterfront, that could be used for their naval lessons and for a parade ground. Council looked to the south shore and the

Southshore (John Hayter) Centre. Since "multi-use" is something that Councils always look to, the idea of a piece of land that could be used for sports when not used as a parade ground seemed like a good idea. The idea for the LSP took shape.

Keep in mind, though, that the key to all of this was that the Sea Cadets had to be given a new home.

4. Starting Work:

The Mayor invited me to start the project by looking at some of the "legal" and planning background. In particular, he suggested that I look at the acquisition of these lands themselves from CN and what the City was allowed and not allowed to do. I did look (briefly) at that. From the deed that was shown to me (and which is on title), Mayor Janice Laking, on behalf of Council, agreed that the lands that have been suggested for the LSP were not to be used for any industrial, commercial or residential purposes (including any industrial or residential development) but could be used for uses related to recreation, culture or public entertainment. In other words, the LSP would not offend the covenant that the City agreed to in 1989.

I did not take the time to review the prior planning reports. In my experience and as the entire lakeshore is evidence of, land use planning changes over time. While the LSP might have offended various waterfront studies and plans previously approved by past Councils, these are not "the law" and provided proper procedures are followed, could be changed. And, in view of my recommendations which follow, land use planning concerns, at least for the time being, were moot.

5. The Sea Cadets:

The agreement with the Sea Cadets was the genesis of the issue, and I will deal with it first. I had many discussions with Diane Chislett about the needs of her organization. Generally, her needs, as far as are necessary to deal with in this report, were for a parade ground. I will not be dealing with the addition to the Southshore Centre which I understand was agreed to with the City, and was an important aspect of the decision by the Sea Cadets to move and vacate their existing prime piece of real estate.

Basically, the Sea Cadets needed a parade ground of at least 100 by 150 feet, (30 X 45 metres). There needs to be a hard surface. The size and the surface made it unsuitable for most sports. The Cadets were at one point offered and asked to consider another piece of property, but for various reasons felt that piece was unsuitable. The configuration and location being recommended by me is shown in Figure 1 attached to this report.

This is a good spot to recognize the invaluable work of my colleague in writing this report – Bill Scott. Bill is a retired geophysicist. I met Bill, who is a former president of the Allandale Neighbourhood Association, at my initial meeting with the opponents of the park. Bill is a master at reading, and using, air photos. Using the great GIS system developed by the County of Simcoe (and we give credit to the County for all of the mapping that is presented in this report), Bill was able to plot many of the proposals that we came up with (leading to rejecting many) as we reviewed the sports facilities and parks throughout the City. My curriculum vitae and Bill's curriculum vitae are attached as presented in Appendix C to this report.

RECOMMENDATION #1:
THAT THE SITE TO BE OFFERED TO THE SEA CADETS FOR THEIR PARADE GROUND BE AT THE LOCATION AND OF THE SIZE SHOWN IN FIGURE 1 TO THIS REPORT AND THAT IT HAVE A SUITABLE HARD SURFACE AS MIGHT BE RECOMMENDED BY THAT GROUP

I wanted to add that it was a preference of the Sea Cadets group that this parade ground not be limited to that, but that at such times that it is not being used by them, that perhaps some sports groups, or even individuals, could use the site for basketball, pickleball, etc. The City is concerned with the noise that might create and the impact it might have on persons using the Southshore for special events. If there was some way, through scheduling etc. to allow a shared use to happen, I think it would be a wise use of a piece of property that otherwise may go unused for extended periods of time.

6. The City's Sports Organizations:

The City of Barrie is fortunate to have a large number of hard working citizens providing organized sports opportunities for the City's youth. Even though I found quite early that the Sea Cadet move was not a justification for the LSP and at the Mayor's recommendation, I contacted representatives of all of those groups that are involved in, and leading, the local sports scene. These were the persons the Mayor indicated who, over time, had been lobbying for more sports facilities, and who Council had reacted to, in suggesting the LSP. The Mayor provided me a list of those to be contacted. They included:

Andrew Davies – Barrie Rugby Club

Will Devillis – Barrie Soccer

Andrew Prestwich – Barrie Minor Lacrosse

Martino DiSabatino – Huronia Stallions (football)

Rebecca Sauder – Barrie Minor Baseball

Dealing with first things first – is there a need or even a desire to have this large sports field on the Southshore at the location where it was proposed? A couple of things to keep in mind. First, the Sea Cadets, who were the genesis for this project, want a hard surface for their parades. Asphalt or concrete is not conducive to playing football or soccer. Second, the site is a long way from washroom facilities which usually go with a sports facility to which many youngsters and their parents will be coming. And, even if it is a large and "multi-sport" facility, unless it is VERY large, only one sport can be played at a time. It seemed to me, at the outset, that improvements to the many other fields now in place would be a better solution.

Of all of the groups that I met and talked with, only one indicated that they would prefer the lakeshore location as something that would increase the "profile" of their organization and their sport. They indicated that a prime location on the lakeshore with adequate seating and lighting would give them an advantage in attracting other teams, playoffs and tourists to the site. Frankly, I did not feel, and could not recommend the LSP on that site, or at all, if the purpose was to "raise profile" of one group, or even if all of the sports organizations were unanimous on this purpose and this site. I am aware that, at one time, there was some support by sports groups for a waterfront sports park. It could be that the tremendous outcry by the environmental and neighbourhood groups changed their minds. I don't necessarily see that as a bad thing. The fact that the sports groups (or most of them) bowed to a large group of those who wanted to save this part of the Southshore for more passive uses, shows a willingness to recognize other civic goals. However, Kathleen Trainor, on behalf of Tourism Barrie also indicated that a "significant sports venue" on that site would assist in boosting Barrie tourism. I will get back to Kathleen later in this report.

RECOMMENDATION #2:
THAT THE CITY NOT APPROVE THE PROPOSED MULTIUSE SPORTS PARK ON THAT SITE NOR, AT ALL.

What was apparent to me from my discussions with the sports groups was that there was a need by several, if not all, of the sports groups for additional field capacity. This has become another aspect of my report. Bill Scott has undertaken a review of all of the various parks where these sports are currently offered. The air photography that he has worked on allows one to see the existing fields and any additional space that might be available for further or a different orientation of the fields. A full set of the aerial photographs produced by Bill are attached as Appendix A to my report. Each one shows how various sizes of fields could fit on these sites. Many show that there are spaces that are unused now but could be adapted for use by one sport or another. Bill has produced a chart to summarize his findings for the various fields, and this chart is included in Appendix A

What is obvious to me is that there should be space for at least a few more fields for minor soccer or one of the other organizations that use rectangular fields. I am not a sports-person. My children growing up swam as their sport of choice. I don't pretend to know all that is necessary or desirable (and those are two different descriptors) for the different levels of play in the different sports. However, it is my recommendation that these groups meet cooperatively and determine how these fields can be adapted for more than one sport, how schedules can be worked out for the sharing of some fields, and that the City set aside a fund to provide for what might be necessary to adapt certain fields, and to provide additional fields where possible within the existing parks. There are also new subdivisions being developed within the City where the Planning Act will require a park dedication. The City should consider part or all of these new parklands for minor sports fields. I suggested to the reps that I had worked with, that they meet and review together their individual and any mutual needs and preferences for me to include in this report. I even offered to meet with them and hear their individual and collective needs. Unfortunately, that never did take place. I am hoping that this is not a sign that these groups cannot work together. I was concerned that the Mayor indicated to me that in some cases the School Boards, who have large and often unused (after school hours) fields have in some cases made it somewhat difficult for the various sports groups to use these fields. I find that both unfortunate and unacceptable. Tax dollars go into both the City and School Board sites and these should be made available as needed. I am convinced that there is need for additional space for amateur sports, but until and unless these groups come together (like the performing arts groups have as I will discuss below) this will be difficult to co-ordinate. On top of all this, and as will be revealed later in my report, with a potential move by the Baycats, space in the Midhurst Park would be available, and with a regular tenant, the Queen's Park diamond will be much better cared for, and could be used by local organizations when not in use for play or practise by the Baycats. And, later in my report I will come to another potential, at least part-time playing field that should be available.

RECOMMENDATION #3:
THAT THE CITY ENCOURAGE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET COOPERATIVELY, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CITY RECREATION STAFF, TO ORGANIZE THE PROPER AND MOST EFFICIENT USE OF THE EXISTING FIELDS ON CITY LANDS; AND THAT THE CITY MAKE A PRIORITY IN ANY FUTURE SUBDIVISION "PARK DEDICATIONS" THAT LAND BE SET ASIDE FOR MINOR SPORTS; AND THAT THE CITY RECREATION STAFF MEET WITH SCHOOL BOARD OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL SPORTS FIELDS ARE MADE FULLY AVAILABLE TO MINOR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS.

7. What then of the Southshore?

The thousands who signed the various petitions seemed, and I believe are, very passionate about the south shore of the Bay as a "natural" place - as a site that should be preserved for passive purposes. It should be remembered that this area does not really have a totally "natural" history. In the last century it was a rail yard, complete with coal supply facilities and a repair depot for train engines (now the Hayter Southshore Centre. See Figure 2 attached). However, for many decades now, these woods and other natural areas have existed and should be protected and fostered. What I am cognizant of is that Barrie, and in particular Downtown Barrie, has

a growing seniors population. A great number of these members of Barrie's citizenry will enjoy the peace and quiet of a walk through this area, away from the very active part of the lakeshore which exists from roughly the Southshore (Hayter) Centre all the way north and then east along Dunlop Street.

My instructions from the Mayor were that if I was going to recommend that this part of the south shore be preserved in its current natural form, that it had to be usable by all citizens – old, young, able-bodied and handicapped. I challenged certain of the objectors to pick up that challenge. One such response is set out in the "sample" diagram attached as Figure 3. Obviously this was not something that could be recommended without thorough review by the various responsible agencies, like the City's own parks officials. However, it does show the potential. I also challenged the same organizations to volunteer their time (and seek the help of service clubs) to provide the labour. They have agreed.

However, there is a need to make this "natural" area useable, as the Mayor has asked, by all citizens. From other work I am doing with seniors, I know the growing emphasis on having an "intergenerational" aspect to services, especially those by government. To that end, I am suggesting, though not making it a formal recommendation, that a part of this "natural" area (say 2 acres) be set aside for youth. Nothing formal, no fancy equipment, but just a cleared area where young people can kick around a soccer ball, play a game of catch (maybe the grandparents with their grandchildren) or some other less formal activity that others who are using this area can sit on a bench and watch.

RECOMMENDATION #4:
THAT THE CITY DEVELOP THE CURRENT WOODED AREA AND MEADOW ON THE SOUTH SHORE AS A PASSIVE PARK THAT PROTECTS EXISTING WILDLIFE AND WITH TRAIL SYSTEMS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE; AND THAT THE PARK ALSO INCLUDE AN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT; AND THAT CITIZENS GROUPS AND SERVICE CLUBS IN THE CITY BE ENGAGED WITH THE CITY'S PARKS DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP THE PARK; AND THAT THE LANDS ULTIMATELY DESIGNATED FOR THIS PART OF THE PARK BE ZONED "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION".

8. Queen's Park

As I was meeting with individuals and organizations about the sports field situation, I had an opportunity to review the situation at Queen's Park. This park, for years, was a "jewel" in the City's park system. However, as the Downtown suffered some considerable neglect, so did Queen's Park. Even the once treasured baseball diamond is now seldom used. Interestingly, the tennis courts are still well used and even the skate board facilities are active. However, Barrie Minor Baseball has left the rather fine ball diamond that is situated in the park and that now sits largely unused. I was told that the influence of the unfortunate people who make the park their home (needles, panhandling, etc.) have made the park unsuitable for the youngsters who would otherwise use this diamond. I have no solution for this now universal civic problem, but at this point can only ask that there be an increased police presence in and around the Park to allow more people, including young people, to enjoy this facility. I also feel that with more people using Queen's Park, some of the issues may go away (though I know this is a problem that will not disappear, but only move elsewhere).

But, I did have another idea that I would like to recommend. The Downtown of Barrie is changing – and quite quickly. The large number of new and under-construction condominiums is bringing many people, and a largely different population, to the Downtown. Generally (and this is a general observation made by me and based on my observations as a new Downtown resident only) the population is older and wealthier. This is reflected by the type of stores that are now opening in the area east of the Five Points, and hopefully will be mirrored west of the Five Points when the new condos are established and filled (like the under-construction 32 storey "Debut" condo). The Barrie Baycats play in a beautiful field, part of a sports complex owned by the City and north of the City in Springwater Township. Why not bring the Baycats to Queen's Park?

To get insight into this question I interviewed Dean Bell, who is the President of the Barrie Baycats organization (and a well-respected community supporter). I was very impressed both with the support – community support and fan support – that the Baycats receive and with the number of other community activities (baseball camps,

etc.) that the Baycats run. Could they move to Queen's Park? Dean gave me a long list of what they like in the current Midhurst site and, quite rightly, that they would want most of if they were to move to Queen's Park. This includes appropriate sized bleachers, a club house with washrooms, a concession area, score board, etc. I put Bill Scott back to work and in Figure 4 we see Bill's conclusions as to how that could be accomplished. And the additional benefit? Minor league baseball could return to Queen's Park during the many days that the Baycats are on the road, and in the evenings when they are not practising. And, it opens up the possibility of re-aligning the Baycats Midhurst space and thus providing more space for soccer, football and other sports.

And there are some other advantages for the Baycats. Their games would be accessible by public transit (or on foot for the growing number of Downtown condo residents). They would be within walking distance of restaurants to enjoy before the games and pubs to celebrate at after the games. There would be hotels and motels where visiting players, fans and staff could spend the night. I was surprised to learn that there were four or five hotels planned for the area around the Downtown that are awaiting more potential customers.

RECOMMENDATION # 5:
THAT THE BARRIE BAYCATS BE APPROACHED TO MOVE FROM THEIR EXISTING HOME AT THE MIDHURST SPORTS PARK; AND THAT THE CITY WORK WITH THE BAYCATS TO RECONFIGURE AND RENOVATE QUEEN'S PARK TO ACCOMMODATE THE TEAM.

9. Other "Balls in the Air". First up, the Performing Arts Centre

The Mayor came to me, in the middle of my various meetings with sports groups and objectors to the LSP to consider what could be done with the prime space at the foot of Bayfield Street once the Sea Cadets move. The Mayor was aware that I had been on the City's advisory committee on the Performing Arts Centre (the "PAC") and that there was not universal support for the Central Collegiate site. A performing arts centre next to a major fire hall is hardly ideal. So, why not move the PAC to the Sea Cadets site?

Before I started to investigate this matter, the Mayor advised me that the $100 million price tag for a 1000 seat facility, complete with a host of other auxiliary facilities was not going to happen in the near (or even not-so-near) future. Like many other municipalities Barrie is facing a cash crisis. Several City properties are up for sale and if the performing arts community's wish for a building they could be satisfied with and proud to perform in was going to become a reality, dreams had to be scaled down. The Mayor and several councillors met with the architects and suggested a budget of $65 million.

I asked Iain Moggach, Artistic Director of Theatre by the Bay and a key figure in the Arts in Barrie (he helped found the Barrie Arts Alliance and the Barrie Arts Advisory Committee) to help put together an advisory committee to help me. He selected 5 members for an initial meeting to discuss what could be accomplished for the reduced price. The members of the initial group grew and those who eventually came to be involved in these recommendations were:

Iain Moggach – Theatre by the Bay

Charles Ruttan – the Arts Alliance of Barrie and Bravado Show Choir

Scott Boyer – Skyliners Big Band

Valerie Hathaway – the Canadian Musicians Co-operative

Claudine Benoit – the Barrie Film Festival

Daryl Yaeger – Skyliners Youth Big Band, formerly representing Barrie Concert Association

Julie Underhill – Kempenfelt Community Players

Gary Bell - Lyrica Chamber Choir

Josephine Martenson-Hemsted - formerly of the Huronia Symphony Orchestra

These representatives, between meetings, were asked to take back to their organizations, some of the things

we were discussing.

Meetings were arranged with Hariri Pontarini Architects, the architects attached to the consulting firm that was engaged to recommend to the City with respect to the Performing Arts Centre ("PAC") issue. The first was a call by Zoom in which the architects provided a VERY preliminary sketch of what the PAC might look like on that site. An aerial photo of the lands available for the site, prepared by Bill Scott, is attached as Figure 5 to this Report.

In that first meeting, the architects, partner Siamak Hariri in particular, outlined for the others what he felt were the important elements of what would be a somewhat scaled down facility. He did advise that much could be done to provide a very fine (world class) facility. He emphasized that audiences were generally smaller for live performances in the 21st century, and that certain spaces could be shared.

Let me say at this point that the arts representatives expressed some disappointment, perhaps more discouragement, that they appeared to be in the same place that they had been in many times previous. I can remember back at least 25 years ago when the City commissioned a report that strongly suggested this City, then with so many professional and amateur arts groups needed a proper performance venue. The results, some many years later, was the Five Points Theatre, which, while "something" is very much underused, largely because it just does not fit the needs of the community.

Agreeing that it was important that we view the site first hand, a second meeting was arranged at which the architects and the arts representatives could meet face to face and do a site visit. A visit to the Five Points Theatre was also scheduled.

Architects Siamak Hariri (who started his career with Millet Salter in Barrie, and was the architect behind the MacLaren Art Centre) and Lindsay Hochman attended with the arts reps for this second meeting. They came equipped with some preliminary sketches (some of which are attached as Figure 6 and Figure 7 to this report), some advice from experience, and some practical but well-received suggestions. I will not go into any of the specific advice that was given. The "broad brush" was that for the money that the City said was available (some $65 million) and assuming, as I was told by the Mayor, that they would make sure that the site was prepared at the City's expense (this is filled land) they could have a small (250 seat) and a larger (600 seat) facility which would be, in Siamak's words a "jewel" on the waterfront. Even more exciting (and ultimately more usable) was the possibility of "flex seating" which could be folded back to make the spaces available for receptions, conventions, larger and very small performances. All of this with dramatic views of the water, that Siamak insists would rival the performing arts centres around the world.

What was very important to me, was that some of Barrie's more "unique" contributions to the arts – specifically the Barrie Film Festival and the Canadian Musician's Co-op reps felt that this facility could house their operations.

However, this "flexibility" comes with a price tag that could add another $10 million to the project. It is not my role to look at feasibility, but I was impressed with the willingness that this group had to make this "flexible" facility a reality. They anxiously await a go-ahead from the City. They are anxious to be part of a comprehensive business plan for this facility. And, what comes with a business plan is a look to the huge number of "for profit" and "not for profit" arts organizations there are in this City who would, or potentially would use this facility so that it is making money 365 days of the year. Scott Boyer provided a very large list based on his assessment of the number of arts organizations in the City and their potential to use the PAC. I have that list which I can provide on request. Those who attended with me have also pledged to do what they can to raise the additional money through grant applications (which they indicated might help with some of the technical finishing), adding a "capital fund premium" to their current ticket sales and canvassing. And, as is evidenced in my next section, it is important to my overall report that the former Central Collegiate site was now "available".

I am making no recommendation as to how the fundraising should be handled. I do strongly urge the City not to disappoint the current art groups by delaying this facility much further. I am convinced that it will not only be

the kind of “magnet” to our City that persons like Kathleen Trainor of Barrie Tourism is looking for, but if properly managed could be revenue positive in generation. I urge the City to work with the arts groups on a solid business plan to make sure that happens.

RECOMMENDATION #6:
THAT THE FORMER SEA CADETS SITE AND REQUIRED SURROUNDING CITY LANDS BECOME THE SITE OF BARRIE’S NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE.

10. Ball in Air #2 – the Simcoe County Rovers

Unfortunately, not in time for this report, but there is a very big announcement that will come in just a few short weeks regarding our soccer home team, the Simcoe County Rovers. It will be a game-changing announcement that means our City will have its only fully professional sports team.

Terms of the deal are being finalized between Rovers FC and the purchaser, a large global sports and entertainment enterprise. An announcement is expected early September, with the team beginning play in March 2026, just prior to the FIFA World Cup hosted in Canada, USA, and Mexico.

What I have been working with, in the background, is where this team will play. The club will be required to have a small soccer stadium, approximately 2500 seats. There have been site visits to Georgian College, to the Midhurst fields and to Queen’s Park. With the move of the PAC to the waterfront, the former Central Collegiate site came open, and although not perfect, the Rovers and their soon-to-be new owners have agreed this location would be sufficient for a suitable soccer stadium. Again, our thanks to Bill Scott for the initial laying out of the site for this use. We have included as Figure 8, Bill’s design.

A little bit of background with respect to the Rovers. The Rovers Football Club was established in 2021 by a group of current and former esteemed national team players (Julian de Guzman, Janine Beckie, Atiba Hutchinson, Cyle Larin and Doneil Henry) along with Peter Raco and Will Devillis of the Barrie Soccer Club.

The Rovers’ men’s and women’s first teams currently play in League1 Ontario, and have three reserve teams playing in League 2 Ontario.

So after the reviews that I outlined above, and with the Performing Arts Centre finding a potential (much more fitting) home on the waterfront, the Central site was a perfect choice. No worry if the sirens go off next door to a soccer stadium.

Interestingly, again, the Rovers and their new partner were looking for a site where fans could grab a meal before, or a snack and beverage after. All of this would be available just blocks from the Central site. Dunlop Street west of the Five Points has been looking for something to give it a shot of adrenalin. With the new condos, the PAC, a renewed Queen’s Park and a professional soccer team in the vicinity, Downtown Barrie should have just the shot in the arm that it has needed for years, if not decades. With a major team in our Downtown, there should be renewed interest in a hotel for the Downtown. Restaurants, and other businesses will be in demand.

The Simcoe County Rovers have already shown a commitment to youth sport through their involvement with minor sport teams across the County. In a discussion I had with Peter Raco, President and CEO of Rovers FC, he confirmed that the team will continue that involvement. The team’s season will be from late March to late September. They will need this new facility for only 15 games per season. Practices are held during the day. Late afternoon and evenings, and all day during away games, the facility will be available for use by Barrie’s minor sports teams. The field should be of a size for soccer and other field sports like lacrosse.

From what I have been told, all of this will require money from Council in order to make this move. I will leave it to Council to determine if the amount being requested, together with any other “consideration” is in the best interest of the City. The City will be getting rent from the facility which could, over time, offset the costs of building this new facility.

RECOMMENDATION #7:

THAT SUBJECT TO COUNCIL COMING TO A SATISFACTORY FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW ENTITY, THAT THE CITY OWNED LANDS THAT ARE PART OF THE FORMER BARRIE CENTRAL COLLEGIATE LANDS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A SOCCER STADIUM TO BECOME THE NEW HOME OF THE SIMCOE COUNTY ROVERS SOCCER TEAM.

11. Tourism Barrie

I mentioned earlier that Kathleen Trainor, head of Tourism Barrie had issued a statement strongly supporting the LSP in the location originally designated. I contacted Kathleen, who I have known for a number of years (she was a fellow board member with me on Theatre by the Bay) to learn more about her position and her apparent support for the LSP on the Southshore.

My lengthy conversation was quite enlightening, but also confirmed a lot of what I knew, but maybe didn't want to come to grips with. I have been more of an "arts and culture guy" rather than a sports guy. However, my experience on organizations like TBTB has taught me that theatre organizations, unless the size of a Mirvish corporation, are never money makers. Although it is certainly hoped that the new performing arts centre when built (I am saying when built not if built) will attract many people to the Downtown, people who will dine in the restaurants and purchase from the stores, I don't foresee a day when ticket sales for Barrie arts organizations result in the PAC, if only used for performances, making a profit. That is why the architects have suggested making the PAC "flexible" to allow for conventions, weddings and such. People who attend these kinds of events will stay in the hotels and eat at the better restaurants.

Kathleen is a knowledgeable and tireless fighter for tourism in Barrie and the surrounding area. She also reads, and often commissions, studies to help her support what is good for this area. To that end, she is a firm supporter of Barrie becoming a regional, even a provincial centre for sports. It is her contention that at this higher level, fans coming to see sporting events will come from farther away, stay in better hotels, and eat at more up-scale restaurants. She compares this to the young families who now come to our City to see local or even close regional sporting events. Her studies show that these fans stay in lower price hotels, often many to a room, usually bring their own food or eat at fast food restaurants. The result – much less added to the local economy. All of this is summarized in the note that I asked Kathleen to submit to me and which I have added to this report as Appendix B.

So my "big question" to Kathleen was whether the sports facility that she envisioned had to be a waterfront facility. Her answer was "no". She emphasized, though, that Barrie Council should engage and listen to outside experienced consultants. They should plan for the "big picture". Barrie is and has always been, in her mind, a hockey town. They need to build for a sports future. Her concern was that, instead, the City tends to build facilities for "today" like the Sadlon Centre, or in another sphere, the Five Points Theatre. She contends that if the Sadlon Centre had been made more "flexible" it would be a facility that would be making, not losing, the City money each year.

I make no recommendation based on Kathleen Trainor's input. That was not part of my gradually growing mandate. However, I make the suggestion that City Council review the present reports, and as part of future planning, take into consideration the advice of those who have the "more global" perspective.

12. Summary and Conclusions

I got myself into this in very early June of this year. In the roughly 10 weeks I have been involved, I have learned an awful lot about the sports and performing arts groups in our City, their contributions and their needs, about tourism in Barrie and vicinity, about facilities for sports and for the arts, about the Downtown and our lakefront, a little about our City's finances and a lot about the need for cooperation within and across the various interest groups that make Barrie a wonderful place to live.

I have made my specific recommendations at the end of each section of my report above and at this point they have already been revealed. I will be repeating them at the end of this report by way of a summary. However, what I would like to do in addition, is to make some suggestions. I've learned a lot in these past

10 weeks. I would like to leave a few thoughts for those who will get the difficult job of putting some of these recommendations into effect.

1. Step up. Don't be afraid to volunteer. First example is Bill Scott, my co-author. I met Bill as one of the opponents to the LSP. When he agreed to work with me on this report, he had no idea if I would be recommending for or against the LSP. However, he spent a lot of his time drafting maps and visiting sites to make this report more meaningful. As for myself, I have always loved my volunteer work. However I was dismayed to hear that there was some social media questioning of my "hidden agenda" in doing this study for free. None exists. It is possible to volunteer without any more reward than the good feeling for having done so. Many of the recommendations that I have set out will require City or other funding. But in order to get these things done, will require a LOT of volunteer time as well. Step up.

2. Co-operate: I was very much encouraged by the ability of the arts organizations to come together and compromise. Even if they are able to get the extra monies that the architects feel they will need, not all of the various groups will get everything that they hoped for. However, they did agree to get the most important of their needs, and to work on accommodations for those they can't meet. As well, they will need to work cooperatively in order to share the facilities that do get built.

   The sports organizations also need to adopt this same credo. Many of the fields that the kids use now for minor sports can be used for two or three different sports. The sports organizations need to form a group that will speak for them cooperatively in order to bargain with the City. That same group should be coordinating the use of all of the existing fields, and recommending to the City when additional fields come on line, so that no potential site goes unbuilt and no built site goes unused when they could be played on.

3. Contribute. We are in a particular period when civic funds are limited. There are tremendous demands on the municipal coffers. On infrastructure alone there are so many needs and demands. Although it may hurt, the arts and sports organizations – the users of some of these facilities – have to be prepared to step up. Increased fees for the use of fields and spaces will have to be imposed and, some of these monies will need to be turned over to the City to help build and run them.

And my suggestions to the City:

1. Accept good input. Engage solid consulting firms, but don't lose the opportunity to carefully listen to those who are doing the very things that we are looking to accommodate. Staff should be giving those who are in the trenches as much credence as they give to their own experience.

2. Think ahead. Perhaps no one thought that Barrie would grow as big and as fast as it did. However, as the GTA gets more undesirable as a place to work and live, we can all now picture some further and perhaps explosive growth in our City. Don't build another Five Points Theatre. Think ahead.

3. Make some City services pay. Look reasonably at the cost of providing a beautiful centre for the arts, a myriad of minor sports fields, and three professional sports facilities. If is not unheard of to charge reasonable rates (without making a profit) to build, add on to and maintain these facilities.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION #1:
That the site to be offered to the sea cadets for their parade ground be at the location and of the size shown in figure 1 to this report and that it have a suitable hard surface as might be recommended by that group.

RECOMMENDATION #2:
That the city not approve the proposed multiuse sports park on that site nor, at all.

RECOMMENDATION #3:
That the city encourage representatives of the various sports organizations to meet cooperatively, with the assistance of city recreation staff, to organize the proper and most efficient use of the existing fields on city lands; that the city make a priority in any future subdivision "park dedications" that land be set aside for minor sports; and that the city recreation staff meet with school board officials to ensure that school sports fields are made fully available to minor sports organizations.

RECOMMENDATION #4:
That the city develop the current wooded area and meadow on the south shore as a passive park that protects existing wildlife and with trail systems that are accessible; that the park also include an educational component; that citizens groups and service clubs in the city be engaged with the city's parks department to develop the park; and that the lands ultimately designated for this part of the park be zoned "environmental protection".

RECOMMENDATION #5:
That the Barrie Baycats be approached to move from their existing home at the Midhurst Sports Park and that the city work with the Baycats to reconfigure and renovate Queen's Park to accommodate the team.

RECOMMENDATION #6:
That the former Sea Cadets site and required surrounding city lands become the site of Barrie's new performing arts centre.

RECOMMENDATION #7:
That subject to council coming to a satisfactory formal agreement with the new entity, that the city owned lands that are part of the former Barrie Central Collegiate lands be made available for a soccer stadium to become the new home of the Simcoe County Rovers soccer team.

A FINAL THOUGHT:

When Susan and I moved to Barrie in 1973, the Downtown of this City consisted of three very old movie theatres, Tamblyn Drugs, Woolworths, a Loblaws and an A & P grocery store. Things changed. And much of that change, until very recently, was pretty negative. In particular, the section of Dunlop Street west of the Five Points has struggled. Consider what the proposal for a Multi-Use Sports Park on the south shore has given potential to for the whole of Barrie's lakefront, and the Downtown. The south shore could be the passive natural area of the lakefront. The portion on Lakeshore Blvd and south Toronto street has already developed as the "active area" complete with marina, a beach, beach volleyball, basketball and playground. And now, the Downtown has the potential to become a huge sports/performing arts magnet. As a last drawing, I asked Bill Scott to mark off the "Dynamic Downtown Triangle" that could become the heart of a renewed Downtown and a very vibrant City. See Figure 9. Let's dream together.

I respectfully submit this report to the Mayor, Council and citizens of the City of Barrie.

Marshall Green

p.s.: A special thanks to my daughter Erica Mark, the graphic designer who put this all together and to John Morton of Allegra Marketing for the printing

List of Figures.

1. Location of recommended parade square adjacent to the Hayter Centre.
2. Air Photo of area east of Hayter Centre showing coal storage in immediate postwar years.
3. Proposed area for pollinator encouragement.
4. Proposed Baycats facility in Queen's Park.
5. Possible location for Performing Arts Centre
6. Possible design of Performing Arts Centre.
7. Flexible configurations of Main Hall in Performing Arts Centre.
8. Possible use of Barrie Centre site for semi-professional soccer stadium.
9. Dynamic Downtown Triangle.



Figure 1 - Possible Sea Cadet Parade Square



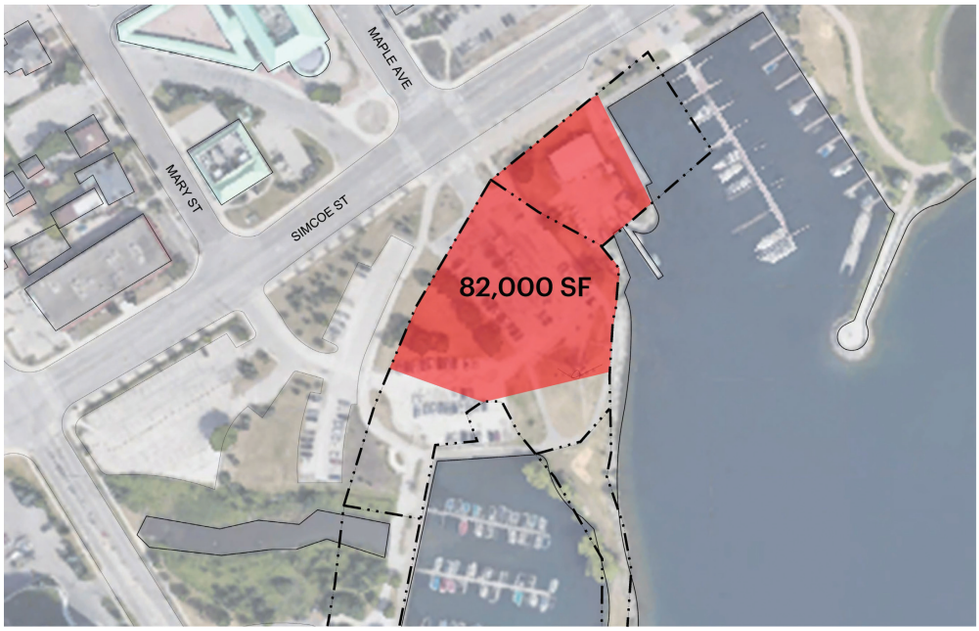
Figure 2: Coal Storage Area east of Hayter Centre, late 1940s.



Figure 3 - Proposed Eco-Park



Figure 4 - Proposed Baycats Facility in Queen's Park.



HARIRI PONTARINI
ARCHITECTS

Figure 5 - Proposed Location for Performing Arts Centre.

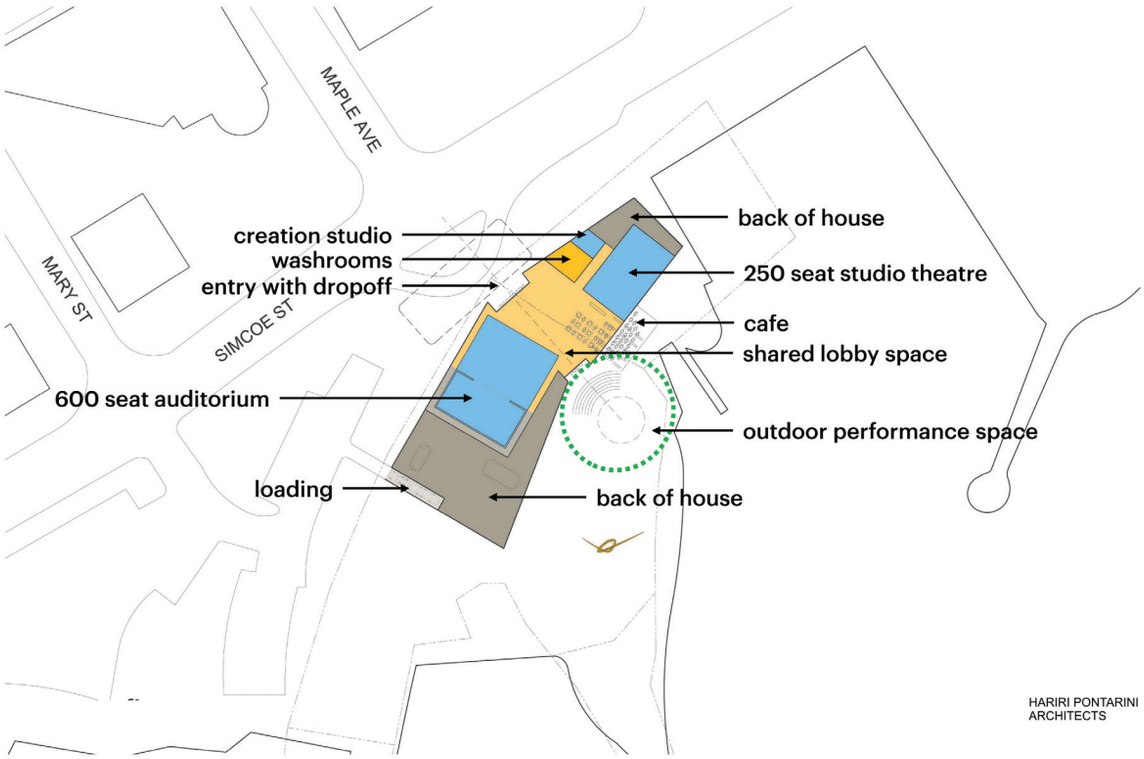


Figure 6 - Possible Design of Performing Arts Centre.

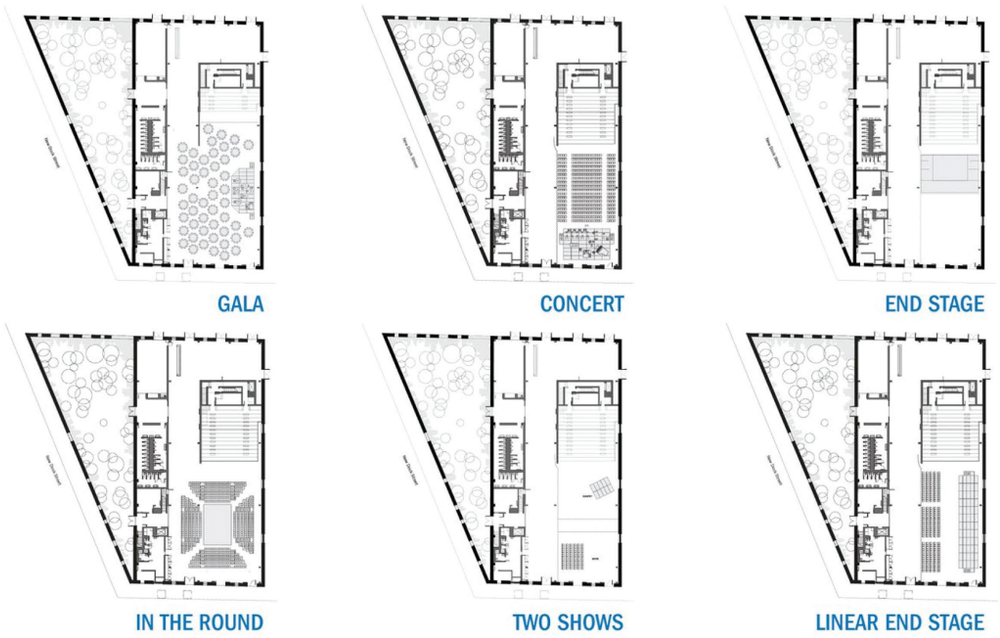


Figure 7 - Flexible Configurations of the Small Hall.

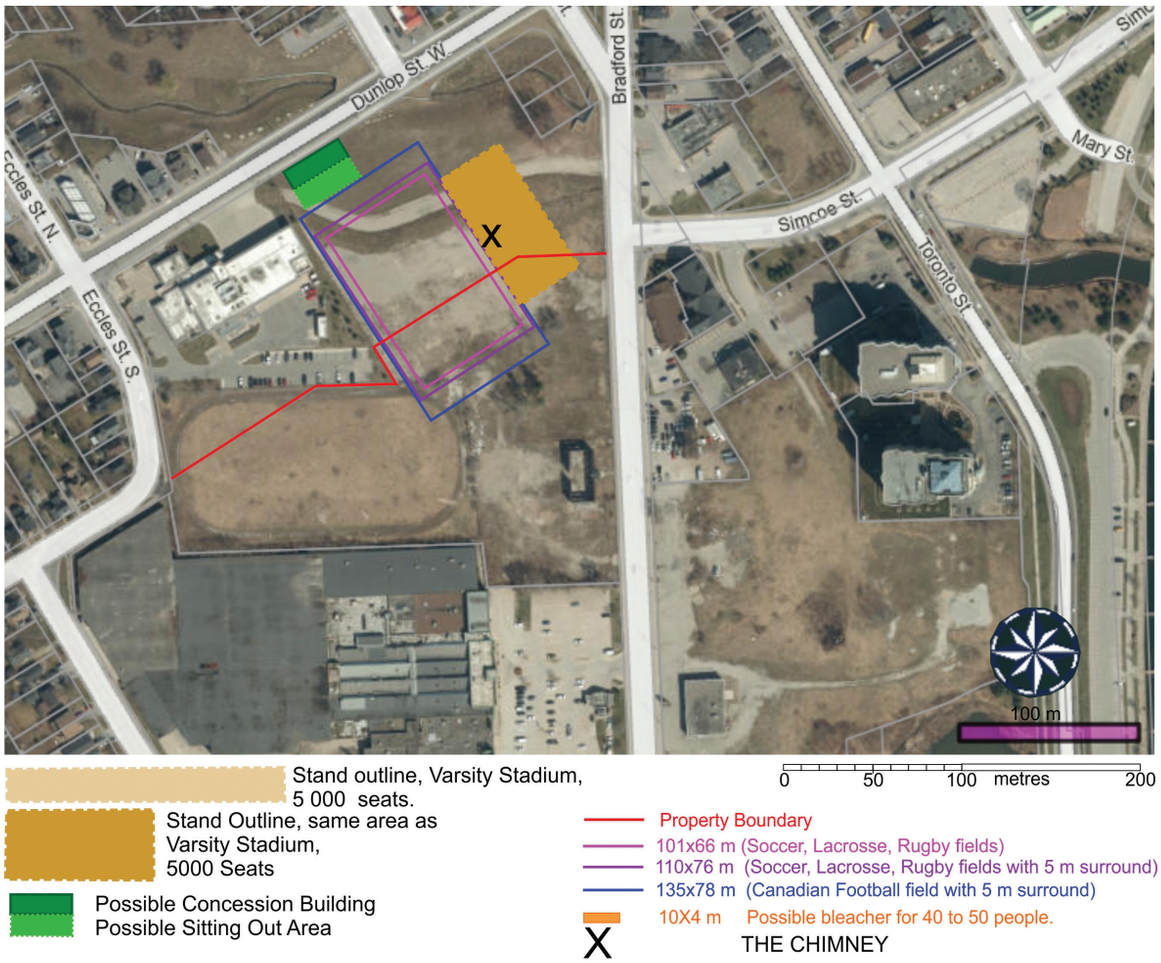


Figure 8 - Barrie Central Collegiate Site



Figure 9 - The Dynamic Downtown Triangle

Appendix A

City Playing Fields Considered for this Report

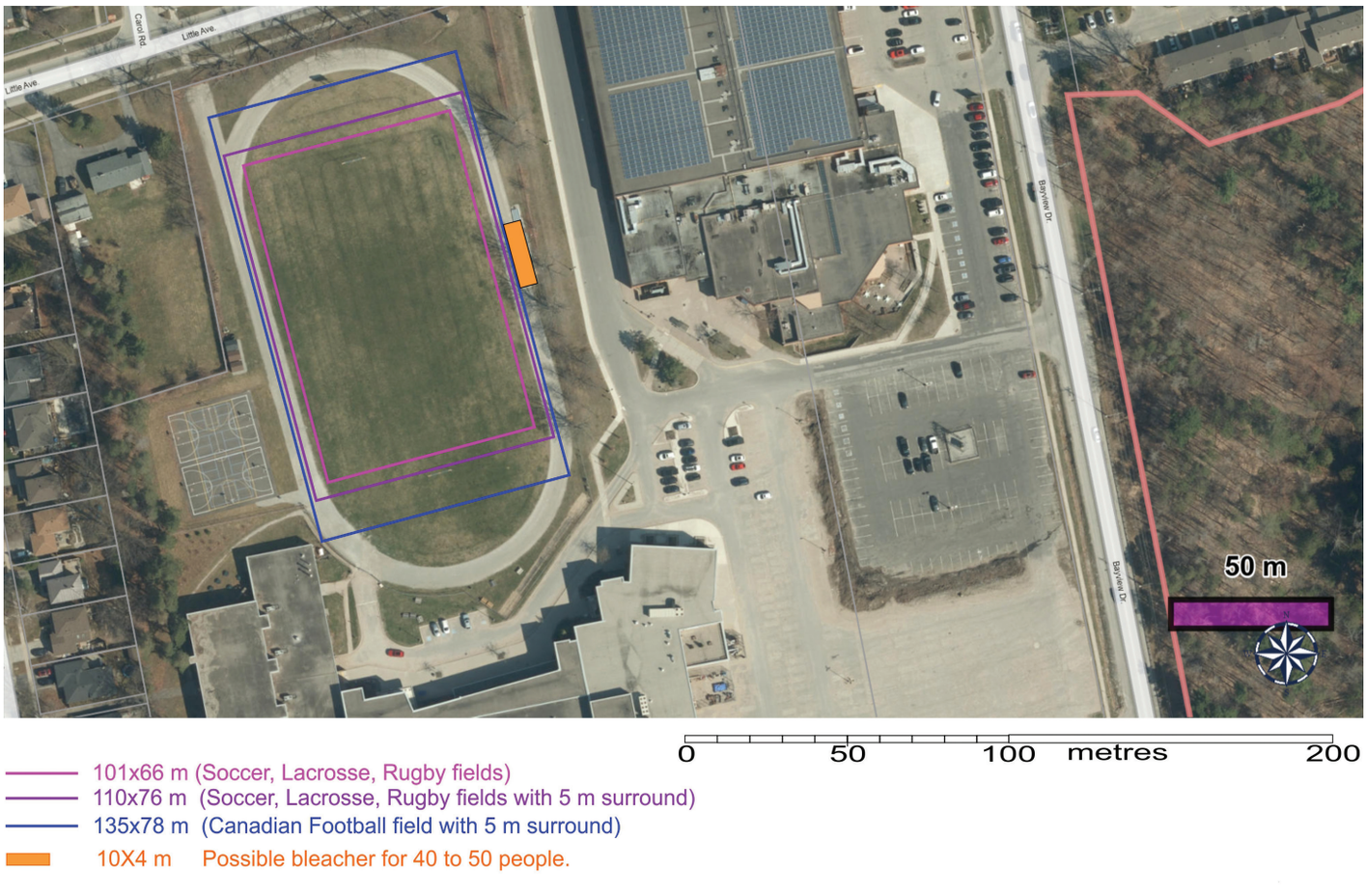


Figure A1 - Allandale Recreation Centre

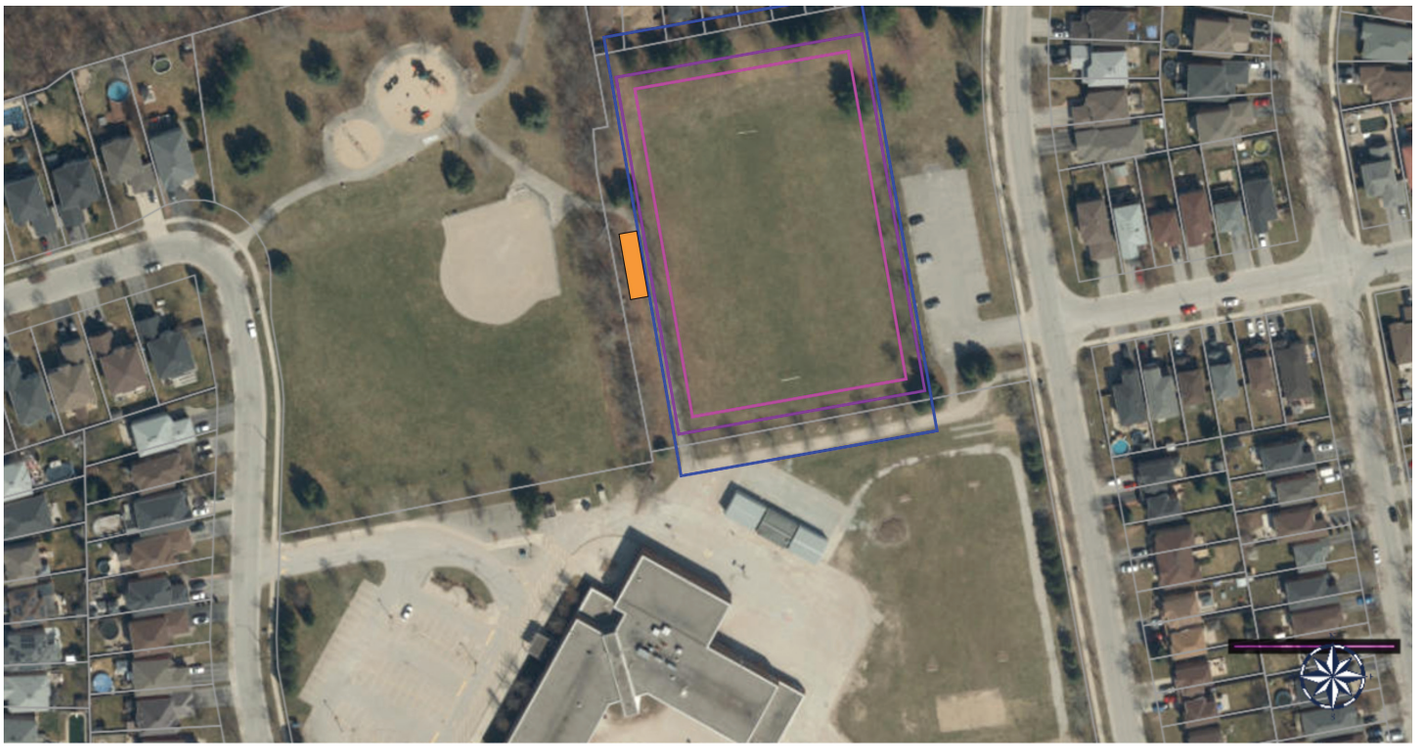


Figure A2 - Bear Creek Park



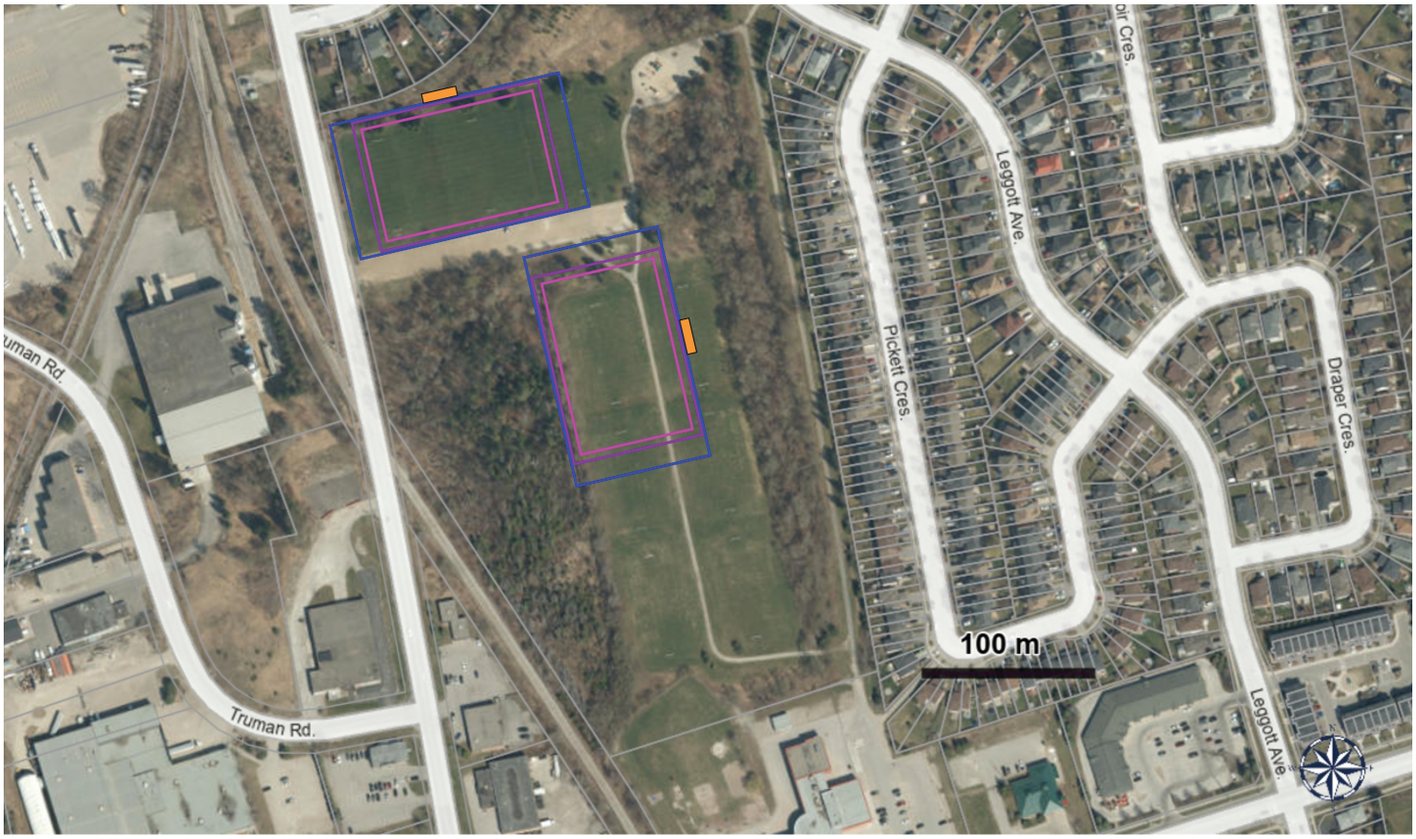
101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A3 - Eastview Community Park



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A4 - Hickling Park



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A5 - Huronia North Park



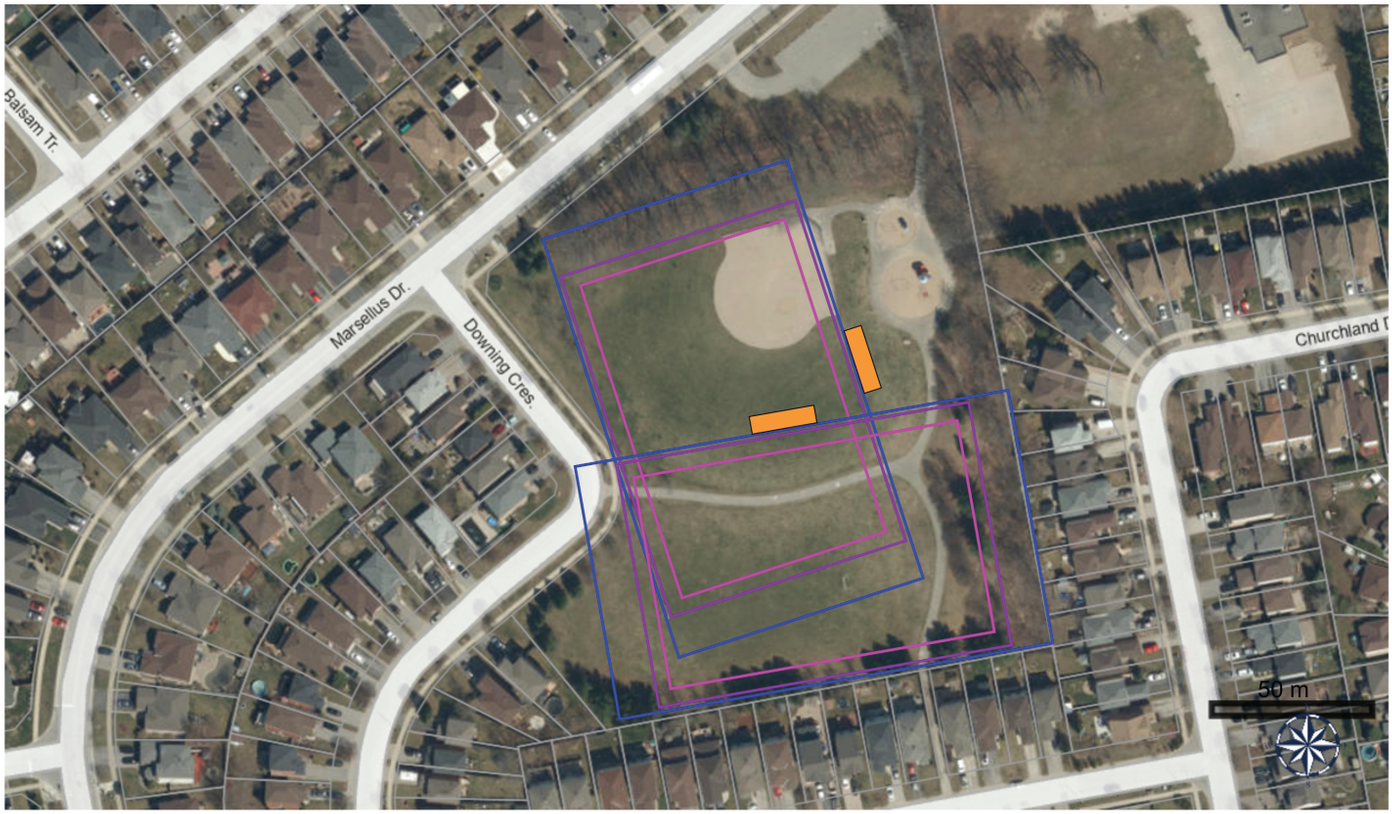
101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A6 - Lampman Lane Park



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A7 - Lennox Park



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A8 - Marsellus Park



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A9 - Painswick Park/St. Peter's School



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A10 - Holly Community Park



Figure A11 - Proposed Baycats Facility in Queen's Park.



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

Figure A12 - Riverwood Park



101x66 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields)
110x76 m (Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby fields with 5 m surround)
135x78 m (Canadian Football field with 5 m surround)
10X4 m Possible bleacher for 40 to 50 people.

0 50 100 metres 200

Figure A13 - Sandringham Park



Figure A14 - Sunnidale Park



Figure A15 - Victoria Woods Park



Figure A16 - Barrie Central Collegiate Site

Figure A17 - Shear Park



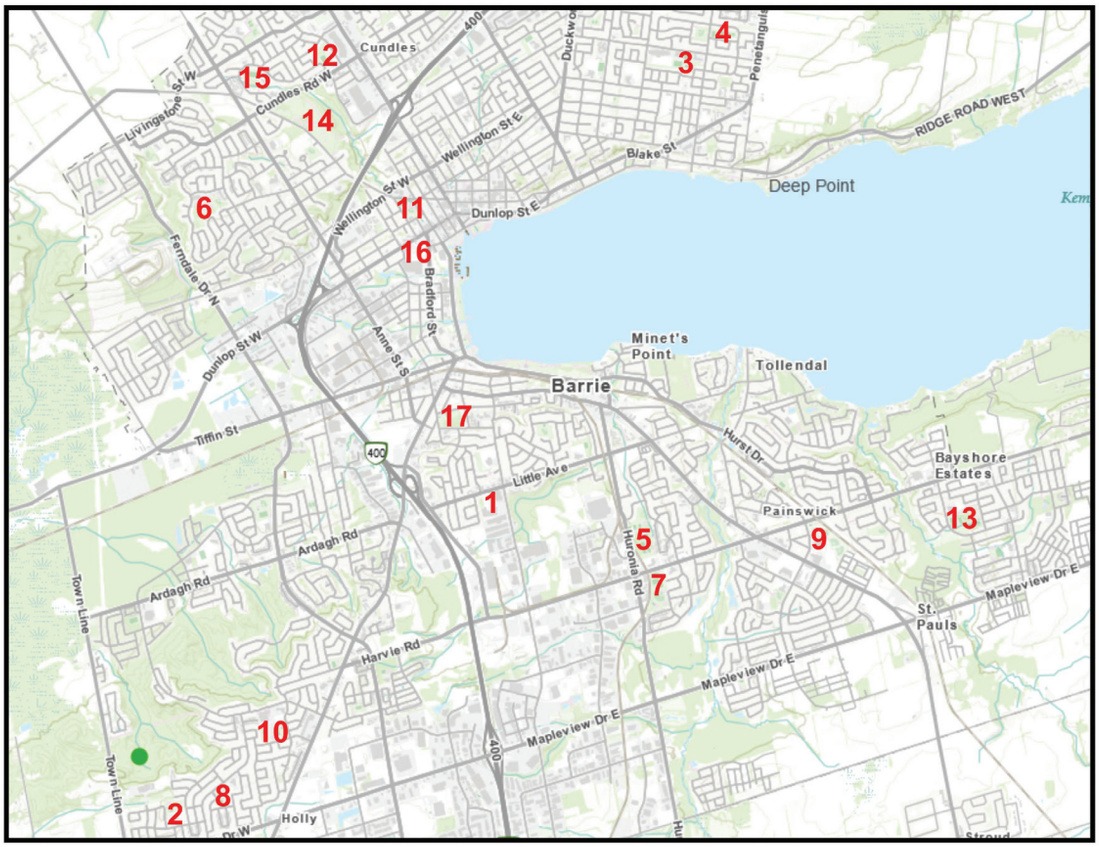


Figure A18 - Playing Field Location Map

Procedure for developing images of parks and other features.

The imagery used in analysis of the park sites was obtained from the Simcoe County On-line Geographical Imaging System (GIS):

(https://opengis.simcoe.ca/public/?THEME=Forestry%20and%20Recreation).

Initially I found that the downloaded images provided through the system had both scale bars and quoted scale numbers that were unreliable. Consequently I used the tools available in the GIS under My Maps to draw and label a narrow rectangle which was either 50 metres or 100 metres long. This rectangle appeared when .PNG images were downloaded from the GIS system.

The .PNG images were imported into CorelDraw, where scale bars were developed on the basis of the rectangle of known length. Layouts of the possible playing fields and other features were then drawn with reference to the scale bar, which provided the correct dimensions. The final images were exported as .JPG files.

Sizes of Playing Fields

Rugby:

https://www.rugbyworld.com/takingpart/rugby-basics/what-is-the-size-of-a-rugby-pitch-136045

https://www.world.rugby/

According to the most recent World Rugby laws, a rugby pitch should be a maximum length of 100 metres and a minimum length of 94m.

The pitch should be between 70 and 68 metres wide and have an in-goal area, the part between the goal-line and the dead-ball line, of between 22 metres and six metres. That gives a playing area ranging somewhere between 7,200 and around 10,000sqm.

The perimeter area, around the rectangular playing surface, outside the touchlines and behind the dead-ball line should be at least five metres wide so players can throw in at lineouts and hopefully avoid crashing into advertising hoardings.

It also gives room for huge numbers of support staff and water carriers to stand before invading the pitch every time the referee halts play and sometimes when he or she doesn't.

	Minimum	**Maximum**
Width	68 + 5+5 = 78 m	70+5+5 = 80 m
Length	94 +6+6 = 106 m	100+22+22+5+5=154 m

Lacrosse:

https://www.justlacrosse.com/lacrosse-field/

Official Dimensions

Here are the official dimensions of a lacrosse field for various levels of play:

Youth: The field is 60 yards wide and 110 yards long.

High School: The field is also 60 yards wide and 110 yards long.

College: The field is the same as the high school level, 60 yards wide and 110 yards long.

Professional: The field is 60 yards wide and 140 yards long.

Unprofessional Width:	60 yards + 10 + 5 = 75 yards	69.2 m
Unprofessional Length:	110 yards + 5+5 = 120 yards	110.8 m
Professional Width:	60 yards +10+5 = 75 yards	69.2 m
Professional Length:	140 yards +5+5 = 150 yards	138.5 m

The Barrie Bombers play Box Lacrosse. Box lacrosse, also known as boxla, box, or indoor lacrosse, is an indoor version of lacrosse played mostly in North America. The game originated in the 1930s in Canada, where it is more popular than field lacrosse. Lacrosse is Canada's official national summer sport. Box lacrosse is played between two teams of five players and one goalie each, and is traditionally played on an ice hockey rink once the ice has been removed or covered. The playing area is called a box, in contrast to the open playing field of field lacrosse. The object of the game is to use a lacrosse stick to catch, carry, and pass the ball in an effort to score by shooting a solid rubber lacrosse ball into the opponent's goal. The highest level of box lacrosse is the National Lacrosse League.

While there are 62 total members of World Lacrosse, only fifteen have competed in international box lacrosse competition. Only Canada, the Haudenosaunee Nationals and the United States have finished in the top three places at the World Indoor Lacrosse Championships.

Football:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_football

Canadian football, or simply football (in Canada), is a sport in Canada in which two teams of 12 players each compete on a field 110 yards (101 m) long and 65 yards (59 m) wide, attempting to advance a pointed oval-shaped ball into the opposing team's end zone. The end zones are 20 yards deep. Note that in some professional stadiums, the end zones are reduced to 18 yards. No side line clearance is specified so allow 5 yards.

Width:	65 +5+5 = 75 yards	69.2 m
Length:	110 +20+20 = 150 yards	138.5 m
Length with reduced end zones:	110 +18+18 = 146 yards	134.8 m

Soccer:

https://publications.fifa.com/en/football-stadiums-guidelines/technical-guideline/stadium-guidelines/pitch-dimensions-and-surrounding-areas/

The field of play is the area bounded by the goal lines and touchlines. FIFA's recommended field of play dimensions are 105 metres x 68 metres.

The field of play must be rectangular and marked with continuous lines. These lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries. Its touchlines shall be parallel to the orientation of the stadium, and only the lines indicated in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game are to be marked on the field of play. The field of play shall be level and without undulation.

The grassed area includes the field of play but extends beyond its boundaries to include the additional areas covered by turf, such as player warm-up areas and assistant referee positions.

This area should be sufficient to facilitate player safety by (i) allowing sufficient space in front of the advertising boards and reducing the risk of collision, and (ii) avoiding a change in surface immediately beyond the touchline/goal line which could affect a player's footing.

The dimensions of the grassed area should be in conjunction with the design of the stands, taking account of sightlines and the position of advertising boards (see Sub-Section 2.3.3). As a benchmark, FIFA recommends that at least two metres of level surface (ideally the same surface type as the field of play) be provided beyond each touchline and goal line. For larger stadiums, FIFA recommends that a total distance of five metres beyond each goal line and four metres beyond each touchline be provided before the placement of perimeter advertising boards. For smaller stadiums, FIFA recommends a total distance of four metres behind each goal line and three metres beyond each touchline before the placement of perimeter advertising boards. Any incline in surface beyond two metres should be a maximum of 5°.

U6-U8 Soccer Field Sizes

Length: 25-35 yards (23-32 meters)

Width: 15-25 yards (14-23 meters)

U9-U10 Soccer Field Sizes

Length: 55-65 yards (50-59.4 meters)

Width: 35-45 yards (32-41 meters)

U11-U12 Soccer Field Sizes

Length: 70-80 yards (64-73 meters)

Width: 45-55 yards (41-50 meters)

Soccer Summary

Width: 68 +5+5 = 78 m

Length: 105 +4+4 = 113 m

Georgian Grizzlies Field:

130x78, for the playing surface and surrounds, but not including the bleachers. Including the bleachers, the width is 82 m. The distance between the light stands is 88 m across the field.

Comment: Judging by the minimal bleachers at the Grizzlies field (4 levels of seats), the additional width for such bleachers for other fields would be 6 m. 5 banks of 6.5 m. Say 50 bodies x 4 rows =200 bodies.

Input from Sports Groups

Rugby:

Their “perfect size” is the size of the Georgian College Rugby field that they now use.

Barrie Soccer:

They would like one new field that is artificial turf and lit. Their ideal size is 110 yards by 72 yards. They don’t need end zones but would like a small area for stands. They could go as small as 100 yards by 66 yards. 110x72 yards is 101x66 metres.

Kathleen Trainor’s emailed suggested dimensions:

Rugby:

Width: 68 m

Length: 112 - 122 m

Soccer:

Width: 68.6 m

Length: 112 - 122 m

Summary:

SPORT	FIELD WIDTH (m)	FIELD LENGTH (m)	TOTAL WIDTH (m)	TOTAL LENGTH (m)	GROUP REQUESTS (with small surrounds)	
					WIDTH	LENGTH
Rugby	68	94	78	106	78*	130*
Lacrosse (amateur)	55.4	101.5	69.2	110.2		
Lacrosse (pro)	55.4	129.2	69.2	138.5		
Canadian Football	59	101	69.2	134.8		
Soccer	68	105	78	113	76	110

* Based on Grizzlies field dimensions.

Possible Locations for Multi-Use Field

Fig	Place	Comments	Site*	Soccer*	Baseball*	Loc *
A1	Allandale Rec Centre	Has change rooms. Tight for space to put field. Need negotiations with School Board	1 No	N	N	SW
A2	Bear Creek	Possible. Tight for football. Has parking. No washrooms. Used for baseball.	2 SF?	N	Y	SW
A3	Eastview Comm Centre	Barely possible. Wrong quarter of city. Football and baseball not possible. Could fit soccer. Has parking. Washrooms.	5 S	N	N	NE
A4	Hickling Park	Busy. Sacrifice two small currently-used soccer fields.	0 No	Y	N	NE
A5	Huronia Soccer Fields	Not suitable. No washroom now. Heavy use now. N-S field would eliminate four current fields. E-W field would eliminate three current fields.	0 No	Y	N	SW
A6	Lampman Lane	Tight. Tennis and ball diamond lit already. Has parking, community centre change rooms.	5 S,F	N	N	NW
A7	Lennox Park	Just fit soccer, but not football, by eliminating one active ball diamond. E-W layout. Ball diamonds busy. Has parking, no washrooms.	0 No	N	Y	SE
A8	Marsellus	Barely possible. Either orientation would remove active baseball diamond. Has parking, no washrooms. No current lighting. Surrounded by residences.	0 No	Y	Y	SW
A9	Painswick Park / St. Peter's School	Not much space. Tennis lit already. Northern option would remove active baseball diamonds. Has parking. Possible change rooms in St. Peter's school. Need negotiations with school board to put southern option. Principal has favoured field in past Residences to SE.	2 S,F	N	Y	SE
A10	Peggy Hill Rec Centre / Holly	Has space. Has parking. Has change rooms. Lit basketball courts. Residential on two sides. N-S field would remove active soccer field. E-W field would remove soccer field, basketball court.	1 S,F	Y	N	SW
A11	Queen's Park	Ball diamond not currently used. Tennis lit already. Close to downtown restaurants. Good fit for soccer, but not foot-ball, or baseball, not both.	8 S or B	N	N	NW
A12	Riverwood Park	Not currently used. Tight for football. Tennis lit already. Has some parking, could be expanded. No washrooms.	4 S or B	N	N	NE
A13	Sandringham	Wet, needs drainage. Field in use for soccer and baseball. Has parking, no lights.	0 No	Y	Y	SE
A14	Sunnidale Park	Not suitable.	0 No	N	N	NW
A15	Victoria Woods Park	Soccer could fit in two orientations. Would eliminate active soccer field. Used for soccer. Has parking. No washrooms.	0 No	Y	N	NE
A16	Barrie Central	Close to downtown. Need adjustment from HIP. Need parking. Possible noise limit from development to north. Not otherwise in use. Possible for soccer.	10 S,F	N	N	Central
A17	Shear Park	Allandale area. Some parking. Active baseball diamond. No room for any other field. Tennis courts lit.	0 No		Y	SE
A18	Location Map	Fields shown by the number assigned in this table.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

***Site:**
Number is rating (1 to 10) for possible additional field

No: Site cannot host field
S: Possible soccer field
F: Possible football field
B: Possible baseball diamond

Soccer: Soccer played here? Y/N
Baseball: Baseball played here? Y/N
Loc: Quarter of Barrie

Appendix B

Submission By Kathleen Trainor of Tourism Barrie

Submission by Kathleen Turner, Tourism Barrie

Tourism plays a vital role in driving Barrie's economy. In 2023, tourism spending generated a significant economic impact of $634,671,725. This included 582,500 overnight stays in Barrie hotels and 2,465,000 family day trips to the city. Notably, sport tourism was a major contributor, with 37 tracked events bringing in $48,989,482 to the Barrie economy. These figures highlight the crucial role of tourism in driving economic growth and creating jobs. The tourism industry supports investments made in any multi-use sports fields that will provide opportunities for the long-term growth of the visitor economy by expanding sporting events, tournaments and championships. This approach is not only good for tourism but will elevate the quality of life for residents, leading to quality of place.

Barrie's tourism landscape is evolving, with a notable decline in corporate travel due to the rise of virtual conferences and meetings. To achieve a sustainable year-round tourism industry, Barrie must explore new opportunities. Sport tourism presents an ideal long-term market for growth and diversifying the city's tourism offerings. Regardless of where the multi-use sports fields are built, all new sports facilities in Barrie must be designed with a long-term vision to meet the specifications and requirements necessary for national and provincial championship standards. Barrie must be capable of hosting prestigious events that attract high-yielding visitors, including sports attendees and spectators who spend more and elevate Barrie's profile as a premier tourism destination. Tourism Barrie would be pleased to commission any study by a specialist in sports venue planning to develop detailed plans and specifications for the ideal size and requirements of a new multi-use field that will accommodate Provincial and National events for consideration by the city of Barrie staff.

Appendix C

Curricula Vitae

Marshall Green

Marshall and his wife Susan moved to a very different Barrie in 1973 to take up a position as an articling student with law firm Wilson, Graham, Palmer and Bumstead. When that firm dissolved, and on Marshall's call to the Bar in 1975, he joined John Graham and Tom Wilson in forming Graham, Wilson and Green. Marshall's practice centred on civil litigation, in particular municipal and land use planning. Over the years, the firm represented the Township (then the Town) of Innisfil, the Townships of Severn and Essa and the County of Simcoe. The firm grew through mergers to have 35 lawyers as HGR Graham Partners. In 2016 Marshall left the firm to join the County as Senior Counsel. He retired as a lawyer in 2024, but still takes on contract work for the County.

Marshall has dedicated much of his time to community work in Barrie. He has been president of the Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Barrie Community Foundation and Am Shalom Synagogue. He has served on arts organizations like Theatre by the Bay and was on the Barrie Performing Arts Committee looking into a new performing arts centre for the City. He has headed fund-raising efforts for the Barrie Public Library and an extension for the Barrie YMCA. Currently he is on the Board of the Barrie Community Foundation and is a member of the Simcoe County Housing Alliance developing a pilot project in housing for seniors.

Susan and Marshall raised three children in Barrie. Jordin now lives in Boston, Cesia practices law in south Barrie and Erica is a graphic designer in Toronto.

William J. Scott

Ph.D., P.Eng., P.Geo. (Retired)

Over fifty years experience, both in the application of airborne and ground geophysical techniques to mineral exploration, environmental problems and engineering studies in terrestrial and marine environments, and in the development of geophysical instrumentation. Field experience in Canada, Botswana, Brasil, Hungary, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Russia and the United States.

Full-time with GeoScott from February 1995 to May 2009. GeoScott offered consulting and contracting services in exploration program management, and in management, performance and interpretation of geological and geophysical surveys applied to exploration, environmental and engineering problems.

Seven years in research in marine minerals with C-CORE at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Refinement of marine resistivity/IP system and its application to offshore permafrost mapping in the Beaufort Sea. Studies in performance of electrodes in marine resistivity measurements. Part-time consulting in mineral exploration and environmental and engineering geophysics with GeoScott.

Eight years in environmental, engineering and mineral exploration geophysics with Hardy Associates (1978) Ltd., later Hardy BBT and then HBT AGRA, a geotechnical consulting firm in Calgary. Use of EM surveys to map distribution of permafrost on terrestrial pipeline surveys in Northwest Territories, and to map contaminants around petrochemical plants. Development of Micro-WIP waterborne resistivity/IP survey system. Application of Micro-WIP to permafrost mapping in the Beaufort Sea, and to mineral exploration in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Québec. Surveys with prototype Elrec 2, and suggestions for improvement.

Ten years in research in permafrost, mineral exploration and environmental geophysics with the Geological Survey of Canada. With Huntec (70) Ltd., development of Huntec M4 IP receiver. Consultation with Geonics in development of EM16R VLF resistivity meter. Experiments in mapping of seabed permafrost with resistivity measurements.

Developed prototype system for non-contact resistivity measurements of core samples.