

June 30, 2022

Dear Arran-Elderslie Councillors,

I am writing this letter on behalf of The Chesley Firefighter Association regarding our Annual Yard Sale that has been held at the Chesley Fire Hall since it started in June 2005.

The Yard Sale has been a very successful fundraiser for the department; each year increasing in size both by the donations received and the public attending. The past couple years we have teamed up with the Grade 8's and offered them space to run a bake sale fundraiser for their grad trip, which has also been successful. This year they sold-out and raised over \$560 at the sale!

About 5 years ago, when the fire hall was becoming too crowded with donations, we reached out to a local trucking company. To help keep the hall spacious and ready for an emergency, a large trailer was generously delivered (and donated) for six weeks prior to the sale to use as storage. We have been fortunate to receive this trailer every year since. Unfortunately, it has been indicated that the trailer may not be available as a storage option moving forward.

We, the association, are requesting the possibility of using the Chesley Curling Club as the location for our Chesley Firefighters Annual Yard Sale. With the growth of the event, we have had to overcome some complications. For example, a few years ago we decided to setup a fence perimeter around the lot as the road is very busy that day and many kids attend the event. Our biggest concern now is parking. There are certain times during the day that it can be very congested with vehicles and horse drawn buggies. We are seeking the option of the Curling Club for a few important reasons:

1. Keeps the Fire Hall clear and ready for an emergency.
2. Increased parking area.
3. Away from the main street and safer for the public attending.
4. Indoor storage allowing for easy setup despite the weather outside.
5. The potential for growth as a community event allowing other non-profit organizations the opportunity to benefit from the attendance and community support.

We are asking for the council's support in the donation of the Curling Club from May (to store the donations) to the day of the event. Our date is chosen to line up with the Amish Horse and Quilt Auction in June, as their sale also brings a large crowd to Chesley, and to our event. It is our understanding that presently, the Curling Club is not rented or reserved from the ice removal until the Cattlemen's Dinner in July. If we're given this opportunity, everything would be removed and cleaned up by the end of the sale. We properly dispose of all remaining items with no cost to the facility.

We realize asking for the use of the location is a big request; however, this is a very successful event where every dollar made from the sale is used to purchase important equipment and supplies that directly benefit our department; which also benefits the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tony Wilford
Training Captain for Chesley Fire Department