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To: [Executive Committee](#)
Cc: [Rick Nytko](#); [Ralph Ellis](#)
Subject: Resurfacing of the James Gardens Lawn Bowling Club Artificial Surface
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To: Members of the Executive Committee of the City of Toronto
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From: Ralph Ellis
Past President James Gardens Lawn Bowling Club
Vice President Ontario Lawn Bowls Association and Grants Director
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Dear Councillors and Mayor,

We would like to discuss with yourself or your staff the upcoming resurfacing of the James Gardens Lawn Bowling Green. The artificial surface was installed in 2006 and is currently in need of resurfacing due to the effects of winter ground shift and general wear and tear. Two of the 8 rinks are virtually unplayable due to the dropping off of the surface at the edges of the green and the ditch boards around the green are rotting which is a safety hazard. We need your assistance in getting this situation on the radar of the city staff and establishing a definite timetable in the coming years for the work to be done. We have done some of the basic preparatory work and we know that currently the resurfacing would cost about \$250,000 and the ditch board replacement would cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. We recommend that these be done as two separate projects since the ditch board replacement is technically uncomplicated and is more cheaply

done by local contractors vs the specialists who are needed to resurface a green.

Our club is prepared to work with the city to reduce the overall cost of the work. For the installation of the main green, we are prepared to apply for a Trillium Grant up to \$150,000 via their Capital Stream or to do a two step process, applying for a Trillium Grant in the Seed Stream for a feasibility study followed by a Capital or Growth Stream application. Our club has been very successful in the grants process in the last 2 years pulling in \$57,550 from various sources. Because we do not own or control the green itself, we would need the city to be completely onboard with the project. If we applied directly for the Capital Stream, the city would need to get multiple formal bids on the project to submit with the application. If we did the Seed Stream first, the city would have to formally endorse the project and have a timeline for replacement that matched the Trillium Grant period timelines. We cannot move on either grant application without full endorsement of the city since they have ownership of the greens.

We have also explored using the \$25,000 New Horizons Grant to offset part of the cost. However, since we have renewable 1 year leases with the city instead of 5 year leases from the city, the rules of their grant application process prevent us from using this grant for renovations or repairs. If the city was prepared to convert our leases to 5 year leases, we could apply for this grant.

Both the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association and Bowls Canada have an interest in this project. The James Gardens Lawn Bowling Club's artificial surface is one of the fastest in Canada and accurately mimics the speed of greens in Australia and New Zealand. For this reason, 6 current and former members of the Canadian National Team are members at James Gardens since the speed of the green prepares them for international play. Prior to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in Australia, Steve McKerihen, Ryan Stadnyk and Chris Stadnyk all trained

on our green prior to the event. In the past, James Gardens has also hosted a National Team training camp. James Gardens has also hosted 2 provincial championship events in the last 4 years.

If we obtain the Trillium Grant to assist the project, what we are looking for is a seat at the table in the choice of surface. There are two new surfaces available which have the prospect of lasting 20 years after installation which reduces the city's long term cost and still provide us with greens that play at the same speed as Australia and New Zealand with minimal maintenance.

We look forward to initiating a discussion with you on the best ways to proceed with this project.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Ellis

Past President James Gardens LBC

Vice President and Grant Director -

Ontario Lawn Bowls Association