

Soccer club was invited to be voice at table, says Sport Aurora

(Re: ?Other sports groups need voice at the table: AYSC, July 23)

It was with great interest and disappointment that I read Mr. Kanen's letter to the editor published in July 23 issue of The Auroran, as he publicly exclaims his organization's independence from Sport Aurora as if this is something positive and forward thinking.

While Sport Aurora agrees that the AYSC should have been involved in discussions about sports tourism, it would seem that Mr. Kanen has forgotten the AYSC was indeed invited to the initial meeting of the Town of Aurora Community Tourism Plan that was held Monday, May 12, in the Holland Room at the Town Offices.

At that initial meeting hosted by Mr. Jim Kyle, Manager of Special Projects for the Town of Aurora, AYSC board member, Mr. Roy Cohen was present and declared he was representing both the AYSC and the AMHA.

It is unfortunate that there was no further representation from these organizations at the following two meetings. I expect their input may have been valuable.

Sport Aurora representing 32 sport and recreation providers, was at every meeting, and provided valuable input into the process. As well, Sport Aurora facilitated dialog and communication between our members and the working group involved with the Community Tourism Plan. We take pride in providing these types of services for our members. We work to help improve the sport and recreation experience within the Town of Aurora. It's our job and our goal.

In the coming weeks a Sport Aurora Sport Plan proposal will be presented to Town Council. This plan, based on the goals set out by Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, has been created through numerous meetings and many hours of research from within our membership, and will have the backing of all the presidents of our member organizations.

I trust the AYSC and the AMHA will be invited to become involved in the Sports Plan but their participation, like that on the Sport Tourism initiative, is for them to decide.

Finally, it should be noted that since taking the helm of Sport Aurora I have engaged in the process of reaching out to sport and recreation providers who are not members. Through meetings and presentations we have explained our goals and the advantages of membership. Some organizations have joined up, and others have not. The AYSC has not, for reasons known only to their leadership. Regardless, we will continue the process of building a community of sport organizations that work together for the betterment of all within Aurora and beyond.

Stephen Kimmerer
President
Sport Aurora