

Rosedale Tennis Club Loan

## **Rosedale Tennis Club**

**May 2023**

### **Application for funding for a proposed new dome**

#### **Introduction**

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of tennis in Gage Park. Rosedale Tennis Club began operating at its Gage Park location in 1919. When the parkland was purchased from the Gage family in 1919 the purchase agreement included the activities of Tennis and Lawnbowls. Over the next couple of years, work was done to develop tennis in the park and the club first started offering tennis in 1923.

We have been a year-round tennis facility since 1987 and are an incorporated not-for profit business with 12 staff, 4 tennis pros, 7 junior instructors and a volunteer board of directors. We are a living wage employer. Our facility operates 16 hours daily and 365 days of the year. The membership and the Board continue to work hard to ensure the financial health of RTC and over the past number of years have committed surplus funds into upgrades at the facility, a reserve for facility improvements, and now the expansion of indoor tennis to meet community demand.

Today, Rosedale Tennis Club has 12 tennis courts on three different surfaces. In recent years, our membership has grown to more than 700 members during the outdoor season and reduces to 350 members during the winter indoor season. We currently have a waitlist of 120 individuals and families requesting membership. Ancaster Tennis Club, which installed its dome in 2022, is also at capacity and has an extensive waitlist. Our membership consists of over 100 seniors, 65 years old or greater, over 100 adults between the ages of 21-64, 65 families, and 85 junior players.

Our members' abilities range from beginner to advanced, as well as players involved in competitive levels. We have a vibrant women's and men's doubles league and adult lessons.

Each week over 120 youth participate in tennis at Rosedale, through our structured tennis programs. Our junior development program is second to none and has been recognized by the province for its success. Our head pro, Mike Kool, has been with the club for over 35 years and has delivered quality instruction to thousands of local Hamilton youth. Players from Rosedale compete in local, provincial, national, and international events, CANUSA games, Maccabi Games (Israel), International Childrens Games, High School, Canadian University and NCAA Tennis teams. We also have several seniors who are ranked among the top in Canada, and they play in local and national tournaments. Our seniors' teams play in events throughout the region and in the Ontario Senior games. This year, Rosedale is the host of the Senior Tennis games.

By adding a second bubble, our winter capacity would increase by 100% with the four additional winter courts. This addition will allow for an increase in tennis access to more people, including our youth tennis development program. Currently all programs are running at capacity and with waitlists.

For many years, RTC has shown a positive financial performance, ensuring revenues exceed expenses annually and we also continue to work towards affordable tennis. Fee increases are not required to operate and maintain the new bubble.

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### **Project Summary:**

#### **Financing**

Project cost \$1,950,000

Rosedale contribution upfront: \$600,000 approved at a Special membership meeting in December 2022.

Rogers Communications and Tennis Canada naming rights grant \$200,000.

City of Hamilton interest free loan \$1,150,000

#### **Project Schedule**

Funding approved - July 2023

Construction of Grade Beam (Dome edge concrete base) - November 2023

Refurbishing Hard Courts - Spring 2024

Bubble installation – June 2024

#### **Community Support**

**Community Benefits of the Loan** and what Rosedale Tennis commits to provide (the following subject to loan approval from the City):

- 1) Increased tennis opportunities for Hamilton.
- 2) Upgraded recreational facility.
- 3) Increased instructional tennis for children, youth, adults, and seniors.
- 4) 350 new members - improving health outcomes by increasing active living and increasing opportunities for social interaction.
- 5) Expand the youth program (under 16) by at least 30% with a focus on exercise, skill, competition, and fun.
- 6) Reinstate the group lesson/round robin program creating affordable opportunities for beginners to acquire skills.
- 7) Reinstate/expand the local schools program. Work with local physical education teachers to provide opportunities for low-cost youth tennis.
- 8) Additional court time for local high school and university competitive tennis teams to train, practice and compete. Host high school provincial tennis tournaments.
- 9) Provide court time for community groups and agencies such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters and Empowerment Squared, to develop a program to encourage youth to exercise, acquire skills and to provide opportunities for mentorship.
- 10) Reinstate/expand Ontario Tennis Association youth and adult tennis tournaments.

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**Investing with Equity** will help improve communities and achieve more inclusion and diversity in sport.

- 1) Work with our membership to expand charitable tennis events, such as the very successful Annual Eva Rothwell Event.
- 2) The new bubble will be wheelchair accessible. Subject to the loan and the new bubble, we intend to work with the Ontario Tennis Association and our membership to host a Wheelchair Tennis Event. We currently have members who assist with an outdoor wheelchair tennis tournament in Grimsby.
- 3) Adjust/waive fees for individuals and youth facing financial challenges. Continue to promote tennis and active living in all communities in Hamilton. Continue to be a living wage employer.
- 4) Building on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training the board and staff have completed, Rosedale Tennis will seek ongoing opportunities to ensure all Hamiltonians have a chance to play at this community facility. This will be reflected in our marketing materials as well as our recruitment of directors, volunteers, and players.

If we do not receive the loan and are unable to continue to grow, the Club will be forced to continue with the cap on memberships, limit court time, and curtail community events.

### **In Summary:**

Hamilton is underserved regarding the number of winter tennis courts relative to every comparable city in Southern Ontario and well below the Tennis Canada indoor tennis facility recommendation. Rosedale Tennis can add a new dome and provide more than 350 new Hamilton based members with the opportunity to lead a more active lifestyle. The proposed upgrade is intended to fit within the existing Rosedale Tennis Club footprint.