



P.O. Box 370, Sunderland, ON L0C1H0

sunderlandfallfair@gmail.com

Re: Sunderland Agricultural Society Request to use the Sunderland Community Centre for the 2026 Fall Fair

On behalf of the Sunderland Agricultural Society, I am requesting Council allow SAS the use of the Sunderland Community Centre, and all facilities associated within the compounds of the building and surrounding area for the Sunderland Fall Fair 2026 and that you would hold the installation of ice until the fair is completed; SAS would be cleared off the ice surface by Wednesday evening so that ice making could commence on the Thursday morning.

I am going to reiterate, as we have had many discussions in regards to this matter, there was an agreement made between Sunderland Agricultural Society and the Township, that the Fairgrounds would be turned over to the Township to build the arena, ball diamonds, tennis courts, etc. and the historic agreement was that SAS would have access to the grounds and the buildings indefinitely to host the Fair for 1 week each September.

The Sunderland Fair is a small mid-week fair that does have a limited budget. We rely on local businesses to sponsor, make donations and fundraising efforts to make the Fall Fair sustainable for families to attend. With the arena being unavailable this year, due to renovations, which we are thrilled about, there have been added expenses to our small budget, some of which include tent rental, building permit fees, generator costs for use of generators, extra sound systems, use of additional buildings, and additional signage as well as the outreach to extra people to volunteer.

The Sunderland Community Centre is the hub of our town and our local fair. This year while we are lucky enough to be able to have the use of other buildings located in town, they will come with some significant accessibility challenges for some of our local residents and participants. The Community Centre has allowed us to showcase all of our exhibits, vendors, entertainment all in one location. Having this event take place essentially under one roof, allows our attendees the opportunity to meet, socialize and enjoy all we have to offer in one spot, which is extremely important in a rural area, as it brings the young and old together.

SAS continues to strongly encourage the schools to participate in the parade, schoolwork, arts and crafts as well as enjoy all the fun the fair has to offer. It is a social, educational and fun event for family and friends in our Township.

We do understand that BMHA feels the increased revenue in September would be beneficial for taxpayers etc., recognizing increasing revenue is logical; it is difficult to compare the value of an event with such historic significance, steeped in the cultural tradition of our agricultural community.

With a newer facility and equipment, perhaps that will allow an increase in revenue without disturbing our meaningful event.

Thank you,

Debbie Brethour

President – Sunderland Agricultural Society