



An Exciting Update

Dear GBRI Supporters,

First — **thank you.** There are now over **500 of you** on this mailing list, and that kind of community enthusiasm is genuinely what keeps this initiative moving.

We have a lot to share. Here's the update you've been waiting for.

A quick recap of how we got here

Many of you know that our original efforts focused on finding a suitable municipal site in the Town of The Blue Mountains. Despite a lot of hard work, a suitable location couldn't be secured, and that chapter came to a close.

But then — **October 2025.**

Tennis pro **Mike Thomson** acquired approximately **16 acres** of recreationally zoned land at **255 Osler Bluff Road in Collingwood** — the former Thomson Tennis School property, originally run by Mike and his father. It's a site with real history, and now real potential. We've partnered with Mike to help make a year-round racquets facility for the entire South Georgian Bay community a reality — and we've been working hard ever since.

What's been accomplished so far

✓ SECURED

Town of Collingwood: development charges exemption

A townwide exemption for air-supported bubbles (up to 8 months/year) has been approved. This was a major hurdle — it's what makes the economics of an indoor tennis facility actually viable in Collingwood. **Huge win.**

PENDING

Simcoe County: development charges exemption application submitted

County DCs also apply to bubbles, so the same exemption has been applied for at the County level. We're waiting on County Council. *Their decision could change everything.*

✓ DONE

D4 Environmental Study — Complete

The study has been completed and will be submitted to Simcoe County shortly. Once approved, the Holding (H) designation on the property can be lifted — clearing the way for site plan submission to the Town.

PHASE 1

Rebuild + bubble the 6 existing courts

The first phase focuses on rebuilding the six courts already on the site and covering them with a bubble up to 8 months a year — creating proper dedicated year-round tennis in South Georgian Bay, for real this time.

IN PROGRESS

Three bubble proposals received — under evaluation

We've had three proposals from air-supported structure suppliers come in and are working through them now.

IN PROGRESS

Court reconstruction proposals — in progress

Multiple contractor proposals have been requested. We're gathering quotes before moving forward.

OPEN **Investor conversations underway — and the door is open**

We've had encouraging discussions with potential investors interested in the bigger, long-term vision for the site. Mike is always open to hearing from interested parties — just reach out.

✓ SECURED **Ontario Tennis Association + Tennis Canada: letters of support**

We've had positive conversations with both national and provincial governing bodies, received formal letters of support, and explored funding opportunities for year-round facilities. The sport's leadership is behind this.

The vision

At its heart, this project has always been about giving South Georgian Bay a place to play — affordable, accessible, and year-round, for all ages and skill levels. The bigger the facility, the more people we can serve. And the more investor support we can attract, the more ambitious we can make it — always with community access at the core.

Phase 1 is six indoor courts. But that's just the start. The dream is to fully activate the 16-acre site over time. And that vision is closer than it's ever been.

What's next

Here's what we're focused on in the coming months:

- 1 Final approval of the D4 Environmental Study from Simcoe County
- 2 Pre-consultation Development Review Meeting with the Town of Collingwood
- 3 Select contractor and begin court reconstruction
- 4 Complete engineering and building permit application for the bubble
- 5 Purchase or lease the air-supported structure

Projects like this take time, persistence, and an enormous amount of work that isn't always visible. But progress is being made every single week — and we'll keep sharing updates as key milestones are reached.

**The vision of a dedicated, year-round tennis facility in
South Georgian Bay is closer than ever.**

Thank you for being part of the journey.

The Georgian Bay Racquets Initiative Team

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georgianbayracquets.ca

GBRI is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit community initiative working to bring year-round racquet facilities to South Georgian Bay — for all ages and skill levels.