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**From:** Joe Cornacchia

**Sent:** August 22, 2007 12:16 PM

**Subject:** Markham Centennial Arena

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

It is with utter frustration that I write this email. As you are all aware The Markham Waxers Junior "A" Hockey club plays out of Markham Centennial and has been doing so for many years. Our group purchased the team from Don Bremner three years ago. Soon after our purchase we were advised by Town Staff that renovations were going to be commencing and that we would be inconvenienced for our hockey season (from Sept. to March). We were shown plans and we were excited that finally the facility would be upgraded albeit the arena itself was not being renovated. We worked through the first year, our supporters had to enter from the back of the arena, facing construction plywood and other construction mazes. We lost some supporters. The team suffered a substantial loss.

Our hockey season ended the first year and construction was proceeding at a snail's pace or slower. The first year's inconvenience turned into a second year headache. For our second year of operation we faced much the same and we lost many more supporters. Needless to say our team lost more money.

Now the second year headache has turned into a third year nightmare. We were recently advised that the Fire Department has inspected the Arena and had closed certain parts for safety reasons. I understand that some sections of spectator stands have been closed, two dressing rooms have been rendered inoperative; (these dressing rooms were used by visiting teams); the music room which we used to announce games from has been closed; washrooms have been closed; I understand that the Fire Marshall was looking at closing the penalty box area, there are many more items that may be affected. Essentially the Arena or certain parts are unsafe for public usage. Clearly this will affect our dwindling fan base, especially once they discover certain areas of the arena "roped off" and boarded. Our losses will continue to mount.

Clearly this matter cannot continue. The Waxers are a storied franchise and have played out of Markham for over 100 years, Many hockey greats have donned the Waxers jerseys yet, the Town is allowing a "shoddy" contractor to cause us great losses. Why is the Town doing nothing to enforce the terms of its contract with the contractor? Town Staff have bent over backwards to help us, they too, are facing problems with the construction delays.

The Markham Waxers will be looking at its options, since it appears that the current situation will continue with no end in sight.

Joseph Cornacchia

Manager, Markham Waxers Junior "A" Hockey Club