

Mayor and Council
Lac La Biche County
April 24th, 2019

Today I was talking to a director of minor baseball and was told they are short of diamonds. They have 165 kids registered, 145 in baseball and 20 in tball. They are using the diamonds at Aurora School which they have had to pay half the cost of having it shaled to make it usable for minor ball. They are also using the diamonds at Key-way-tin and Light of Christ School.

We at KidSport Lac La Biche would love to see more kids participating as we help kids who otherwise would not be able to be active in sports. KidSport is a program that we are proud of as we have a great group of volunteers and a super and generous group of sponsors and donors. Since the start of the KidSport program we have helped 750 kids in the amount of \$133,000.00. Our funding for each child is from \$50.00 to \$400.00 depending on the coached sport and how much is required. We are financially able to help more.

My biggest concern is that we do not have the facilities. Instead of using space in the Bold Center for sports it has been taken up by more offices for county staff. We thought it was built as a sports facility.

At the present time Girl Guides, Scouts, Army Cadets, Gymnastics all have to rent spaces elsewhere. Taekwondo is using space in the Catholic School. These are clubs that also should be promoted as part of our community and the good they do for young people without having to incur extra costs. These groups are also run by great volunteers.

I have lived in this community all my life and sports has been my passion. I have noticed that this community as well as others is very clicky. It is hard to participate in sports here if you are not of the "Group of Friends" as in not getting chosen for an "A" team even if you have the skills.

Removing the downtown diamonds whether it is one or all of them should not happen. They are the heart of this community as was the former arena. Please don't spoil the community by doing this. What will happen to the summer events that are held there? Yes I understand you are building ball facilities at the Bold Center but will they be enough if you take away the downtown ones or will they still have to find extra space?

We as a community should have a vision of building for the future if you want the community to grow.

These are my thoughts.

Eugene Lebas, Volunteer for KidSport Lac La Biche
Lac La Biche County taxpayer