Throwing More Light on Tennis

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Caption: **Three times the Illumination Using Half the Power of a Metal Halide Fixture**

About 5 years ago we started hearing many of senior players making comments like this – "I really like to play tennis but I just can't see the ball at night anymore".

Our initial thoughts were that this was just an aging issue but it didn't sit well with us.

As we dug deeper into this issue, we discovered that proper lighting has become the most important tool to help older adults and seniors maintain an active lifestyle.

On our journey we learned that lighting standards for senior eyes has not been considered.

Municipalities should recognize that active seniors refrain from playing tennis in the evenings because the illumination is too low.

A 60 year old player needs 15 times the light levels of a 20 year old player (Tennis Industry Magazine 2005).

This research led to purchasing 8 LED luminaires in 2017 for the Aurora Community Tennis Club.

We devised an innovative plan to pay for our LED luminaries.

First, we allocated membership funds and rebates towards the cost of LED lights and secured agreement from the Town to install the lights in 2018.

Next, we formed an agreement with a local business to use our lights in the winter months and rebate back to us the hydro savings accrued from using our energy efficient lighting.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation program supported this idea with a SEED grant (testing out innovative projects).

Our feasibility study will test the viability for other small non-profit groups to purchase their LED lights.

A full description of our SEED proposal can be reviewed on our website.

Being able to see properly is both a safety as well a performance issue for all ages and stages of development and we are happy to ‘throw some light’ on this subject here in Aurora.

You are invited to visit the OTA Resource Library to review a full copy of the Feasibility Study.