HISTORIC "WIRBELWIND" RESTORATION PROJECT COMING TO THE CANADIAN TANK MUSEUM



Oshawa, Ontario, November 20, 2026 — The Canadian Tank Museum and the Base Borden Military Museum, based in Oshawa and CFB Borden respectively, are thrilled to announce a new partnership in the ongoing restoration of one of the rarest surviving vehicles of the Second World War in Canada: a German Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind anti-aircraft tank.

This vehicle, one of only two surviving examples in the world, has been under restoration at the Base Borden Military Museum for a decade. The Canadian Tank Museum has received the vehicle artifact to complete the second phase of the restoration before it goes on permanent display in Oshawa. Base Borden's restoration crews; made up entirely of volunteers, have made incredible progress in painstakingly disassembling the former monument, repairing parts and meticulously organizing them for reassembly. The strong foundation laid will ensure that further restoration work can progress smoothly at the new project location. The Canadian Tank Museum and its personnel are immensely excited to work with their peers from the Base Borden Military Museum on this unique project. The project's final goal being the vehicle's return to operation, showcasing it to visitors both in exhibits and live driving displays upon completion.

Commenting on the transfer of the project to the Canadian Tank Museum; Executive Director Jeremy Neal Blowers said "We welcome the addition of this rare historical vehicle to the collection and are excited to combine the talents and efforts of these two teams to see the Wirbelwind preserved for future generations." Having worked on the project for over ten years in Borden; Project Leader Dave Thompson commented: "After so many years of work on the vehicle, the team is excited to be able to continue in Oshawa where I know the Museum has a world renowned restoration team and the resources to get the job done in the coming years. This also allows our team here in Borden to concentrate our efforts and resources on other exciting restorations and projects"

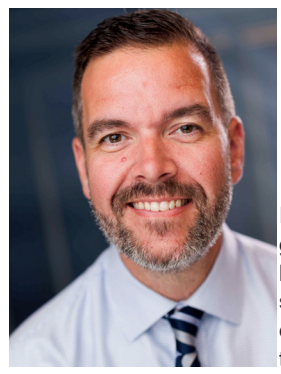
The Canadian Tank Museum usually has two to three historical restoration projects on the go at once, and work planning and project development will begin on the Flakpanzer this winter with full restoration to begin in the future. Once the current restoration feature of the museum is complete (see their website for PROJECT 1918) the Flakpanzer will be highlighted as the primary conservation focus of the team.

Historically, the Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind was a conversion of the standard Panzer IV medium tank into an anti-aircraft vehicle for armoured units of the German Wehrmacht. As Allied aircraft dominated the skies of Europe in 1944, the Wirbelwind was a creative but vain effort to protect German tank forces from destruction.

Other than the Canadian artifact; the only other existing example can be found at Militärhistorische Ausstellung Flugabwehr, Kiel (Germany) (Historical Military Anti-aircraft Exhibition)







Before Pickering raises children's sport fees by 62%, families deserve an explanation

By John Meloche

Imagine signing up two children for a City of Pickering sport program, one hour a week for ten weeks. At the current hourly rate, the bill comes to $163.40. Under the City's draft 2027 user fees, those same twenty hours would cost $265. As a father, I'd have a simple question before paying that extra $101.60. What changed between this year and next?

On page 19 of the draft, the City proposes raising the hourly fee for its "Children's Sport" programs from $8.17 to $13.25, effective March 25. That's a 62.2 per cent increase in a single year. Across 728 fee lines where I could directly compare the current and proposed prices, the average change was 3.7 per cent. Parents registering a child for sport have good reason to ask why their increase is so far above that figure.

One clue appears on the next page. The City proposes charging children and youth the same $13.25 hourly rate for sport. Youth sport already costs $11.83, so the increase for that age group would be 12 per cent. A common price might make the fee schedule simpler to administer. The draft gives parents no explanation for why the two rates should be identical, or why families with younger children should absorb the entire adjustment in one spring.

The same question runs through the arts programs. Children's art would go from $5.83 to $8.50 an hour, up nearly 46 per cent. Youth art would land at the same price after a 28 per cent increase. Youth specialty programs would jump from $8.99 to $17.42 an hour, nearly double, bringing them to the same rate as children's specialty programs. Council should ask what it actually costs to deliver these programs before settling on a common price.

What worries me most is the registration City Hall will never see. A parent opens the registration page intending to sign up both kids, sees the total and decides to wait until summer. A teenager who wanted to try an art class decides it's too expensive to try something they might not like. Neither family is likely to call a councillor. And if staff are counting on higher fees to bring in more revenue, how many families can walk away before that calculation stops working?

During the election, Ward 2 Councillor Mara Nagy called for more multi-use sport courts and updated playgrounds. Ward 1 Councillor James Blair has spoken about the importance of giving young people access to community sports regardless of their family's financial circumstances. I agree with both of them. A public court is a worthwhile investment. So is the introductory class where a child learns enough to feel comfortable joining a game there. The price of that first opportunity deserves as much attention as the facility itself.

I'm asking Council to send the steepest increases back to staff. Publish the cost per participant and last year's enrolment. Show residents how much additional revenue these changes would generate if registrations hold steady, and how much if participation falls. Then put a phased increase alongside the proposed one and tell us what it would cost to keep entry-level programs within reach.

Residents have until November 30 to comment on the draft user fees. If these prices would lead your family to register one child instead of two, skip a session or give up an activity altogether, tell the City at Let's Talk Pickering. Council needs to hear from the parents who might quietly close that registration page while there is still time to give them a reason to come back.