



BREWER SKATE PARK **YEAR END REPORT**

2008 - 2009 Annual General Meeting
Pacers Speed Skating Club of Ottawa

7:00 - 9:00 PM
Ottawa Citizen Conference Room
1101 Baxter Road
Ottawa, Ontario

The Brewer Skate Park base ice preparations began on December 08, 2008 when 22 cm. of snow fell. The ice foundation continued into 2009 but the skate park officially opened its “board doors” to the public on December 25, 2008.

Some skaters took to the Oval’s rough ice surface, with - 10 temperatures on Christmas Day. Three days later, the thermometer climbed to +10 with an abundance of rain, which is good weather when building ice. The rain assisted in creating a solid base, the most important step in making good ice.

This season, I spent more time preparing a thick base, to save work down the road. The extra work paid off, as the 8 inches of ice was thick enough to withstand the 26 mm of rain and the warm temperatures during the skating season. As the season ended on March 04, 2009, due to the snow removal machinery contract having had expired, a few inches of ice were still present on the Oval and in both hockey boxes.

Duration of season

The Brewer Skate Park, which includes the 400 meter Speed Skating Oval and two (2) hockey rinks with boards, remained open to the public from December 25, 2008 to March 04, 2009, allowing for 61 days of hockey and skating. This season, the park was closed for 7 days due to inclement weather. Inclement weather is recognized as rain days; warm temperatures which may cause ice damage and heavy snow falls.

Attendance

Many patrons attended the skate park and made good use of the Oval and of the 2 hockey rinks. The skate park was host to an impressive number of special events as well as many outdoor rink permits. A total of **25, 890** persons attended at the park, to skate and play hockey.

Statistics at a glance

- Park opened to the public 68 days
- Closed due to inclement weather 7 days
- Patrons 25,890 (person-hours)
- Special events 10
- Permits 24

Average usage in person-hours per day:

- **2008-2009 = 411**
- 2007-2008 = 322
- 2006-2007 = 303
- 2005-2006 = 415
- 2004-2005 = 279
- 2003-2004 = 325

Snow Removal Equipment

The equipment used to remove snow, maintain the ice surfaces and clean up the grounds, was used daily. Mountainview Golf & Athletic Turf Specialists supplied the equipment as they have done in the past. This season, the tractor needed repairs on 5 occasions. The repairs needed to be performed quickly because competitions were ongoing. Mountainview responded as they always do, expediently and effectively. After consultation with Mr. Bill Hamilton (Mountainview), a more recent tractor will be supplied next season.

Partnerships

Again this season, success and good ice at The Brewer Skate Park could not have been achieved without the assistance from our important partners. The strong efforts towards the removal of snow and flooding duties was exceptional. I would like to mention a few of our partners.

- The Ottawa Pacers Speed Skating Club parents and athletes are the glue that hold the park together. The assistance provided to me with the installation and dismantling of the oval boards, snow removal, flooding of the ice, general clean up duties, track marking, supervision during competitions and during speed skating practices was of great assistance again this season.
- The partnership developed with the Ottawa Center Minor Hockey Association Parents is due to the planning and coordination efforts of Mr. Doug Heintz Grove. I look forward to working with Doug and the parents again next season. Their help with snow removal and flooding of the hockey boxes on 4 evenings each week was outstanding.
- The Chris Barrett Hockey Team plays every Saturday morning. The players clean the ice boxes, before and after the games. They remain behind after their game to flood the hockey boxes when required.
- The Gloucester Concorde parents and athletes continue to provide an important service to the Brewer Skate Park by participating in the snow removal and providing assistance during the Speed Skating Competitions and Long Track Camp.

Outdoor Rink Permits

- Season-long permits by OCMHA
- The “Old Ottawa South Hockey Playing Dads”
- Ottawa South Old-Timers Hockey League”
- Westboro Academy’s “Skate Day”
- Louis Riel Sports Etudes School
- Marathon Skating International

Outdoor Rink Permits cont.

- Brewer Dad's Hockey League
- Westboro Academy Skatethon
- West End Hockey League
- Westboro Academy Annual Valentine's Skating Party
- Regional Long Track Speed Skating Competition
- Carleton Intermural Hockey League
- City of Ottawa Recreational Skating School, Learn to Skate Program
- Bytown (MSI) International Marathon Skating Event
- Bell Cup International Hockey Teams practices (Los Angeles and Calgary teams)
- Trevor Stevado Hockey Team
- Alan Painter Birthday Party

Paid employees

Mr. Greg Bennett was not hired this season. Greg has extensive experience at the skate park as he worked here for many years but volunteers stepped in this season and his assistance was therefore not required.

Mr. Stephen Halliburton continued to complete rink attendant and ice maintenance duties. Steve's duties were mainly those of removing snow and watering the ice. Steve's hours were reduced as well due to the strong volunteer base. Steve's hours were mainly evening hours and on some weekends. His residence faces the park and he is in a good position to keep an eye on things.

Steve's father continued to assist me by opening up the shack in the early morning hours, when necessary and he kept an eye on the park late at night. His help and vigilance as in past years, was most welcome. I am sure that he prevented some damages to the shack and the trailers by being present late at night.

Mr Brad Fackoury is a new employee. Brad worked 5 shifts only but I was very impressed with the quality of his work and his quick response when I called him to come in. Brad learns fast and will someday make a good mechanical engineer. I would like to increase his shifts next season. Brad resides close by and attends Carleton University.

City Support

Personnel of the City of Ottawa, Brewer Arena and Parks and Recreation, continue to assist the Ottawa Pacers Speed Skating Club by providing effective responses to the ongoing needs at the park. During the entire skating season, I am in regular contact with Mr Rock DesRivieres, Supervisor with Parks and Recreation and with the Brewer Arena staff who assist me by using the Zamboni on the Oval and on the small hockey rink to shave the ice. Special thanks to Ben. Moe and Curtis.

Equipment storage

All of the equipment necessary in the daily operations of the Brewer Skate Park has been stored in the spare room at the Brewer Arena and in the office located within the red shack. The safety mats are now being stored at the Brewer Arena and I have made arrangements to store the water tank and the benches at the Swansea City facility. This was made possible by Mr Roch DesRivieres of the City of Ottawa.

2007 – 2008 Recommendations

Snow removal equipment

- I recommended that the tractor be equipped with a cabin as this was a health and safety concern. This point was addressed and the tractor is now being operated with a cabin, making snow maintenance and snow removal a safe duty.

Completed

- The snowblower portion is located at the rear of the tractor. In order to operate the snowblower successfully, the driver must look to the rear to ensure that the blower is collecting snow and be able to see where the tractor is being directed at the same time. While this is being done, the snow that is being collected in the chute is being forced out as the tractor reverses and it inevitably ends up in the rear windshield causing blind spots and serious safety issues for the tractor operator.

This issue has not been addressed, I continue to liaise with Mountainview and I am hopeful that it will be actioned next season.

Oval Committee

I had proposed that the structure of the Oval Committee be revamped to one, which is official.

The Oval Committee was never formed in 2008-2009. I am satisfied that this point has been addressed, as I still see no benefit to this committee. I was able to access a strong volunteer base without attending meetings.

2008-2009 Highlights

Supervisor's Scheduling

Last season, I recommended that volunteers come forward and get involved. The call was answered and the **Brewer Skate Park Supervisor's Schedule** was created and implemented on Sunday, January 04, 2009. Thank you to all of you who attended the park and helped out by wearing your safety vest, ensuring that the patrons were safe, kept hockey players off then Oval and attended to the injured. Special thanks to:

- Mike Slivitsky
- Martha Shires
- Louis L'arrivée
- Lisa Meyer
- Susan Townley
- Jim Townley

Track Marking

Mike Rivet suggested that poker chips and trail webbing be used to mark the track so that the ice can be preserved when the temperatures get warmer. His suggestion was implemented and the track was saved when the warm weather and hot sun hit the ice at season's end. This technique will continue to be used as it saves time and effort. Mike and Jim Townley spent many hours drilling and cutting the ice to accommodate the webbing and the chips. Thank you Gentlemen.

Trailers

In addition to the on-site shack, a trailer was supplied this season to accommodate the large number of patrons who use the Brewer Park facilities. Over time, the shack which is a solid structure has proven to be inadequate to house the hockey players, the speed skaters and the patrons who attend, to skate. The shack which is insufficient in size, is poorly ventilated, is lacking a bathroom and contains only a single in and out door is in need of urgent repairs and upgrades. The single access in and out door is a safety hazard and a concern to the many parents of small children who get bumped on a regular basis by those who enter the shack quickly. The door contains no window and patrons are unable to see who is standing near the door or about to enter or exit.

The newly supplied trailer was necessary and accommodated the many patrons to the park. It permitted a safe number of patrons to use the shack with the overflow of patrons, now, making good use of the trailer. No accidents or injuries were reported inside the shack this season, as the number of persons using it was reduced to a safe number, due to the addition of the trailer.

Hockey nets

The supplied hockey nets which are now in the shack, are in need of repairs. The mesh is old, brittle and broken and needs to be replaced. As well, the weld at the base and in the corners of 2 of the hockey nets, has come apart and requires rewelding. Roch DesRivieres of Parks and Recreation has been advised. The netting must be purchased by the Pacers and the weld will be repaired by the City.

Pete Gauthier

Brewer Skate Park Manager (2008-2009)
Ottawa Pacers Speed Skating Club