



BREWER SKATE PARK YEAR END REPORT

2009 - 2010 Annual General Meeting Pacers Speed Skating Club of Ottawa

April 29, 2010 (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
Ottawa Citizen Conference Room, 1101 Baxter Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Saturday, October 31, 2009, members from the Pacers and the Concordes took part in the installation of the speed skating boards as the first phase of the skating season commenced.

The work to prepare the base foundation (expected to last until the month of March 2010) began on December 09, 2008 when 22 cm. of snow fell. The base preparation continued into 2010 due to rain showers and warm temperatures but the skate park officially opened its doors to the public on December 21, 2009.

This season, I tried a different technique to prepare the base. Less time was spent driving motor vehicles on the oval and on the hockey rinks but more time was given to Mother Nature to compact the snow after misting water over all of the surfaces. The temperatures co operated and the base preparation took one week to complete. This technique will only work if forecasted temperatures are accurate and luck is on your side, as was the case this year.

Season duration

The Brewer Skate Park remained open to the public from December 21, 2009 to February 22, 2010. The park was closed for 7 days due to inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as rain day; warm temperatures (which may cause ice damage) and heavy snow falls.

Attendance

The park continues to be a very popular location for hockey and skating. The skate park was host to an impressive number of special events as well as many outdoor rink permits. A total of 26,804 (person hours) attended at the park during the outdoor skating season.

Statistics at a glance

- Park opened to the public 56 days
- Closed due to inclement weather 7 days
- Patrons 26,804 (person-hours)
- Special events 10
- Permits 24

Average usage in person-hours per day

- **2009-2010 = 479**
- 2008-2009 = 411
- 2007-2008 = 322
- 2006-2007 = 303
- 2005-2006 = 415
- 2004-2005 = 279
- 2003-2004 = 325

Heavy Snow Removal Equipment

Mountainview Golf & Athletic Turf Specialists supplied the snow removal equipment. The equipment was used to remove snow, maintain the ice surfaces and clean up the grounds. A newer tractor was to be supplied for use at the park but such was not the case. The same tractor as in previous years was supplied to the Pacers and this season, it required maintenance, adjustments and repairs throughout the skating season.

On a few occasions, hydraulic fluid and oil leaked on the ice as the machinery was being operated. This caused the ice to melt and repairs were required. The tractor was towed away for repairs on 3 occasions.

Partnerships secured

The Brewer Skate Park is known for being a safe place to play winter sports, for its clean grounds and of course for its good ice conditions. Brewer Skate Park is the most popular park in the City of Ottawa as well as the busiest. Partnerships developed over the years make all of this possible.

- **The Ottawa Pacers Speed Skating** Club parents and athletes continue to be the glue that holds the park together. The assistance provided to me with the installation and the dismantling of the oval boards, the snow removal, the flooding of the ice, the general clean up of the grounds, the track marking, the supervision during competitions, during speed skating practices, on weekends and in the evening hours was of great assistance. **Thank you Pacers !**

- The Ottawa Center Minor Hockey Parents Association assistance during the skating season was headed by Mr. **Doug HeinzGroves**. Doug has had this responsibility for two years now and at season's end, he officially turned the reigns over to Mr **Craig Piche**, a parent with the Association. I had occasion to meet and work with Craig on numerous occasions throughout the season and I look forward to continue this positive relationship. The parent's duties include snow removal along the boards of the small hockey box as well as watering. The Association's assistance was outstanding.

- The **Trevor Stevado** Hockey Team plays every Saturday morning on the large hockey box. I ensure that the ice surface is clean for them to play and they always shovelled the snow away from the boards after every game, which assisted me, especially on a Saturday when extra volunteer help is hard to find.

- **The Gloucester Concordes** parents and athletes continued to provide an important service to the Brewer Skate Park by participating in the snow removal and providing assistance to me in various functions during the Speed Skating Competitions and Long Track Camp. In particular, it is important that I mention the long hours that **Mark Morris and Denis Dehaitre** spent at the park working together, completing various assigned duties and all done with a smile.

Partnerships cont.

- Mr. **Mike Rivet** once again headed the marking of the speed skating track in preparation for the Provincial Speed Skating Championships. His original idea of using poker chips and trail webbing was again used and worked well to highlight the lanes and starting lines. I recommend that this technique continues to be utilized and that trail webbing as well as a small generator be purchased to facilitate this task.

- **Jim and Susan Townley** of the Pacers Speed Skating Club assisted regularly with by completing an assortment of duties and tasks at the park and they were both familiar faces at the park for the duration of the season. **Susan and Jim** could be observed shovelling snow, watering the oval and the hockey boxes, cleaning up the grounds, supervising the ongoing activities and generally keeping an eye on things to ensure that the events unfolded without any issues. **Jim** further volunteered his time during the day to free the ice of snow so that the many schools that use the Oval could do so, safely.

2009– 2010 Permit Applications

- OCMHA hockey teams season permit
- Speed Skating training Camp – Ottawa Pacers
- Louis Riel Public School season permit
- Ottawa Pacers training and practices
- Jeremy Strong Carleton University Engineering
- Trevor Stevado Hockey Team
- Westboro Academy Valentine Party
- Westboro Academy skating days
- Bytown Marathon
- Provincial Long Track Championships
- Mike Burnett hockey team
- Gloucester Rangers hockey practices
- Lori Meyers birthday party
- Blair Whitford Food Bank Fundraiser (hockey)
- Hockey Day in Canada
- Cora C Petite Ringette, City of Ottawa Recreational Training School
- Ottawa Sting Major A hockey
- Kids Sports Fundraiser on Oval

Permit Applications cont.

- Hugh Kellam City of Ottawa Ringette
- Assembly of First Nations hockey
- Westboro Academy and Hopewell School Oval Party
- Brewer Dad's Hockey League
- Carleton Intramural Hockey League

Paid employees

Stephen Halliburton continued to be employed by the Ottawa Pacers and completed rink attendant and ice maintenance duties. His duties this season were mainly those of supervision and snow removal when volunteer help was not available. Steve's hours were reduced this season and remained mainly evening and weekends hours of work.

Mr. Halliburton (Steve's father) continued to assist me by opening up the shack in the early morning hours, when I was away on business. He and Steve further continued to keep an observation point on the park late at night. The park was victim to only one criminal occurrence this season and no trailers were damaged.

Additional paid help was required late at night to ensure the safety of the park prior to the Provincial Speed Skating championships to ensure that the ice was not damaged by hockey players who use the oval in the nearly morning hours.. Mr **Brock Anderson** and Mr **Matt Emerson** completed the security guard role for 9 hours

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 **Shane Pitre (supervisor), Ben, Moe, Brent, Curtis, Shane (Zamboni drivers), Jeff, Chris, Mike and Zak.**

Recommendations

- Mountainview Turf continues to supply dated and unreliable equipment after having promised new equipment. I recommend that this equipment be **put to tender** for price and service contract. The tractor's driver compartment must be enclosed and heated, the snow blower attachment must be operated from the front of the unit and the front and rear windshields must each contain motor operated wipers. This is of course required and necessary for good visibility and for the safety of the operator.

- That while the tractor is removing snow by use of the snow blower attachment or displacing snow by use of the broom attachment, that the Oval skating surface be **closed to the public** as is the case when the hockey boxes are being cleaned of snow. This is to be implemented without exception for the safety of the public whenever the tractor is on the Oval.

Pete Gauthier

Brewer Skate Park Manager (2009-2010)
Ottawa Pacers Speed Skating Club