

The ROCKWOOD Miller



Ice tennis anyone?

By: Vivien Fleisher

It's been such a great winter for all manner of outdoor sports this year that to some rugged individualists, it seems a shame to waste it on only conventional activities like tobogganing and skating. If you're just as passionate about summer sports as winter ones, hybrid sports are your friend. Sometimes they're a blend of related activities, like 'pickleball', which combines tennis with aspects of badminton and ping pong. But in other cases, they're opposites. Such is the case with ice tennis, which blends tennis with skating, and was played for the first time on the outdoor ice rink at Lloyd Dyer Park on Saturday by several members of the Rockwood Tennis Club and a few non-members. For tennis club President Stephen Campbell, it was a dream come true: He had wanted to do this for ages. Conditions at the volunteer-run outdoor rink were perfect Saturday, notwithstanding the



The sound of skate blades mixed with bouncing tennis balls at the first-ever Ice Tennis event at Lloyd Dyer park on Saturday.

steady fall of puffy white snowflakes. Campbell praised local Ken Cornelisse for his steadfast maintenance of the rink throughout the season, while thanking Greville Bowles who was integral in line painting and supplying net supports.

Ice tennis requires proficiency in two areas, but anyone could see that skating was the number-one skill required. Campbell said, "The tennis itself

was quite awesome and fast, very similar to playing on grass as the ball skidded off the surface," and they enjoyed "long rallies, great gets, great shots, aces and double faults." If your enthusiasm outranks your skating ability, it's probably not for you, which he said made it hard to recruit players. But apart from that, it's the same game, with 20 per cent less bounce of the ball on ice compared

to a court.

Though he's long dreamed of it, Campbell cannot take credit for its invention, and says this hybrid can be traced back to the turn of the last century. However, he dreams of one day watching it played at the Olympic level. Until then, residents can give it a try themselves at the next event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 24 at Lloyd Dyer Park in Rockwood.

The story behind the Max Storey Rink

By: Vivien Fleisher

Without an arena, the town of Rockwood relies on a small army of volunteers to keep the surprising number of outdoor rinks going all winter. With fickle weather to contend with, these volunteers are truly the unsung heroes of winter. With three outdoor rinks in a village of 5,000, Guelph/Eramosa's website reminds residents that "The success of outdoor rinks is in the hands of our community members." At the Max Storey rink on Dunbar St. in Rockwood, that success is very much on display at the eight-year-old rink that looks like a miniature Maple Leaf Gardens, thanks to a lot of dedication and one very generous donation by Guelph Line resident Tony Belbeck, who gave the town his rink after he conceded that it was under-used at his rural location. This year, it got bigger when more boards were added. Costs, like water and hydro, are covered between the community and the town, which last year kicked in some money to help buy the tarp beneath the ice that helps retain the considerable amount of water needed to create a surface that size. According to volunteer Richard Dopheide, it functions more like a tub so they can get through prolonged warm patches.

Prior to the donation by Belbeck, Dopheide spearheaded the Max

Storey rink by creating one in his own backyard, flooding and maintaining it and letting the neighborhood use it, even winning the Tim Horton's sponsored the Guelph-area back-yard rink contest three years ago. Todd Bertuzzi attended, along with some of the Guelph Storm.

Today, he and six other main volunteers run the bigger, fancier rink in the bowl of Max Storey park. They raise money by advertising to about seventeen businesses, allowing for the replacement of last year's ripped up tarp. Volunteers honored the 100th anniversary of the Leafs last year, with a nod to the Stanley Cup win 50 years ago painted at one end. Times can't be booked, and there's an informal understanding that skating and hockey alternate every two hours. All ages come out.

Another volunteer, Tony, built the benches this year. The town stores all the materials during the off-season, and levelled the site for the rink. They even have a Facebook page.

Dopheide said that for him personally, it's time to step back a little, but in his place, Tiffanie Thompson is stepping up. He added that the rink is used more and more each year. "Nobody's doing it for recognition. They're doing it for community." And, they're always looking for volunteers.



LOVING TEA: Lisa Robson (left) and son Taylor Beattie, Nancy Beattie and her son Eric enjoy Valentine's Tea at Rockwood's St. Johns Parish Hall on Saturday. - Vivien Fleisher photo

G&T Guelph/Eramosa Township

Older Adult Centre WORKSHOPS



Art Drop In
Tuesday, February 20th
1:00pm-3:00pm
Rockmosa Older Adult Centre
FREE

A time and place for artists of all abilities to gather, create and learn from one another.



Hand-Stitching Drop In
Tuesday, February 27th
1:00pm-3:00pm
Rockmosa Older Adult Centre
FREE

Laugh and talk while you quilt, knit, sew, embroider or crochet. Bring your stitching and we will work and learn alongside each other!



Cooking Class – A Trip Around the World
Tuesday, March 6th
12:00pm Rockmosa Older Adult Centre **\$30**

Join Hendrik as he takes us around the world to sample delicious foods from different countries.
Mexico: Fried Cheese,
Hungary: Goulash,
France: The Best Crème Brûlée You've Ever Had!

Please register in advance for these programs. Program Funding provided by the Government of Canada.

Visit www.get.on.ca for ongoing program information.

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