

WDRA Youth Forum Workshop

SUMMARY

On Monday evening, July 18th, 2011, approximately 50 young people, parents, interested parties, WDRA board members, and Ad Hoc Committee members met in the Westmeath Hall to hear presentations by our local young people.

During the first part of the evening, the following young presenters expressed their thoughts and wishes with regard to recreational and sports activities held at the Westmeath Recreational Centre: Madison Rabb, Whitney Quenneville, Tanner Bromley, Cailin Bromley, Charlene Ethier, Ashley McDonald, Belinda Seliner, Cole Drapeau, Megan Gilchrist, Luc Ethier and Brandon McDonald. They all did a terrific job and it was greatly appreciated by the organizers.

A common theme was the appreciation of having access to, and enjoyment in the use of the facilities. The rink especially has meant much to generations of residents, especially through hockey. One presenter wanted her children to be able to enjoy the same facilities in future. Others said that our kitchen was the best of any of the arenas, along with the hall and what it offers.

Some said that events held in the Recreation Centre are particularly enjoyable; especially seasonal and holiday festivities for the family. Things like an Easter Egg hunt would fit in well too. Others expressed a wish for new sporting activities; organized soccer (outside and/or inside), floor hockey league and roller skating capability in summer on the arena floor, and basketball hoops.

Comments were also made regarding the need for improvements to the facilities; such as replacing the time clock, fixing the change room benches, perhaps adding heaters, and enlarging the trophy case. To attract competitive ice hockey teams, it was suggested that the rink would need to enlarge its ice surface, fix and add heating to stands, and provide separate changing rooms (presently competitors must share showers).

For the second part of the evening, two teams made up of kids and adults were set up to answer 4 questions. The following reflects the filled flipchart pages of both teams.

1. What should be included under the label "Recreation"?

- a. Social get-togethers; such as Canada Day, Winter Carnival, Kids'N'Cops fishing
- b. Sports; such as hockey, soccer, baseball, roller skating, volleyball, ice skating, skateboarding
- c. Clubs: such as 4-H
- d. Family fun events, Movie nights
- e. Church Suppers
- f. Tournaments; cards, bingo, games, trivia nights
- g. Helping out & fundraisers
- h. Concerts: school, Christmas, Spring Fling
- i. Health & fitness: Exercise classes, First Aid Training
- j. Weddings, stag & does, birthdays

- k. Fishing & hunting (Big Buck Contest?)
- l. Dances
- m. Shuffleboard, Horseshoes

2. What are you active in NOW?

- a. Organized Sports: hockey, baseball, soccer, skiing, kayaking, camping, karate, running, biking, volleyball, basketball, fastball, golf, lacrosse,
- b. Clubs: Pioneer Girls, 4-H,
- c. Summer Camps
- d. Fitness & health: Fitness Class, Zumba, walking
- e. Church: choir, activities
- f. Outdoors: fishing, camping, hunting, boating, dune bugging, pump track, nature exploration
- g. Spectator sports
- h. Painting, scrapbooking, card making, reading
- i. Computers: X-Box

3. What would you participate in if it was made available? (trying to keep it realistic)

- a. Sports: rollerblading, soccer, basketball, football, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, Nerf tag games, road hockey, shuffle board, badminton
- b. Bike pump track, skate board park
- c. Theatre group
- d. Movie nights- indoor and outdoor
- e. Dances - < than 11 and greater > 12

4. What would other members of your family, including your parents, participate in if it was made available? (trying to keep it realistic)

- a. Sports: darts, badminton, shuffleboard, broomball, snow shoeing
- b. Book Club
- c. Art Club
- d. Quilting Club
- e. Drama Club
- f. Cards (eg. Poker or Euchre) club
- g. Cooking club
- h. Comedy night; like Yuk Yuk's, Karaoke night
- i. Pub night
- j. Skill improvement seminars: computer, ballroom dancing, Yoga, karate.

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