



Recreational Planning Community Survey

From the Westmeath & District Recreation Association Ad Hoc Committee

Dear Resident:

In June 2011, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to study the delivery of recreational services at the Westmeath Recreation Centre. This survey is part of strategic planning process currently underway. The results will be used to guide the Committee in recommending to the WDRA Board future programming and recreation services.

If you have questions, comments or need help please use "Contact Us" on www.westmeathtoday.ca
OR call 613-587-4502

To return the completed survey before Oct. 21st, 2011 please use the marked drop boxes at:

1. the Hall or the Arena entrance doors at the Westmeath Recreation Centre;
2. Lacroix's Store in La Passe; Kenny's Store in Westmeath or the Westmeath Post Office.

The Ad Hoc Committee appreciates your time to complete this survey!

Your responses will be kept confidential.

If you want to enter your name in a draw for a family skating pass for 2011-12, please fill out the entry form at the end of the survey. Draw to take place Oct. 31.

Outdoor Recreation

1. Which outdoor recreation activities or hobbies do you or members of your household participate in?
(Please check (✓) all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting (30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf (20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball (19) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing (47) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis (0) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey (29) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (37) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking (14) | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer (18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming (22) | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing (11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling (20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking (44) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening (41) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running (13) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching (15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Photography (13) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list below (16): snowshoeing (5); 4-wheeling (3); skiing (6); mudding (1); rugby (1) |

2. What **outdoor** programs, events or activities would you or members of your household participate in if offered by the Westmeath & District Recreation Association (WDRA)? Please describe below.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Soccer (9); | golf; | exercise classes; walking | bike jumping (pump |
| hunting (4); | Baseball (3); | group/club (3); | track) |
| snowmobiling; | pick-up hockey; | walking; | Street hockey, |
| kayaking (2); | fishing (3); | canoe/kayak lessons; | hockey, |
| nature photography; | mountain biking; | horseback riding (2); | ultimate frisbee |
| tennis; | horseshoes (2); | sleigh rides; | tournaments, |
| adult mixed softball; | | | bicycle excursions, |

bird watching,
groomed cross-country
skiing or snowshoeing
trails;
photography class (4)
(nature theme);

walking trails (2) (off
season of snowshoeing
& cross-country skiing);
GPS class;
cycling for seniors
Skating (3),

outdoor hockey rink
(with lights);
winter carnival;
outdoor BBQ;
organized bird walks;
bus trips;
fishing tournaments;

hunting tournaments;
target shooting;
farmer's market

Indoor Recreation

3. Which indoor recreation activities or hobbies do you or members of your household participate in?
(Please check (✓) all that apply below)

☐ Curling (5)

☐ Fitness classes (25)

☐ Bingo (14)

☐ Trivia events (26)

☐ Games (board games, cards etc.) (19)
Please list the games you enjoy below:
Crokinole (2), monopoly, poker

☐ Skating (37)

☐ Hockey (27)

☐ Ringette (2)

☐ Broomball (5)

☐ Crafts (e.g. sewing, quilting, needlepoint,
photography, scrapbooking etc.) (18)
Please list the crafts you enjoy below:
**Knitting (2), scrapbooking, tole painting, paper tole,
cardmaking**

☐ Other: Please describe below:
Music lessons, woodworking, bridge (2)

4. Which indoor recreation areas at the Westmeath Recreation Centre have you or members of your household used in the past 12 months? (Please check (✓) all that apply)

☐ None, no use of indoor areas (4)

☐ Arena Ice (e.g. public skating, hockey) (36)

☐ Community Hall (e.g. for fitness classes, Riverview Social Club, special events etc.) (47)

☐ Arena concrete ice pad (off-season April-October) (7)

☐ Other: Please describe below (1)

5. What **indoor** programs, events or activities would you or members of your household participate in if offered by the Westmeath & District Recreation Association (WDRA)? Please describe below.

Hockey (4);
board games (2);
indoor soccer (2);
shuffle board (2);
Bingo (4);
trivia;
scrapbooking;
teen dances (13-17 yrs.,
NO little kids);
ballroom dance classes
(2);

quilting class;
broomball;
ringette;
Public skating (5);
crafts (2);
seniors skate (2)
(weekday morning or
evening, NO hockey
sticks);
Westmeath Days;
Christmas events;

comedy show (had one
a few years ago, was a
lot of fun and good turn
out);
figure skating for girls;
darts;
tennis;
ball hockey;
Basketball (2);
badminton (2);
volleyball,

fitness classes (4) (that I
can bring my kids to(1),
yoga;
computer course (2);
photography course;
euchre tournaments (6);
cribbage tournament;
gym equipment
(fitness);
special events;
foot care clinic;

library;
pub nights (2);
garage sale;
pot luck suppers (2);
dances;

special presentations (2)
e.g. entertainers,
educational &
inspirational speakers,

local musicians and
talent, plays/theatre;
all existing events e.g.
Soup & Sandwich,
dinners, dances and all

should make profit for
WDRA

Recreation & Cultural Activities

6. How do you or members of your household find out about recreation and cultural activities offered in Westmeath and area? (Please check (✓) all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website (www.westmeathtoday.ca) (14) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper ads (7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WDRA monthly newsletter (57) | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters or flyers (25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From talking to others (word of mouth) (51) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Radio (e.g. MyFM, Heritage Valley etc.) (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: belonging to Riverview Social Club; member of WDRA Board | |

7. Of the following programs offered by the WDRA, how important is it to continue to offer these activities? Please check (✓) one box beside each activity listed.

| Activity | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Important | Don't know |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Baseball | 20 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| Annual Fishing Tournament | 22 | 13 | 3 | 3 |
| Canada Day Celebration | 34 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Winter Carnival | 31 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| Hockey | 33 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Skating | 28 | 12 | 0 | 2 |
| Fitness Programs | 26 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 4-H Activities | 34 | 8 | 0 | 5 |
| Youth dances | 23 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Annual Golf Tournament | 17 | 11 | 7 | 3 |
| Special Events | 27 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| Dance classes | 8 | 13 | 6 | 4 |
| Other: Christmas parade & Santa visit; Halloween kids party; soup & sandwich; trivia night | | | | |

| 8. In your opinion, are there enough recreation and cultural activities (indoor & outdoor) in the Westmeath area for each of the following groups: Please check (✓) one box beside each group listed. | | | | |
|---|--------|------------|------------|--|
| Group | Enough | Not Enough | Don't know | Suggestions for Activities ... |
| Children (10 and under) | 9 | 11 | 11 | The more involved our young people can be... the more chance of remaining involved as they become older; soccer; playgroups, "tot" activities e.g. parent/tot skating mid-week; all ages – groomed walking/running/snowshoeing/skiing trails |
| Youth (11-18) | 15 | 13 | 7 | Guides/boy scouts; drop-in nights for crafts/activities; soccer |
| Adults (19-44) | 11 | 10 | 13 | Theatre & music; yoga, exercise class, women's hockey; maybe another adult hockey league |
| Adults (45-64) | 12 | 9 | 11 | Free skating; Theatre & music |
| Adults (65+) | 18 | 6 | 6 | Hockey for seniors; Theatre & music; seniors/adult-only skate – no hockey, no speedsters |

| 9. If you were confident that an increase in local municipal taxes would go directly to increase local recreation and culture programs, what <u>maximum</u> tax increase per year would you support? | |
|--|---|
| 9 | None, no tax increase [this question doesn't make sense as the premise cannot be substantiated; my taxes are already high enough; whatever increase is necessary to completely cover OPERATIONAL costs – fundraising should be only for special events] |
| 20 | 1% increase per year (\$20 per year on \$2000 tax bill) |
| 7 | 2% increase per year (\$40 per year on \$2000 tax bill) [Westmeath rink only] |
| 3 | 3% increase per year (\$60 per year on \$2000 tax bill) [if programs offered at low cost; only if I knew it was definitely going to Westmeath] |

| 10. What do you believe are the top priorities for the Westmeath & District Recreation Association in the next 5 years? Please list below. | |
|--|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the hall a pleasant & welcoming place Manage effectively use of ice & ball park time through harmonized booking with Beachburg, Cobden, Foresters Falls To keep a sense of community Fix downstairs Hockey (4) & maintain ice (2) Community gathering and community building More cooperation/support between the various associations and groups e.g. rink vs. hall personnel; WDRA & Seniors Fix roof Upkeep of community centre to code Increase interest in community events Fixing ice surface, insulation and roof |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain facility/rejuvenate (4); arena area used only 6 months/yr. • Rink • Strategic plan • Recruitment and training programs for volunteers • Build a 5-year business plan and deliver it • Keep the R.A. functioning • Increase public skating time • Program development • Make facility available to the community • Encourage community/family events – promote people getting together for fun/social • Repairing/redesigning dressing rooms • Keeping the building going • Better ventilation downstairs • Keeping in touch with residents to ensure responding to needs • Lobby Whitewater Council for equal treatment as Cobden and Beachburg & sustainable resources • Getting more volunteers involved • Maintain sporting activities for youngsters and teens – hockey • Soccer • Girls pick-up hockey • Fix the roof (2) |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hockey going; we're Canadian • Do necessary upgrades to keep building in good shape • To look at the whole picture not upstairs/downstairs • Public skating (2) • Hall activities • Educational programs for all groups • Fundraising and obtaining grants to maintain and upgrade the building • Heaters and clock • Welcoming newcomers to the area • Accessibility to hall (elevator or better entrance ramp) • Keeping our hockey in Westmeath • Create new programs to give kids opportunities • Programs for fitness offered at evening hours • Need other storage area for older chairs and new tables as any performances that use the stage is limited because the stage houses the chairs, the side entrance to the stage houses the tables • Encouraging non-participating members of community to become participating members – join us! • Focus on building and equipment improvements in Jp2g recommendations • Make hockey affordable for young families • Facility upgrades & improvements • Building • Youth sports/activities to bring people outside and off the couch • Offering programs for all age groups – diversity |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping costs down while providing facilities/activities for the community residents • Heaters in rink (2) • Keeping people interested in supporting it [recreation centre] • Being open, welcoming and inclusive to potential volunteers & their ideas • Stabilize finances/municipal funding • Getting word out of programs • Outdoor year-round groomed trails • Ball hockey • More teenager opportunities • Fix the foundation |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors enjoy the hall & monthly luncheon • Nurture the spirit of volunteerism – crucial in small communities • To upkeep the building to be safe & clean, functional • Seniors programs/activities (2) • It would be nice to have the rink and hall the hub of the village, a meeting place for all • Upgrade arena area where fans sit outside • Town hall meetings • Obtain more funding • Manager to run facilities and help us expand (2) • Programs for adults e.g. cooking, dancing, cultural events • Focus on obtaining required funding to build a 5-year business plan • Community spirit • Continue to identify needs • Community health & physical fitness • Ceiling in rink (ice surface) • Maintenance of facility • Reach out to residents – if you don't have kids or are retired, there isn't a welcome mat • Letting people know how much they are needed to keep it all going • Baseball • Fix the rink • hockey |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Day is a good feeling among friends • To use what has worked in the past and build on it • Zamboni • Drama/dance presentations • Kids indoor programs • Focus on training & support for volunteers (includes succession planning) • Celebrations e.g. winter carnival, Canada Day • Develop funding • A broad view encouraging both on and off-site recreational activities • soccer |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skating • To find a means of keeping what we have in good order • Dehumidifier • Utilize rink and hall more |

- Continued emphasis on fitness and health

About You

11. Please list the number of people in your household for each of the following age groups?

| Age group (yrs.) | Number of males | Number of females |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Under 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 4-9 | 9 | 2 |
| 10-14 | 12 | 16 |
| 15-19 | 9 | 14 |
| 20-24 | 5 | 5 |
| 25-44 | 16 | 17 |
| 45-54 | 14 | 11 |
| 55-64 | 12 | 12 |
| 65-74 | 14 | 13 |
| 75-84 | 4 | 3 |
| 85+ | 0 | 0 |

12. Do you live in the Westmeath, La Passe, Perretton area on a seasonal basis?

☐ Yes (9) ☐ No (37)

If yes, in what seasons do you live in the area? (Please check (✓) all that apply)

☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ Fall ☐ Winter

Didn't total these because some that checked "no" also checked all 4 seasons (and some didn't)

13. Have we done enough to make our building accessible to everyone in your household?

☐ Yes (48) ☐ No (5)

Comments...

Hall entrance is dangerous & ugly and needs attention; stairs at front are dangerous in winter; entrance ramp & stairs should be changed; metal stairs are slippery when wet and dangerous (2) when the ice builds up; better entrance & update to washrooms & cloak room;

14. Are you or members of your household currently volunteering to support the work of the WDRA?

☐ Yes (25) ☐ No (22)

If yes, please **estimate the total hours per month** you and members of your household volunteer?

_____ total hours (all household members)

2 (2); 3 (1); 5 (1); 6 (1); 8 (1); 10 (3); 12 (1); 15 (1); 16 (1); 17 (1); 20 (3); 30 (1); varies (2)

2-10 hrs (9); 11-15 hrs (2); 16-20 hrs (5); 21 or more hrs (1); varies (2)

Note: 1st red line is the number of total volunteer hrs. reported followed by the number of people who said they volunteered at this number of hours in brackets; 2nd line is the number of hours in a range e.g. 9 people responded that they volunteered 2-10 hrs per month

NOTE: Tracking the number of volunteer or "in kind" hours that are given by volunteers is important to include in funding applications for money to support the work of the WDRA. These volunteer hours are given a high priority by those reviewing our funding applications.

If you have not volunteered for the WDRA may we contact you to discuss your availability to volunteer? (any amount of time is valued!)

☐ Yes (2)? Name:

My e-mail is:

Phone:

☐ Not at this time (10)

15. Is there anything else you would like to tell the Ad Hoc Committee?

- Keep up the great/good work (7)
- It [WDRA work] is not easy but it does keep the community alive, active and together!
- Often a thankless task. We appreciate your concern for the community.
- Thanks!
- It should remain a welcoming site as it is actually the hub of the community... a place for all ages to gather and enjoy, help & belong
- No, you are doing a great job
- Getting high school teenagers to volunteer for their hours of volunteering for school
- If funding cannot be found then some activities may need to be cut back or cancelled e.g. those activities may not raise enough funds to support themselves. Certain activities e.g. ice making and maintaining, require a lot of effort and \$ yet bring in very little money.
- Hopefully the work will continue
- Offer more hours for public skating to community at large
- Thank you all for your commitment
- I wonder if people who like to walk or need a walk for medical reasons would use the hall to walk during the winter months if it was open?
- Because of ice rentals to "the Aces," minor hockey has pathetic ice times; revenue is needed, yes, but if the community isn't allowed time to use it why are we volunteering our time; it is not an "Aces" centre or a "Seniors" centre, it is a "Community Centre!!"
- Apply for grants
- Very impressed with all your work
- I will volunteer myself for events as they come up and I have availability e.g. kids Halloween costume party, but I do not wish to be contacted, thank you.
- A new roof is needed