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Weather



TODAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD

HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -8



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -5



WEDNESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -2
LOW OF -7



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -9



FRIDAY:
30 PER CENT
CHANCE OF
FLURRIES
HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -10

Potton's multi-functional shelter (skating rink) a hub of holiday activity



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

With precautionary measures respected due to Covid's red zone categorization, Potton's multi-functional shelter skating rink has proven to be a hub of activity for children and families throughout the holiday period. Despite a few days of mild weather and a lack of ice (we are reminded that the maintenance of the ice relies on winter weather conditions), the recent drop in temperature has brought with it a good ice surface and a constant flow of people to enjoy the facility.

"While welcoming the excitement that the new rink has created, the municipality would like to remind citizens that we are still on high alert (red zone) in the pandemic," states the Potton website.

Applicable rules state that no more than 25 persons can be on the rink at one time and each must keep a distance of 2 meters. No more than six persons



Martine (daughter), Helene (grandmother) and Danika (granddaughter)

PHOTOS COURTESY

can be in the chalet and to date, attendees have been respectful of the rules and a joyous sense of community fills the air.

Free skate is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day, followed by stick and puck from 10 a.m. to noon. 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. is free skate and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. is stick and puck, and finally, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. is free skate and stick and puck from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Stick and puck allows players to practice their stick and puck handling and matches of up to 8 persons are allowed.

"As the rink monitor I have had no issues," shares Simeon Hastings-Sherrer. "The people are respectful and I am really enjoying the feel of the space where a sense of community gratitude fills the outdoor air with some skating, some sliding, and children playing on the playground and spectators enjoying the opportunity to be outside at a distance but in a social setting," he added.

This past Friday found 14-year-old Danika Robinson, her mom and grandmother all smiles as they enjoyed the free skate, making it a family affair. Municipal Council member Bruno Cote marvels at the sight of his own son and daughter who wait, with sticks in hand, to head off to the rink every chance they get.

"I'm not a big skater," shares Council member, Jason Ball. "But, as I stand at the sideboards watching the many

parents skating with their children, it feels infectious and I am inspired to dig out my own skates and borrow my friend's kids and join in!"

At a time when outdoor exercise and activity is a much needed priority as well as a restoration of the sanity of many who have long been living a feeling of being trapped indoors, the rink is almost a healing space. For many of Potton's parents it also provides a reminiscing of years gone by when they too met with friends at the local rink. Today however, the upgrade to a covered shelter adds to the excitement and atmosphere in a way that is incomparable to "the old days."

Many have commented in regards to the covered multi-functional shelter that it's a pity it did not happen sooner, reflecting on the many parents and children in the past who would have enjoyed such a space. With the parking lot consistently full and a steady flow of families building new memories, the anticipation each year of a frozen rink and the evolving uses as the pandemic exits are endless.

Potton residents are encouraged to pay the rink a visit. Whether you skate or not are irrelevant; as taxpayers you will likely leave the shelter feeling that you are a part of something needed, worthwhile and evolving. The smiles on the faces of the young and young at heart will also do your own innards some good.



Bruno Cote's kids waiting to head to the rink

Ben by Daniel Shelton



I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS YEAR...

I THINK IT'S GONNA BE A BETTER YEAR THAN THE LAST ONE!

DON'T FORGET-- OPTIMISTS ARE OFTEN DISAPPOINTED, WHILE PESSIMISTS ARE USUALLY PLEASANTLY SURPRISED...

I THINK IT'S GONNA BE A GOOD YEAR BUT I'M PREPARING MYSELF IN CASE IT ISN'T?..
BETTER.

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