



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire	Mayor and Members of City Council	File/N° de fichier: RCFS-GM-0021-2021
From / Expéditeur	Dan Chenier General Manager / directeur général Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations	
Subject / Objet	2021-2022 Outdoor Rink Program Information	Date: December 10, 2021

The Outdoor Rink Program offers a great option for residents to stay active in the fresh air during the winter months. Working closely with City of Ottawa staff, outdoor rinks are primarily maintained by volunteers and community groups who provide this service to neighborhoods across the city.

Many COVID modifications that were in place last winter have been removed in accordance with Provincial regulation updates. We recognize that you may receive inquiries from residents with questions regarding their local outdoor rink. We invite you to use the information below to serve as a guide when responding to questions.

COVID-19 Procedures (subject to change based on the fluidity of the Pandemic and Provincial Regulation updates that may be implemented at any time).

Capacity limits are not required on the ice surface or surrounding park area, including sledding hills. For those outdoor rinks with an indoor space, such as a fieldhouse or trailer, offering a warm place to put on skates during scheduled supervision hours, several procedures remain in place for the 2021-2022 season:

- Anyone entering the building will be required to review the health screening questionnaire.
- Anyone entering the building will be required to wear a face mask.
- The names and phone numbers of skaters entering the building will be collected by the Rink Operator for contact-tracing purposes.
- High-touch surfaces, such as railings and door handles, will be cleaned frequently during operational hours.
- Skaters 12 years of age and over who wish to use our indoor spaces for activities beyond “quick access” purposes such as washroom use, drop off boots, put on skates, etc. would be required to provide proof of vaccination to the Rink Operator.

Base Ice/Opening Date

In order to create base ice, 10 to 15cm of accumulated snow is required with evening temperatures consistently below -10 degrees Celsius for a duration of five to seven days. Staff will track the forecast as the weather cools and determine the best window for our community rink operators to begin the creation of base ice. This labor-intensive process includes packing of the snow and applying 12 coats of water within that five to seven-day cold period. The goal is for weather conditions to be such that base ice can begin around December 15, however in recent years, this process has often started in early January with skateable ice established at most sites in the early weeks of the new year.

Snow removal after storms

Volunteers will do their best to remove snow from the ice surface in a timely manner throughout the winter. In general, residents can expect that minor snowfalls will be cleared from the rink within 12 hours and major snowfalls (10+ cm) will be cleared within 24 hours.

Mild weather

Some years, Ottawa experiences several periods of rain followed by mild weather, which make it difficult for volunteers to maintain the ice.

During warmer weather, there is little that volunteers can do until the colder weather returns. It is crucial that the public stay off the rink during mild weather.

Walking on the rink during mild weather will cause damage to the rinks' surface and make it incredibly challenging for volunteers to get the ice back to a smooth surface.

Tips for residents

We encourage you to post the following tips for a successful season on your ward websites or social media accounts.

- It is strongly recommended that rink users wear a CSA-certified hockey helmet.
- Children under the age of 7 should be accompanied by a responsible person aged 14 and up.
- Respect signage indicating the rink is closed. It means volunteers have recently flooded or the ice is too soft for skating.
- Avoid walking on the rink, as this is hazardous and damages the ice surface.
- Keep all pets off the rinks. Please do not use boarded rinks as dog runs.
- For the safety of users, hockey is not permitted on puddle rinks.
- Hours of access for indoor changeroom space and bathrooms, where available, are determined by the Rink Operator and posted at the site and on Ottawa.ca

- Take the time to thank the volunteers who dedicate their time to creating a rink in your community and lend a helping hand when possible!
- Report any site hazards or deficiencies to 311 or the Seasonal Recreation Office at 613-580-2590 or seasonrecreation@ottawa.ca

Rink Operator appreciation breakfast

Staff are hopeful that some form of in person recognition of our Rink Operators will be possible this season. An update will be provided in the new year.

Contact information

Residents with questions regarding the general operation of the outdoor rink program are invited to contact the Seasonal Recreation Office:

Phone: 613-580-2590

Email: SeasonalRecreation@ottawa.ca.

Other comments, questions or concerns can be addressed to:

Program Manager: Sue Chiumera

Phone – 613-580-2424 x 26637

Email – sue.chiumera@ottawa.ca

Recreation Supervisor: Paul Dupuis

Phone – 613-580-2424 x 46606

Email – Paul.Dupuis@ottawa.ca

We look forward to another successful season.

Sincerely,

Dan Chenier

General Manager,

Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations

cc. Steve Kanellakos, City Manager