

ST. ANDREWS HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



2504 13 Ave. N.W., Calgary, AB. T2N 1L8

VP Sports Annual Update Kevin Noakes June 2015-2016

This is my fifth year completed as VP Sports for the St. Andrews Heights Community Association and my sixth year as the Soccer Coordinator. Over the last year I have been involved in maintaining three sports activities: recreational soccer (February to June) and tennis court play (April to October) and Ice rink skating (November to February), Kevin Noakes coordinates the recreational soccer program. Gwen Schaefer coordinates the tennis court activities. Nik Rasula coordinates the Ice-Crew making and maintaining the ice rink. These activities also provide an opportunity for kids and parents in the neighborhood to meet and talk.

Issues noted in the 2013-2014 AGM Report to be addressed for 2014-2015:

- 'On-line' Soccer registration was not committed to for the Community Web site and was not upgraded to accept payment for soccer registration or other Community fees.
- The Sports Equipment Storage Shed was replaced.
- Video surveillance camera system was not installed; vandals of the tennis courts identity remain unknown.
- The large cut holes in the vandalised tennis court fence were fixed.

1. Soccer:

Soccer registration began February 1st and continued to the middle of April. Advertised for in the January, February and March Community Newsletters as well as the Community Web Page; with linked registration form. In person registration was held over the course two days and evening weekend and weekdays.

- 39 children registered for the community recreational soccer program. As was the case last year, only 30 of those, ages 2 years to 5 years, were able to play for SAH; 19 for the Starters Dino-Gators and 11 for the U6 Green Team. 9 players, six and older aged players, (U8, U10 and U12) transferred to other community teams. These players had to be refunded for their registration fees and arrangements had to be made for them to re-register directly with an alternate community team (Parkdale, University Heights, Banff Trail and Houndsfield Heights Briar Hill) after their normal registration deadline period had expired and had to pay the community membership fee for that community. Last year SAH was also not able to form teams for the U8 to U18 age groups. St. Andrews Heights teams could have been formed for the U8 to U12 age groups had the community players that registered with other community teams instead registered with SAH.
- The fees collected this year was about \$1550. The program costs for play field rental, field maintenance, coach training, team jerseys, team photos, player participation medallions, and Soccerfest skills contest trophies and BBQ lunch was about \$1750. The SAHCA supports the annual Soccerfest and BBQ end of season wrap up celebration with a \$300 budget. Otherwise the soccer program pays for itself from the fees collected.
- Parkdale and Hounsfield Heights Briar Hill soccer teams used the SAH soccer fields this year. Their player registrations have increased, ours had significantly declined.
- The annual end of soccer season wrap up celebration Soccerfest and BBQ was held yesterday, Sunday, June 21st.
- The SAH Soccer Registration and Equipment Exchange, a live event held at the Community Hall for the annual Soccer Registration will be discontinued for 2016 soccer registration; 11 of the 39 registrations occurred during this activity over the course two days and evening weekend and weekday soccer sign up. The balance were dropped off at my home address.
- The SAHCA Web site will not be upgraded to accept registration and payment for soccer.

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University Heights Community Association invited St Andrew Heights to join their soccer program. Their representative, Peter Khu, believes that it would be a natural fit because most of the kids in the soccer program come from University School and the catchment area for this school extends all the way south to Parkdale. The SAHCA Treasurer, will, with University Heights, begin arrangements for joint registration and payments for our soccer program in 2016. Another solution to the problem of team formation that was adopted by another community was to turn over their soccer program to a professional organizer, the 'Royal West Football Club', a not-for-profit, Calgary Minor Soccer Association affiliated organization.

- The Soccer Coordinator, attends Intercommunity league soccer organization and coordination meetings, that begin in November, with other soccer coordinators, to prepare for the season ahead where rules and requirements get established for team play.

2. Tennis:

The tennis court is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9am – 3pm. The remaining times are for members only. Tennis membership is free to St Andrews Heights residents who have purchased a community membership. Lessons are available to those interested through the UOC Dinos Tennis Society.

- There are currently 36 St Andrews Heights members who have access to the courts. Anyone interested in playing needs to contact Gwen Schaefer at tennis@standrewsheights.ca.
- Tennis player volunteers put the tennis nets up and take them down and store them for the winter. The nets are currently in good condition. Leaves and other debris inside and outside of the tennis court fence needs to be cleared by volunteers each year at the beginning of the season as well. The gas powered leaf blower no longer works. I cleared this mess with an electric powered leaf blower this year. Next season other tennis player volunteers will need to be organised to help maintain the upkeep of the court surface and a new leaf blower needs to be purchased.
- The recently purchased tennis court broom and rubber squeegee were stolen from the court and were replaced..
- Tomko Sports Systems provided tennis court and practice pad surface maintenance power washing. The cost for this is approximately \$900.
- Tomko Sports Systems provided an estimate for the material and installation for windscreen options. Total installed cost (all-around cover including gates) is estimated at between \$3,000 and \$5,000. A budget for this is needed and if put in place will need to be installed and then removed, taken down, in the winter and a volunteer or team of volunteers will need to be organized and coordinated to maintain and remove and replace this annually. Tomko also provided an estimate for installing a higher backstop net to catch errant balls that are going over the practice pad backboard net currently installed for this and dropping into the court, at a total installed cost of about \$2,000. The SAHCA Board will be making a determination about these two upgrades for the 2016 season the September 2015 SAHCA Board meeting.
- Tennis lessons for beginners, intermediate & advanced group and private lessons for children and adults were held twice per week from May to August in 2014 season. reservation based lesson rental income was about \$700.
- Tennis lessons are now being scheduled for July & August. Lack of interest from the community puts this lesson programs' continuation in jeopardy. This season only one beginners kids group lesson was scheduled for in May and there were no lessons able to be scheduled in June. Approximate reservation based rental income for the 2015 season will be \$80.
- Earlier this year I proposed that we should promote the use of the tennis courts with the rental of the Communality Hall... for an additional fee of \$X/hr/court. The Board discussed this. Pros included: additional revenue, assurance of availability for a particular user. Cons included: feasibility of enforcement; reduced general community access; precedent for requesting other facilities be available for rental. The Board's consensus at the time was that other than for tennis

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lessons, the tennis courts will not be made available by reservation.

- It's also great when community members step up to the plate and get things going with activities they are interested in having done. The Tennis Coordinator was approached about having a tennis tournament set up for a weekend in mid-August with members in the tennis community. This is now in the process of being arranged for by them. Tennis members will be notified about (free) registration for this in July

3. Skating:

There was an early start and an early finish to the 2014-2015 season.. Cold November enabled completion/skating December 1. A lack of snowfall wreaked havoc with February however. Leaves blew onto and into the melting base, forcing a shutdown by February 15.

- There were a total of 15 volunteer families. Nic had lots of help to keep the rink in good order for the skating season.
- A Port-a-potty was installed and maintained for the duration of the skating season.
- ENMAX discontinued the rink lighter discount; previously \$150-\$200 was reimbursed for the costs of lighting for four months in the winter. A new programme is to be put in place by ENMAX.
- The Young Skaters Outdoor Lessons Program- was cancelled last year due to a lack of interest in it. The Young Skaters Outdoor Lessons Program does not have a coordinator for this year. A new Young Skaters Lessons Program Coordinator is required for this organized sports activity.
- The furnace stopped working in the equipment room and the water pipe froze. A plumber had to repair the furnace and replace the pipe valve. Also, Nic replaced the weather strip at the bottom of the door to keep out as much of the heat loss and cold as possible, the snow blower battery and the rotor on the snow blower spindle.
- Nic drained the gas from the machines. They will be filled (by Nik with fresh gas) for the start of next year's season.
- The Ice-Crew celebrated the end of skating season and the great community effort with the wind up pot luck party.
- The machines need to be serviced for maintenance. Recommended service is every year, but we do every second one. John Ross has volunteered to do take them in over the summer.
- The ice rink hockey nets are heavy and a potential liability. Should we keep them or scrap them?

Issues to look forward to for 2015-2016:

- Utilizing the 'On-line' Soccer registration and fee payment website links of the University Heights Community web site for the community soccer program.
- The sports equipment needs to be moved from the storage room adjacent to the Skate Change Room inside the Community Hall to the Sports Equipment Storage Shed
- Merging the SAHCA soccer program into the University Heights soccer program for inter community league soccer play (U8 teams and older).
- Upgrading the tennis court fence with the installation of a 2 meter wide wind screen wrap and extending the practice pad backboard ball stop netting at the fence, by 1.5 meters.
- getting a quote for the purchase of a ball server for the tennis courts.
- Person needed to volunteer to be the coordinator for the Young Kids Beginners Ice Skating Program.