

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



<https://champlainpark.org/>



Winter Carnival on Sat/Jan 25

Horse-drawn sleigh rides, hot chocolate, cool jazz, smokin' chili cookoff

A team of horses, a table-load of chili, a toasty bonfire — you bet our Winter Carnival is back!

This year's version is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 25, from **noon to 3 p.m.**, at the park and fieldhouse. Everyone is welcome to attend and admission is free.

Among the activities:

Noon to 3 p.m.: Bonfire, food in the fieldhouse

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Horse-drawn sleigh rides and outdoor games in the park

1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Music in the fieldhouse with locally-based jazz ensemble, David Constant and friends.

Sleigh rides, hot chocolate and coffee are all **FREE**.

Food and Beverages: Back for another year is our legendary chili cookoff. Also on offer are baked goodies, juice, hotdogs and more. Find it all in the



fieldhouse kitchen. Please bring a little cash as debit/credit machines are **NOT** available.

The Kichi Sibi Winter Trail team will be out for the fun, including a display with snowmobiles and grooming equipment, a raffle, and Merry Dairy's unveiling of its new KSWT themed ice cream! More info about the trail can be found at www.wintertrail.ca

Volunteers, of course, make it all happen. We need help with setup and cleanup, lunch counter, ticket sales, and donations of baked goods. And, lest we forget, a call-out for chefs to bring along their best chili dish! Judges will award a winner.

For more info, please contact Erin and Kelly at erintopping@hotmail.com or 613-799-1770.

The rink will be operating normally. As an indoor event, organizers urge everyone to follow public health guidelines. And a reminder that children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Valentine & Vintage Sale on Sunday/Feb 9



Valentine's Day is approaching and, darn tootin', isn't love and romance in the air?

To find something different for that special someone, please keep in mind a sale at the **fieldhouse** on Sunday, Feb. 9, from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** You'll find items like high-quality vintage cashmere scarves, designer handbags, jewelry, and a smattering of antiques. Also prominent will be knitted hats and scarves, linen sachets, chocolates and other tasty treats, including slices of double-fudge chocolate cake, to go along with a cup of tea. For more info, lauriefagan59@gmail.com



Outdoor rink, skating oval open/supervised hours every day

Thanks to a great effort by volunteers, the rink and oval are open for another skating season. Indoor facilities will be open during supervised hours for warming, skate changing, washrooms, and access to the first aid kit. Student volunteers will oversee the use of the change-rooms and the rink during these hours.

For students 14 and older, it's a great way to earn community volunteer hours. Check <https://champlainpark.org/the-rink/> for the Google form. Supervised hours when the change-room is open:

Monday to Friday: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

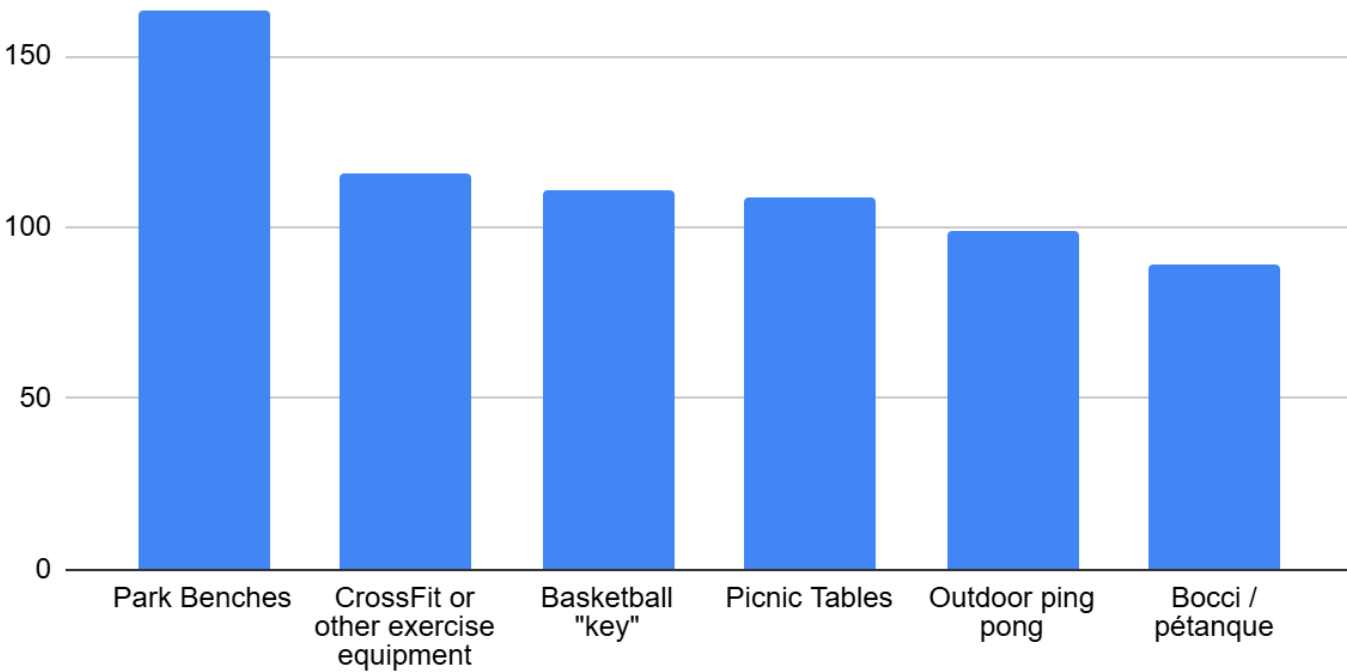
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m.

Questions? ChamplainParkRink@gmail.com

Park survey: Benches, CrossFit station score high

Next step to explore what’s ‘doable’ with city staff, Coun. Leiper



Above are the weighted scores from the 96 respondents to our survey on park improvements

The results are in from the neighbourhood survey on possible minor projects to improve our park. The leading choice from the 96 respondents was clear — more park benches.

We asked residents to rank the strength of their preferences for six proposed projects, using numbers from one through six. To take into account all the choices of each respondent, we used a simple weighted formula to score each option. We allocated six points to each first choice, five points to each second choice, four points to each third choice and so on.

Park benches came out way ahead. Not only did 25 people mark more benches as their first choice – the highest number of first-choice selections of any option – but benches also received the highest weighted total (163).

Outdoor exercise equipment, an expanded basketball area and more picnic tables also proved popular.

Other interesting ideas put forward included an outdoor water-bottle filling station, a mural on the outside of the fieldhouse, Adirondack chairs in the park and a path from the playing field to the fieldhouse/pool

area. On the option of pickleball, respondents were divided. About 58 per cent (56 respondents) are interested in exploring whether an outdoor court is feasible for Champlain Park, while 27 per cent are against the idea, and another 15 per cent aren’t sure. The City is now expected to release its “Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Strategy” this winter, which should provide more information on the criteria for having a court. Should Champlain Park express

interest in being considered for these popular courts, City staff will oversee the process.

Our next steps are to engage with Coun. Jeff Leiper and City staff to determine what minor projects are possible for Champlain Park. It’s important to keep in mind the projects that are deemed doable may not be the top choices from our survey, as many factors will go into the final decision.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Questions, more info? Contact Joanne Chianello, survey leader and the author of this summary, at jchianello@rogers.com.

**Meanwhile...
Giant thanks
to generous CP**

Area resident Laurie Fagan would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated gift cards for the needy residents of **Daybreak**, a supportive housing agency on the edge of Champlain Park. The goal of 68 was surpassed this Christmas!