

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

The Indian Hill Winter Club: From the Beginning Until Now – Part II

The opening of the Indian Hill Winter Club was imminent. Teams of volunteers gathered to make ice at the facility. This was no small task. It took more than 2 days as water was applied 1/8 inch at a time by teams of volunteers



Winter Club Ground Breaking

who convened after their regular day jobs and got it done while listening to reggae and classic rock music. It was quite an experience – after 4 years of hard work the IHWC finally opened. The club's first official night saw hundreds of children skating and having fun. It was a wonderful and emotional event in May 2006. Greg Foote told his friend Mike Collette, "This is why we built this place."



IH Winter Club

Besides the private capital fundraising, there were many who contributed with other donations, including lots of volunteer labor and even a Zamboni machine. When the club

opened, there was a waiting list to join. The recession of 2008 affected membership levels. But since then, it has grown and now has 490 members, in several categories: Family, Junior, Tenured, and Senior.

Over the years there have been many special events including the Harvest Party, Dad and Daughter Date Night, Cocoa and Carols, a visit by the Zoo's penguins, and a Reindog Parade. The tradition of Winter Carnival (adopted from Dartmouth College) came from New Hampshire to Ohio. In the club's early years, many adult competitions were held, such as sumo wrestling, hamster globes, shopping cart races, a human Iditarod race, and barrel jumping. Nowadays the Carnival has evolved into an annual IHWC Ice Show featuring performances by kids in the Club's learn-to-skate and figure skating programs as well as the Club's synchronized skating team.



Mike Collette Barrel Jumping

Before it opened, some prospective members were somewhat reluctant, stating "But my kid doesn't skate." Collette and friends' standard reply was, "But he/she will." It was a Field of Dreams-like opportunity, and it worked. Initially there was one hockey team, which Collette referred to as his "Bad News Bears" team. Since very few kids had ever skated before, the team was comprised of assorted beginner skaters, both boys and girls, as well as a number of players Collette recruited from the Youth Lacrosse Team he coached. That first team competed at the House League level, the lowest



Youth Ice Hockey

competitive level in youth hockey. Currently there are 2 teams at every level: Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees, Bantam, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. And most are competing at the highest youth hockey level and participating in tournaments throughout the Midwest. The quality of the hockey has dramatically improved. Better hockey is one of the greatest changes to the club since its inception. One former female skater went to Colby College (Maine) where she is goalie on the Girls Varsity Team. Several boys have gone on to play Junior Hockey – essentially the equivalent of Minor A baseball. And the Varsity team now competes against rivals St. X and Moeller and recently won a state club championship. What accomplishments!



Ice Show

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