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Skate Rental Maintenance at Ward 18 Rinks

Schedule

Monday: 6 hours skate sharpening at Dufferin rink*
Tuesday: 6 hours skate sharpening at Wallace rink*
Wednesday: 5 hours skate sharpening at Campbell rink**
Thursday: 5 hours skate sharpening at Dufferin rink*

(* all skate sharpening took place in the morning- as it was seen as the least disruptive time)

(**on occasion skate sharpening occurred during the evening at Campbell – this was to accommodate – machine transportation)

On a daily basis, rink staff are responsible for inspecting equipment to make sure it's safe to use, removing damaged equipment from circulation, and performing minor skate maintenance (replacing insoles and broken laces, re-taping hockey sticks, spraying the inside of skates with antibacterial disinfectant, etc.). This takes place alongside other duties. Throughout the day, staff keep an eye out to make sure people are treating the equipment with respect. While the skates aren't valuable enough to steal - people are not very interested in a pair of skates with bright yellow spray-paint down the sides and the number "84" written in permanent marker - people need help remembering to stay off the cement and not to leave their skates under a bench while they go to the mall.

Over the 2010-11 rink season, four staff were trained onsite at Dufferin rink to use a portable skate sharpening machine (Alain Heese-Boutin, Laura Macdonald, Matthew Leitold, Michael Monastyrskij). Over the course of the season, skates needed to be sharpened frequently as they dulled with use, and the collections needed to be inspected to ensure that all the skates were in good working order. Staff sharpened the skates, looked them over and removed any that were not safe to use from circulation, replacing them when possible with new donated skates. They also sprayed the skates with disinfectant, and replaced broken laces and insoles.

Staff were also responsible for moving the skate sharpener from rink to rink, to allow it to be used the following day at another location. This was done using the staff's personal vehicles, or in co-ordination with the roving cluster co-ordinator. The equipment is compact enough to be moved by hand with a two wheeled dolly, although not in all weather conditions!

Laura and Alain were generally responsible for maintaining the skate collection at Dufferin rink. This involved two skate maintenance shifts, on Monday and Thursday of each week. This rink had more staff time allotted to maintaining its skate collection because it was typically the busiest of the three rinks. Often skates would be very dull by midweek, so a second maintenance shift was added to address this. Both shifts were 5-6 hours long.

Alain was also generally responsible for maintaining the skate collection at Wallace-Emerson rink. This was also a high traffic rink, though not as busy over the course of a week as Dufferin. Alain was assigned one 6-8 hour shift per week doing maintenance on Tuesdays.

*Michael was generally responsible for maintaining the skate collection at Campbell rink. He worked a 4 hour maintenance shift on Wednesdays, although this would sometimes run longer if the skates required more attention.

Campbell

Skate lending begins with a request

Does patron have ID as security for use of skates?

Patron agrees to leave ID. Staff file ID corresponding to skate being used in binder

Without ID staff and patron agree on an alternate item, such as shoes. Staff do not deny patrons use of skates.*

Is patron willing to donate money or exchange labour to contribute positively to the community space?

Patron is able to donate either the suggested toonie or another amount to help defray skate costs. Donation is stored in money pouch

Staff and patron work out an exchange

Patron is able to skate with the borrowed skates as long as they wish and the facility is staffed.

*Patrons may be denied use of skates if they contravene City of Toronto rules for conduct—use of foul language, violence, racist, sexist or homophobic