

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING ICE RINK DATA

After a disappointing few seasons and consistent frustration and complaints from residents, instructors, and program participants, Lyons Recreation staff recommends not moving forward with planning and coordinating ice skating lessons in 2025. With the LaVern M. Johnson Ice Rink being 100% weather-dependent, making conditions on the rink either unusable or unsafe for what seems to be an increased number of days during the winter, it is nearly impossible to keep a regular schedule for programming and very difficult to coordinate with both staff and the public. Instructors don't get paid when classes don't run, and students may be unavailable on alternate days of the week for make-up classes. The town often doesn't know until the day of a particular lesson whether the rink will be in good enough shape for skating, which makes it hard for the instructor and participants/families to plan. It also takes great coordination with Parks and Public Works maintenance staff to adjust and check conditions, mobilize crews, and prepare the ice if needed.

Class and skate rental data from the last few years are listed below:

2023/2024

- Eight (8) classes: 4 Beginner, 2 Intermediate, 2 Advanced
- Each class was supposed to meet 4 times; a total of 32 classes
- 53 total students signed up for the classes
- Out of 32 classes, rescheduling 20 times affecting all attendees
- Eight (8) sessions were canceled altogether, resulting in refunds to all participants
- Rescheduled lessons often were confined to a smaller "safe and usable" portion of the rink
- Excessive number of staff hours spent on monitoring weather and rink conditions, canceling and rescheduling classes, and processing refunds
- \$453 profit to the town for classes after instructor fees paid
- \$158 total collected for skate rentals; \$68 on Jan 20 and \$90 for class rentals (keep between classes.)
- Rentals are only open on weekends, and the only weekend rentals in 2024 were Jan 20 - 21; all other weekend rentals were closed due to extreme cold (early Jan) or unsafe ice conditions. Jan 21 offered free rentals for the only Winter Wonderland Concert that the rink was open.

2022/2023

- Four (4) classes: 2 Beginner, 2 Intermediate
- Each class was supposed to meet 4 times; a total of 16 classes
- 32 total students signed up for the classes
- Out of 16 classes, reschedules happened 8 times, affecting all attendees
- All sessions were rescheduled, but 13 attendees were unable to attend new dates, resulting in refunds

- Excessive number of staff hours spent on monitoring weather and rink conditions, canceling and rescheduling classes, and processing refunds
- \$357 profit to the town for classes after instructor fees paid
- \$328 collected for skate rentals, \$292 for weekend rentals, and \$36 for class rentals (keep between classes.)

2021/2022

- Five (5) classes: 2 Beginner, 2 Intermediate, 1 Family
- Each class was supposed to meet 3 times; a total of 15 classes
- The rink never assembled, resulting in refunds to all participants
- The instructor received no compensation for the time spent aiding in setting up classes
- Excessive number of staff hours spent on finding an instructor, setting up classes, canceling classes, and processing refunds
- No profit to town for classes or skate rentals