

[Back to Slippery start to new year at Kew Beach skating rink](#)

## Slippery start to new year at Kew Beach skating rink

January 02, 2010

Jack Lakey



Youths eager to play hockey squeeze through the fence to get on to the ice. (Jan. 1, 2010)

JACK LAKEY/TORONTO STAR

Who is the pinhead that locked up the Kew Gardens skating rink on New Year's Day, when a lot of kids and even adults were up for some shinny hockey?

The Fixer's 10-year-old son headed off with a couple of friends and their dad to the outdoor Kew rink, next to the Beaches boardwalk, at the foot of Lee Ave., to mix it up with the crowd that's been playing pickup hockey over the past week.

He called home not long after to say they had to sneak onto the ice because the doors and fencing above the rink were locked, adding the game was still on because so many scofflaws showed up and ignored a posted schedule saying it was closed on Jan. 1.

We were puzzled by the stupidity of shuttering an outdoor rink on a day when so many people were not at work or school and would want to use it, so we went to Kew Gardens to take a look.

Sure enough, we found a schedule for holiday ice hours that said it was closed, along with "Happy New Year!!!!" next to it.

We went and saw about a dozen skaters on the ice, along with others who arrived with skates and sticks in hand, looking for a game.

We watched as a man stripped down to his T-shirt to squeeze between the boards and sharp-edged, chain-link fencing to get on the ice, while others heaved on the fence to widen the opening.

**STATUS:** We have a cellphone number for Sandy Straw, the area parks director, so we called her just after 1 p.m. "This better be an emergency," she said. "This is a family day." Exactly. That's why we called to ask if she could send someone to unlock the rink, since so many families were using it anyway. Straw said she doesn't do rinks, adding we should go to, well, another official who's in charge of rinks. We'll ask him Monday.

*What's broken in your neighbourhood? Wherever you are in Greater Toronto, we want to know. To email us, go to [thestar.com/thefixer](http://thestar.com/thefixer) and click on the submit a problem link. Or call us at 416-869-4823.*