

RINK SHOVELING

for Central - Toronto outdoor rinks

The City's outdoor single-pad hockey rinks in Central Toronto have fewer staff and less equipment than the same-sized City rinks in Etobicoke and North York. That means they often get ice maintenance only once or twice a day. When those rinks have lots of skaters, or there are snowflurries, the only way to keep the ice playable is for the skaters and the on-site Recreation staff to shovel. Most of the rinks has been supplied with shovels metal snow-scrapers. Here is how to make it work.



use a bright ball when there is too much snow

IMPORTANT NOTE: While waiting for the zamboni or plough, if there is any snow on the ice at all, shinny players should play with only one puck. Sometimes if there are only a few players they can use with a bright orange ball to instead of the puck at this stage. It is imperative that nobody loses a puck in the snow. **If the zamboni swallows a puck, it's in the shop for 4 days - we need to protect those machines!**



The rules:

- > A staff person **MUST** be around for the shoveling from start to finish.
- > Nobody gets to play until everyone is done working.
- > **No** snow may be piled anywhere on the ice, **especially against the boards.**
- > **The snow, as it is cleared, must be brought out of the rink through the gate and shoveled to the side so that a Zamboni or a tractor can still get through the gate.**
- > At least one of the players has to change from skates to shoes and help the staff person shovel the snow out of the rink.
- > If there are more helpers than shovels, a couple of people should continually skate around the rink and push snow from the boards into the centre with their hockey sticks.
- > If there are not enough people around to clear the entire rink you can clear half of the rink (the half closer to the gate).
- > In the rinks that have snack bars, everyone who helps to clear the rink gets a free pizza or cookie and a free drink.
- > If players have used up their own playing time (age-related or permit time) to shovel the rink, they get an extra half hour to continue playing.



long straight rows



hidden puck



Why isn't everyone helping?



keep exit clear for zamboni

Be vigilant about two things:

1. **No pucks hidden under snow on the ice surface**
2. **No piles of snow on the ice surface especially against boards or blocking the entrance to the rink**



shovel to the gate

CELOS JANUARY LIST of outdoor rink facts

This list is inspired by the "Harper's Index," a monthly list of surprising numbers published by Harper's Magazine. Our numbers show surprising, sometimes downright astonishing facts about Toronto's outdoor rinks.

- Rink with the best view: **Prince of Wales** (Lakeshore and Third Street)
- Rink with the best ice in any weather (sun, rain, or snow): **Rennie**
- Rink with the best food: **Dufferin**
- Total hours of ice maintenance staffing at each Etobicoke single-pad outdoor hockey rink, per week..... **72 to 112 hours**
- Total hours of ice maintenance staffing at each North York single-pad outdoor hockey rink, per week: **112 hours**
- Total hours of ice maintenance staffing at 10 out of 11 Central-Toronto single-pad outdoor hockey rinks, per week: **7 to 21 hours**
- Total hours of ice maintenance staffing *per day* at 12 of the city's 13 double-pad outdoor ice rinks: **14**
- Total hours of ice maintenance staffing at Wallace double-pad outdoor ice rink for *the entire month* of December: **28**
- Hourly wages of outdoor rink maintenance staff (work with ice resurfacing vehicles): **\$23/hour (for 24 staff)** and **\$27/hour (for 73 staff)**
- Hourly wages of outdoor rink program staff (work with skaters): **\$9 mostly, a few at \$16.**
- Number of rinks that have posted mandatory helmet laws for shinny hockey: **49**
- Number of rinks that do consistent helmet enforcement according to the posted rules: **2**
- Number of rink-injury legal claims against the city since the beginning of amalgamated information collection (1998): **2**
- Number of rink-injury legal claims involving an outdoor rink: **0**
- Number of rink-injury claims relating to helmets: **0**
- City-estimated "direct costs" of running the outdoor rinks for three months: **\$3.7 million**
- City-estimated "full costs" of outdoor rinks, counting associated parks and recreation costs (including administration and strategic planning): **\$5.7 million**
- City-estimated costs of outdoor rinks, counting all associated City staffing and infrastructure costs: **\$12 million**
- Number of City-owned outdoor rink pads with hockey boards: **33**
- Number of City outdoor rinks with hockey boards that offer *less than 10 hours a week* of free public shinny time at prime time (after 4 on weekdays, all day on weekends): **8**
- Number of City outdoor hockey rinks that offer *more than 25 hours a week* of free public shinny time at prime time (after 4 on weekdays, all day on weekends): **16**
- City's "full cost recovery" target for outdoor rink permit/ registration revenue, per season: **\$3.3 – \$4 million ***
- What that target permit/registration income translates into per rink: **a revenue target of \$100,000 to \$121,000 per season, that's \$1190 to \$1440 per day**
- City outdoor rink revenue from permits, at the current highest-earning rink (West Mall): **\$20,000 per season, that's \$238 per day**
- Number of City-owned rinks with City-owned kitchen facilities within 20 meters: **13**
- Number of City-owned rinks that use these facilities to run a daily snack bar: **2**

*The Management Services Director of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, **Ann Ulusoy**, has offered to sit down with CELOS sometime, and explain how they calculated their rink costs recovery numbers

