

Wayne Buttle honoured for time as rink manager

By Steve Goodwin
For The Advocate

For Wayne Buttle, building and operating the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena was all about the kids.

Buttle says making sure youngsters had a place to play hockey and other sports meant more to him than anything during his more than 40 years of service to the rink and the communities it serves.

"The most important point is the kids playing - rich, poor, no matter," he said. "They should be accepted. I believe in kids and equality is the most important part."

Buttle was honoured for those contributions last Saturday during an open house in the rink's mezzanine.

"I was surprised so many people were there," he said. "It was excellent."

He received a personal plaque that reads "on behalf of the residents of the Municipality of the County of Pictou on the occasion of his retirement as manager of the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena, and in recognition of his 44 years of dedicated service to the arena and the communities of East Pictou."

Another plaque was presented to permanently occupy the arena.

Conceiving an arena in Trenton in 1972 was not easy, Buttle said, but it was necessary if kids in East Pictou were to have the same opportunity as others in Pictou County to play hockey, as well as other sports that were established and grew there, such as figure skating and ringette.

He said youngsters could not get ice time in New Glasgow and later were provided several hours a week for a modest fee to play in Trenton.

The process of building the

arena in Thorburn included forming the District 13 Planning Commission.

"It was a challenge," he said.

He remembered asking a bank manager for a \$50,000 loan. The bank manager asked him to find 35 people who would give \$1,000 each to go with it.

"We got over that and he gave us the loan," he said. "For many people, \$1,000 was quite a lot."

Providing an opportunity for youngsters to play hockey was a philosophy everyone shared, Buttle said.

"We always said from then on that no kid would be refused," he said. "Everyone should have a chance to participate."

Buttle said he admires how female sports have evolved from girls involved in figure skating and ringette to the growing profile of female hockey.

"I think it's great they have been finally accepted in sports," he said.

Several milestones have helped improve the arena's fortunes. One of them is augmenting oil heating by building two wood furnaces to cut costs.

"I did quite a bit of research before we bought the wood furnace," he said. "When we can get wood and not burn any oil, that's pretty good. Everything worked out."

Buttle was among those who cut the wood to size for the furnace.

"It was not too bad for me because I grew up doing it," he said. "We did it all the time.



Wayne Buttle holds a plaque he received on Saturday during an open house in his honour at the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena in Thorburn.

(Goodwin photo)

engineer for the (Aberdeen) hospital. He's interested in the rink. Edwin was who I was fighting for in 1972 so he could play hockey. I never even thought he wanted to become rink manager."

Palmer expressed appreciation for Buttle's work and his son's decision to succeed him as rink manager.

"I don't know where the rink would be without Wayne," he said. "You couldn't ask for anyone to do as much for the rink. He did so much to keep the facility up to date."

"It's good to see Edwin step in," he added. "It was a learning curve for him. You have to plan ahead, but he did a good job last season and he'll do a good job going forward."

Palmer said it was only right for him to help with rink operations now after the benefits he received from it in his youth.

"Growing up, the rink was a big part for me and it became a big part of my adult life," he said. "I wanted to give back to it."

Buttle said COVID-imposed restrictions have impacted the rink's use, but he hopes it will continue to be a hub of activity in East Pictou for years to come.

"It was different," he said. "The canteen closed. The pop machine closed. You lose revenue and people had to come in to clean and we lost the men's league, but we got help in different ways from the province and the municipality. I hope it keeps on and will still be part of the community."

Besides, it kept me in good shape."

Buttle also commended those involved with the campaign to secure a new Zamboni through the NHL Players Association to clean the ice.

"It was quite a thing," he said. "What they did was absolutely fabulous."

Two young people who went on to help the arena operate stand out for Buttle. One of them is his son, Edwin, who succeeded his father as arena manager during 2021-22. The other is Randy Palmer who went on to become a municipal councillor for the area.

"Randy was involved for a long time," he said. "He always wanted to work for the betterment of people. He's been great. "Edwin was a maintenance

Bombers host Wildcats for chance to advance

The Pictou County Wearwell Bombers can move to the next round of the Nova Scotia Under-15 Major Hockey League playoffs in their next scheduled game on Friday at the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

The Bombers will host the Kings Mutual Valley Wildcats at 4:30 p.m. on Friday in the second game of the series.

They will host a third game, if necessary, on Saturday starting at 6 p.m.

The Bombers won the opening game of the best-of-three series with a 4-1 victory last

Saturday in Berwick.

Lane Sim assisted on the Bombers' tying goal by Chris Jorden in the second period and scored the go-ahead goal in the third period for the Bombers. Griffin Horton added the Bombers' third goal, while Logan Roop scored an empty-net goal.

The three Bombers' goals came late in the third period within a span of four minutes.

The Wildcats led 1-0 after the first period.

Briac Cameron was in goal for the Bombers, who outshot the Wildcats, 44-21.

Pictou Highland dance results from Halifax, Fredericton competitions

Highland dancers from Pictou County fared well at a number of competitions in Halifax and Fredericton recently.

The Halifax Highland Dance Association held its Open Championship, Citadel Premiership and Premier Competition from March 26 to 27. Sandra Bald Jones, from Ontario, Ann Landry, of New Brunswick, and P.E.I.'s Janice Oaks were event judges.

Results for the Pictou County Highland Dance Association include:

Open Championship Premier 10 and Under 12 Years

- Lauren McNamara - 2nd in Fling, Sword, Seann Triubhas, Reel; 1st runner up

Beginner 7 Years

- Aya Mori - 3rd in Sword; 4th in Seann Triubhas

Beginner 9 Years

- Josie MacAulay - 3rd in Sword; 2nd in Seann Triubhas; 1st runner up

Novice 11 & 12 Years

- Payton Veling - 3rd in Fling, Sword, Seann Triubhas

Citadel Premiership 7 and Under 12 Years

- Lauren McNamara - 1st in Barracks, Scottish Lilt, Blue Bonnets, Sailor's Hornpipe; winner of the High Aggregate trophy

The dancers travelled to the Kate Gaddness Memorial Competition on April 9, hosted by the Fredericton Highland Dance Association with Quebec's Jennifer Stephenson as judge.

Beginner 7 Years

- Aya Mori - 2nd in Fling

Novice

- Payton Veling - 5th in Fling, 4th in Sword, 3rd in Seann Triubhas, 4th in Trophy Fling



Aya Mori and Josie MacAulay show off their hardware from recent Halifax Highland Dance Association competitions.

(Submitted photo)



Lauren McNamara with her place results at the Halifax Highland Dance Association's Open Championship.

(Submitted photo)



Hannah Fleury and Payton Veling at the Halifax Highland Dance Association's recent competitions.

(Submitted photo)

Westville Miners take bite out of Sharks at SEDMHA

Submitted

The Reim's Windows and Doors Westville Miners U18C captured the SEDMHA Accord Championship in Halifax defeating the heavily favoured TASA Sharks, 4-3, in the championship game.

The Miners went to SEDMHA as the underdogs and lived out their "miracle" on ice, going 3-1 in the tournament with a hard-fought battle from Justin Kelly in goal with a 5-4 win over Shediac-Cap Pele Predators, an 8-3 loss to Pictou Green, a 7-1 win over Dartmouth Orcas, and a 5-1 win in a rematch versus Shediac to bring them to the gold medal game.

The Sharks went up 2-0 early, peppering the Miners with shots, but the Miners stuck to their game plan.

Early in the second period, Patrick MacNeil scored on tic-tac-toe pass from Austin Fraser and Lucus MacDonald.

Shortly after, captain Austin Fraser tied the game with a pass from MacDonald.

Tied 2-2 at the end of two, Fraser delivered a dressing room speech saying, "Nobody thought we would be here, and now look at us. We have them on their heels



The Westville Miners won their division at the recent annual SEDMHA minor hockey tournament. Front row, from left, Justin Kelly, Kale Behie, Austin Fraser, Lucus MacDonald, Austin Swain, Liam Purvis. Back row, Austin Pettipas, Ayden Brezinski, Camden MacDonald, Keagan Fournier, Patrick MacNeil, Nathaniel Horne, Luke Avery, Kaleb Parker and Nick Duff. Missing is Ben MacKay. Coaching staff includes Max Sinnis, Kyle Reim and Morgan Peters.

(Submitted photo)

and they're tired. We're going out and we're going to score. And we're going to win this game."

About a minute into the third period, Nick Duff passed to Kaleb Parker who fed MacDonald on a breakaway to help the Miners take the lead.

Kale Behie sent Nathaniel Horne on a breakaway 20 seconds later to make it 4-2.

TASA scored on a two-man advantage to make it 4-3 with 5:36 left in the game.

TASA pressured the Miners and pulled their goalie in an effort

to tie the game, but Miners' goaltender Austin Swain made the game-saving stop at 1:32, and the Miners held tight for the win.

MacDonald was named game most valuable player (MVP) for the Miners, while Swain picked up their team's MVP belt.



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