

Arena Family Homecoming

Celebrating the building of the AG Ross Arena 1972

Community growth through involvement

Research by Ray Hellquist, Vicki Brooker and Marvin Bjornstad

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Elk Point had a long history of Outdoor Rinks



1927



1937



Many Hockey teams played Outdoors



1925 Team

Harold Hobden, Augie Bartling, George Bartling, Russel Milholland,
Bill Hobden, Bill Bartling.



Some local teams became well known



Frank Dunkin, Sid Holthe, KC (Jim) Miller, Steve Andrisak, Floyd Cromwell, Jim Caskey, Sam Soldan, George Miller, George Johnson, James Miller

This team played in 1938 Provincial Finals in Edmonton on artificial ice.



In the late 1960s

- Many young players were playing in other towns: Marwayne, Dewberry and St Paul in covered rinks
- Hockey's popularity was growing but the outdoor rink did not meet needs of growing young group
- Winter travel was becoming easier and more common
- More discussion of a covered rink was in the air.
- Hockey moms like Marion Tredger and Helen Petrosky were asking questions of town officials



Governments address Recreation

- AB Government allows towns to form Recreation Boards
- Elk Point creates Rec Board in Sept 6, 1968 with Ed Pankiw, Des Berghofer, Bill Millholland, Ray Hellquist, Orin Davis as members.
- They managed the outdoor rink with help from hockey personnel: Bill Babenek, Jim Tredger, Gabe Dumont, Don Moneta, Barry Maas and Randy Kulczycki. This group was paid \$125 to take care of rink for the year.
- A survey of recreation needs of Elk Point was done. An arena was seen as a prominent need.



Town gets more involved

- Jan 29 1969 Rec Board writes Town stating that serious consideration be given to building an arena
- Feb 24th 1969 Town asks Rec Board to get info on an arena Project with types and costs
- April 1969 Blueprints for Two Hills arena
- ATIYEK DAY May 31 1969
- Dec 1969 Hockey Coaches: 15 & over L Span, 12 – 14 Ed Buck, 9 – 11 Ed Pankiw, 6 – 8 Ed Soldan



More organization needed

- April 1970 Rec Board visits Chauvin (\$40,000), Dewberry (\$45,000) and Marwayne (\$80,000) Arenas
- May 1970 Rec Board suggests D Didow, Ed Pankiw and Paul Stepa be first 3 members of Arena Board and will select 3 more from suggested list



Arena Board Meeting Sept 22 1970

- Named Elk Point and District Arena Board
- President Dave Didow
- Vice Pres Allan Buck
- Sec Treas Ed Pankiw
- Members: Barry Goldberg, Ken Palamerek, Paul Stepa, Ed Soldan, Ed Buck, Orest Fedorous, Larry Babcock
- Dec 1970 Arena Board expands from 10 to 15 (1 south of River, 1 Stoney Lake, 1 North of EP, 2 Heinsburg)
- Dec 1970 Arena Proposal – all concrete, Proposed \$93,000
Ice Fees \$1.00 per season, 25 cents per occasion



Community Preparations Start 1971

- Oct 23 St Paul Coaches Clinic attended by Bob Krawchuk, David Bespalko, Alan Slywka, Ed Babiniuk, Victor Stepa
- Nov 1971 Ray Hellquist, Sid Holthe, Erna Holliday, Velma Andrishak and Harry Krawchuk visit St Paul arena



Arena Kickoff Event 1971



Torch Light Parade to start Fundraising



Hockey Outdoors – Last Season

- Nov 1971 Hockey Coaches (Outdoors):
 - Midget: Marvin Bjornstad, Harvey Aarbo
 - Bantam: Marvin Bjornstad, Harvey Aarbo
 - Pee Wee: Ralph Mann, Bob Krawchuk, David Petrosky
 - Tom Thumbs: Ed Soldan, Steve Andrishak, Ray Hellquist
 - Atoms: A. Boratynec, R. Onusko, P. Grykuliak



Tom Thumbs 1971 - 1972



Building the Arena 1972

- Edwin Nelson Contractor
- The Elk Point arena is going to cost about \$120,000 (SP Journal July 1972.)
- EP Arena Valued at \$160,000



Under construction Spring 1971



Volunteers for Construction

- In addition to many donations-in-kind of trucking, gravel, and equipment to the Arena Project many people donated their time and labor
- To qualify their labor for matching government funds careful tracking of timesheets was done for every hour worked with a sign in and a sign out system closely enforced.



Fundraising for Arena

- Many community fundraisers were held such as a St Paul to Elk Point Walk-a-thon
- In the early days of the arena Indoor Rodeos were held which raised money and fulfilled the requirements of being an agricultural society.
- The best fundraiser was a local \$60 lottery which had almost everyone in town on a list to be approached by a specific volunteer. Half the money went to monthly prizes and half to paying the area debt payment.



Completed Arena Fall 1972

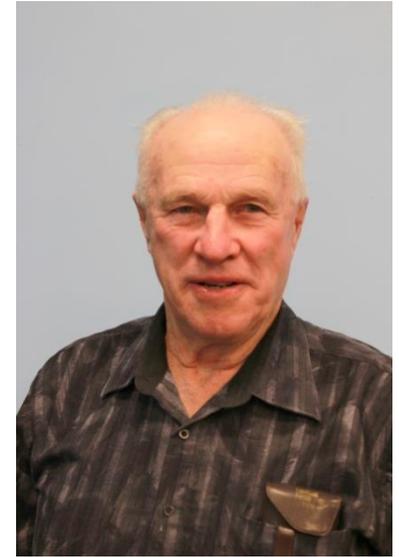


Arena - Fall 1972 - Leadership

- Recreation Board
– Ray Hellquist
- Agricultural
Society – Larry
Babcock
- Figure Skating –
Ruth Anderson



Ray Hellquist



Larry Babcock

Ruth Anderson

