

PCMA Web Page - About the Arena

On October 4, 1959... “with more than a thousand people in attendance the village of Port Credit was proud to open the doors of its new Arena.”

History

A community-driven initiative, Port Credit Memorial Arena was future Mississauga’s first municipal indoor rink. The only other arena in existence was Dixie Gardens. However, this was a private facility with limited public availability and consequently, Port Credit citizens sought ice time in Toronto or elsewhere, or took their chances at outdoor rinks. In attempts to rectify this situation, in the mid fifties, Port Credit Councillor John Holland assembled a committee, which included John Gray, of St. Lawrence Starch, to investigate the feasibility of building a municipal arena in Port Credit.

As the village grew and local industries pledged their support, the idea became a reality. Six months of the year, the Arena was busy with ice sports and in the summer, it was home to the Port Credit Sailors Lacrosse Team. The Arena was a hot spot for other community events such as wrestling, dances and art shows.

Port Credit Memorial Arena is a highly visible landmark overlooking the Port Credit Memorial Park and the Credit River. It has direct associations with the town and community, as well as the veterans it memorializes.

Activities and Sport Stars

Port Credit Memorial Arena has hosted a wide range of activities and sports stars. The rink served as “home ice” for the hockey associations of Applewood, Clarkson, Cloverleaf, Cooksville and Lakeview, as well as the Knights of Columbus and the Morning Glory Club. NHL players that graced the rink include Jason Spezza, Greg Gilbert, Rob Kelly, Grant Marshall, Dick Duff and Larry and Doug Patey. Olympic bronze medalist figure skater Wallace Distelmyer has performed at the arena. He is known for launching the death spiral in international competition. The arena provided a home base for both the Port Credit Hockey Association and Figure Skating Club. Lacrosse players enjoy the facility due to its unobstructed overhead space. In fact, the Mann Cup final was held at the arena just one year after the facility opened. Wrestling, concerts and, of course, public skating, are just some of the many other activities that have been held within this community space. The arena has been and remains a community focal point.

Present

The Arena continues to be widely used by the residents of Mississauga for a variety of community events and numerous community sport groups, including the Port Credit Figure Skating Club, the Port Credit Hockey Association, and the Mississauga Chargers in the winter, and the Mississauga Tomahawks Lacrosse in the summer.