

We Need Our Community's Help

At this time we need to go back to our roots and ask for help again. I know we all are tired of different organizations asking for part of our pay cheques. Well I do apologize but I'm going to ask you to share some of your hard earned money with an organization that does make a difference in our own community.

This outstanding **Volunteer** operated organization (I'm allowed to say that as I'm the President and in need of some praise) started as a old caboos pulled into an empty field behind Windsor Park Collegiate with a couple of hockey rinks built by volunteers from lumber donated by a construction company. A couple years later in 1958 these volunteers rounded up enough money from the communities of Windsor Park and Niakwa Park to build a new Community Centre owned and operated by the community itself. That original centre was the main hall at our centre now and the caboos was still the skate change area. Winakwa at that time was serving a catchment area larger than any other centre in Greater Winnipeg. It was completely volunteered operated with no operating grants from the City of St. Boniface and no paid employees to maintain the buildings and grounds. These duties were all done by volunteers because it was owned and operated by the community.

Winakwa Community Centre retired the old caboos change room in 1969 when our centre went through its first expansion. I know how much hard work and time was spent in getting that first much needed expansion, as my father was on the Board of Winakwa during the sixties and served as President of Winakwa from 1968-1970.

Through the years Winakwa Community Centre has continued to expand thanks to the hard work of volunteers that have shared the original vision of those first volunteers. The vision was to have a centre that the community could go to for its children's sporting programs, Dance and Baton, Adult Dance night, Teen Dances, Sock Hops, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scout Troupes, New Years Eve Dances, Saturday Morning Movies for the Children, Spring Carnivals, and Winter Carnivals with the Annual Broomball game. I know I have missed a lot of different events or programs that were held over the years. Winakwa Community Centre means a lot of different things to each of us but I do know the Park and my life would not have been the same without my years spent at the old Club.

I believe the vision is still the same. The Communities of Windsor Park, Niakwa Park, Southland Park and Sage Creek need a **Great Community Centre** that can serve the needs of all its members. Winakwa will be able to truly do that with the help of all our members. Winakwa Community Centre is asking you all to help in anyway you can to make **our communities vision of a expanded community centre** that can serve all its community wishes.

Please **help** and **thank you**,

Robert K. Gobeil
President
Winakwa Community Centre

P.S. I still remember getting my first Winakwa Team Jacket (Gold and Maroon), I was so proud!!!