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Donation first agreed to 12 years ago

By Ron Giofu/The Amherstburg Echo Updated 2 months ago

AMHERSTBURG — It was a donation Skate Amherstburg has been waiting 12 years to make.

When talk first arose in Amherstburg for a twin-pad arena, the local figure skating association committed to donating \$35,000 to the fundraising efforts. At long last, Skate Amherstburg was able to make the donation official at the most recent meeting of Amherstburg town council.

Skate Amherstburg president Sharon Kawai said the group jumped on board with fundraising efforts over a decade ago when a twin-pad arena was first talked about.

"Skate Amherstburg was very excited and agreed to donate \$35,000 over a ten-year period," she said.

While original plans fell through, the organization remained committed to fundraising for a new facility. The group would set aside \$5 from every registration over the last 12 years until \$35,000 was raised.

Now that the United Communities Credit Union Complex has arrived, Kawai said the group is thrilled to be inside.

"Although it took 12 years, it is well worth the wait," she said. "It has exceeded our expectations."

Councillor John Sutton said projects like the new recreation complex would not have come to fruition without community support such as the support received

"We are indebted to you as much as you are to the vision of council," said Sutton.

Councillor Bart DiPasquale also offered thanks but also congratulations for being able to raise the money.

"We'd like to thank you for raising the money," DiPasquale told the delegation. "We know there is a lot of hard work that went into this."



Skate Amherstburg donated \$35,000 towards the rec complex. From left: Mayor Wayne Hurst, Skate Amherstburg treasurer Ann Peltier, past president Pamela Brush, board member Tina Doyon, president Sharon Kawai, publicity chair Jen Duguay.

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