

History of the Port Colborne Bocce Club

In 1983 Ferdinando Perrella, Vic Fillipini & Ernie Miatello Sr. met with the director of Parks & Recreation Art Steed in regard to building bocce courts on city owned property. Art Steed met with the Parks & Recreation Committee for approval. His report was approved and it was agreed that the city would help the Bocce Club construct 4 bocce courts at the Sports Complex south of the Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena on the east parking lot. Orest Shypowsky the parks technician designed the 4 courts with Ferdinando, Vic and Ernie. The mayor at this time was Bob Saracino.

The club officially opened, and play began in 1984. Ferdinando would go daily to water using a 200' hose from the arena and then roll the courts. The city built external entrances to the Teeder Kennedy Youth Arena dressing rooms and the Bocce club was able to use storage room B as well as access to the washrooms.

In 1986 hydro installed lights on the parking lot so Bocce could be played at night. In 1989 the club Incorporated through Bill Ebert Q.C. for the purposes of liability. In 1991 the city applied for a New Horizons grant from the Federal Government through M.P. Girve Fretz and we got the Butler Building and eventually gas, water & sewer.

In 1994 with assistance from M.P. John Maloney another Butler building was added as well as 2 more courts with fencing and lighting.

At this time a Liquor licence was applied for and granted with the support of Tom Lannan from the Parks & Recreation department.

Mike Ianandrea with Henry & Norma Miden and Dori Schooley started the Fundraiser for the Special Olympians and the Special Olympians League.

City hall (Tom Lannan & Annette Molenaar) were always co-operative and helpful with the Bocce Club. Anna Nuccitelli would go in regularly during the season to run off club rules and schedules.

In 2007/2008 when City Hall decided it was going to build a new multi function sport complex the Bocce club was asked if they wanted to be a part of it. The members of the Bocce club voted in favor of being a part of the complex.

Although many people were skeptical of the new build and worried about how many people would come back after being off for 3 years the club came back stronger than ever.

The club started with just a few members and 4 courts then grew to 6 courts and 105 active members in 2010 when the club was shut down for the rebuild.

The club reopened in the Spring of 2013 and grew to 228 members. Our current active lifetime membership is now 326. We now run 3 leagues (Men's, Women's and Mixed). We also have about 60 Special Olympians continue to play in the Tuesday Night league.

The hall which can comfortably seat up to 80 people is available for rental by members. Any type of event such as Anniversaries, Birthdays, Bridal Shower, Baby Shower, Graduations, Weddings, etc. We have a kitchen and Licensed Bar.

Presidents of the club past & present include Mike Ianandrea, Frank Frangescangeli, George Sathmary, Inno Stocco, Paul Favero.

Thanks goes to Tom Lannan & other club members for providing this information.