



New sports park owners working to impress ! New lighting, new ice among changes at park . . .

Officials at the Cambridge, CA. Sports Park are convinced that if you re-build it they will come.

Since acquiring the Cambridge Ice Park in March, **Buckingham Sport Properties** has undertaken a major overhaul of the facility.

"We've done a lot in a short period of time, but this place was built in 1997 and things are starting to wear out," explains Buckingham vice-president John Cook. "It's going to take time to get everything done that we want to do."



New sports park owners working to impress. The new owners of the Cambridge Sports Park are working to impress the community with changes at the park.

While Cook and the management at the Cambridge Sports Park have been able to check a litany of other items off their "to do" list such as new ice resurfacers, new Plexiglas around the twin rinks, correcting drainage problems on the ball diamonds and rebuilding the large outdoor deck, they've found other work that has to be done.

"Once we got things opened up we found that it was time to replace the sprinkler system. We also aren't going into another season without a new dehumidifier, and you can't just go out and buy one of those. They have to be ordered," Cook said. On another front, sports park management is working closely with Cambridge Hydro to retrofit the facility with energy efficient electrical systems.

"We are working with them to install LED lighting throughout the building, which will make it lighter, while reducing energy costs," Cook said. "We also want to install motion sensors in the washrooms and change rooms, which will shut the lights off when no one is there. Our biggest cost in operating this place is electricity and whatever we can do to conserve energy helps us to cut costs." The Sports Park will also have new vending machines equipped with proximity sensors, which will only turn on the machines when someone approaches them.

With the recent good weather, much of the effort at the Sports Park has been spent whipping the playing fields into shape.





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"People can see what we are doing and it has been a big help to our baseball registrations," said general manager Brian Hood. With ball season rapidly approaching, Sport Park management decided to put off lighting their third diamond until next year and plans to expand the volleyball courts are also on ice for this summer.

"With the lighting we've just run out of time. It will get done, but not this year," Cook said. Sport Park management is keeping fingers crossed that summer hockey registration will also pick up. To this point numbers have been lagging.

"Unfortunately, people can't see all the work we're doing inside the building," Cook said. "Seeing is believing. From my days of playing hockey, I know hockey players want three things: good lights, great ice and cold beer, and we have all three."

One team that has already signed up this summer is the Elmira Sugar Kings, of the Great Ontario Junior Hockey League's mid-western division. Sport Park managers are hoping others will soon follow.

Cambridge Sport Park will likely be used to stage part of St. Benedict Catholic's Secondary School 50th anniversary in May. Cook said agreements are already in place for the school to use the Sports Park's sports field and talks are taking place regarding the reunion. Robert Johnston, president of the InterTech Group, which owns Buckingham Sports Properties, was in town Thursday to inspect progress.

"They've done a great job in very little time," he said. "When people come in to see what we've done they'll know we meant everything we said."

By - Ray Martin, Times Staff



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