

\$2,500 left to fundraise

Lace up your skates at Chesterville waterfront

by **Amanda Smith-Millar** The Chesterville Record
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CHESTERVILLE — If the weather co-operates, Chesterville's waterfront will be open for skating this year.

Township of North Dundas Mayor Eric Duncan recently released details to the media about a plan to allow wintertime activities on the village's waterfront development, which accesses the South Nation River.

"A volunteer committee was struck this fall, including myself, to bring the tradition of skating back along the Waterfront area in Chesterville," said Duncan via an email statement. "From our records, the last time this happened in Chesterville was in the late 1980s. The committee has met with South Nation Conservation Authority to discuss the water levels and logistics, and the Township of North Dundas staff will be administering and assisting with overseeing the maintenance and safety precautions."

"We are really excited about this project and what the potential is for helping promote Chesterville," said Duncan. "It is unique to have such a large outdoor skating area outside the National Capital Region, and I believe that it will bring people to the village. It will hopefully prove to be a boost to businesses and restaurants in Chesterville, and show pride in the village."

He noted that fundraising is underway to purchase capital items that will allow for skating on the river. Chesterville's Rotarians and Lions have both committed to supporting the project financially, Duncan said.

Service clubs have pitched in \$5,000 thus far, and the committee hopes to collect \$2,500 still.

The expenses include: an additional set of steps to access the river, Christmas tree lights, and a snow fence to create a barrier and keep visitors away from the edge.

Financial donations can be contributed via two village financial institutions: Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust. Tax receipts

can be provided upon request.

Anyone interested in volunteering with this program can contact Councillor John Thompson via the Township of North Dundas (613-774-2105). Mother Nature may put the kibosh on Chesterville's winter wonderland project, however.

"The committee have really focused on the details and making sure that it is well thought out and planned — from a safety, insurance, cost, and logistics perspective," Duncan said. "The only thing we can't control is the weather. We are hoping for a few good weeks of cold weather this winter to run the project. It would be great to have hundreds of people using the waterfront this winter."

