

Skate the Lake press release

## **Skate the Lake - 11th annual pond hockey tournament on Minnedosa Lake – February 18 + 19, 2017**

Skate the Lake started in 2007 as a fundraiser to support the Minnedosa Community Daycare, which was then in the planning stages. After 3 years a total of \$10,200 was donated from Skate the Lake. When the Community Daycare was up and running in 2009, the volunteer group behind Skate the Lake decided to put its efforts towards raising funds to support Minnedosa Minor Hockey projects to the proposed MREC facility.

Skate the Lake 2010 was a combined effort of Minnedosa Minor Hockey and the Skate the Lake volunteer committee. For the first time, the Minor Hockey Board endorsed Skate the Lake as its fundraiser and agreed to halt Minor Hockey games that weekend and each team was assigned a volunteer shift to operate the pond hockey tournament over the 2-day event. This partnership made for a great event for families and teams to work and play together, while celebrating the spirit of hockey.

The seven Skate the Lake tournaments from 2010-2016 raised a total of \$63,500 for Minor Hockey projects at the proposed Minnedosa Regional Events Centre (MREC).

With the MREC project moving towards a call for building proposals, the Skate the Lake Committee has decided to donate the proceeds from the 11th Anniversary Skate the Lake (February 18 + 19, 2017) to enhancing the sound system at the Minnedosa Arena and to the fundraising efforts of the Minnedosa Beach Enhancement Committee. These upgrades to the rink sound system will include items to help coaches, players and fans at both the existing and the future MREC arena. Skate the Lake is able to make good use of the beach area for our winter event and we feel the playground improvements that are being planned would enhance the area for summer users as well.

### **The goals of Skate the Lake:**

- Promoting Minnedosa as a year-round tourist destination
- Raising money for local charities - for 2017 this will be Minnedosa Minor Hockey and the Beach Enhancement Committee
- Helping to maintain “pond hockey” as part of our proud Canadian heritage
- Bringing people together in a fun environment and promote healthy, active living

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Skate the Lake (February 2016) was the biggest year yet with almost 50 teams of all ages participating in the different divisions of the event and a total of \$12,700 was raised. The support of participants and the many volunteers makes this possible, year after year.

Many of our major sponsors are already confirmed for Skate the Lake 2017 and the team registrations are starting to trickle in so planning is well under way for another great weekend on Minnedosa Lake in February. Registrations for all age groups are being accepted until February 5<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found at [skatethelake.ca](http://skatethelake.ca) or by calling 204-867-1942.