

Lions Park History

In the mid 1980's late Lions Club member Harold Fair had an idea to convert the open field in front of the then Kincardine & District Community Centre into a playground for the youth of Kincardine. After several years of lobbying the Town of Kincardine finally agreed to his proposal. In 1991 the Kincardine and District Lions Club took on the task of raising the funds and installing a playground on the site. With a generous donation from the Kincardine Old Boys Reunion Committee and fundraising done by the Club a state of the art playground was designed by Henderson Playground equipment and with in excess of 1,000 hours of volunteer labour from the Club's members the playground which included a 3 on 3 basketball court and adult workout stations was installed. The park was opened on Canada Day 1993 and officially named the Lions Park. Unfortunately, over the years some of the equipment had to be removed due to changing government standards.



In 1998, the now defunct Kincardine Optimist Club along with Kincardine Rotary, Kincardine Cable TV and the Municipality, financed and had a fenced in skate park built to complement the park.

In 2006 after years of permit problems, the members of the Kincardine and District Lions Club raised the funding and erected a "Playground Shelter" to enhance the park.

Due to an expansion built onto what is now called the Davidson Centre for Kincardine & District the basketball court was lost to parking lot.

In 2008, after a safety inspection of the original equipment installed, it was decided by the Municipality to replace the park playground equipment. The Kincardine Lions members once again stepped up and with a 60/40 financial split with the Municipality the entire playground was replaced by the members, once again with the assistance of Henderson Playground Equipment and the park was rededicated in 2009.



In 2011 the Kincardine & District Lions Club once again decided on an expansion to the park. A 10-year plan was presented to the Municipality of Kincardine Council with a splash pad, washrooms, and an updated skate park to be added. The original skate park was designated to become an outdoor basketball and ball hockey facility.

The Club set the wheels in motion to build the Splash Pad. After a couple of years of planning and fundraising, work was commenced on the splash pad in the fall of 2014. The washroom and change room facilities were added to the plan as well as an additional shelter. The Splash Pad was completed and dedicated for public use in 2015. The washrooms and picnic shelter were completed and opened for the 2016 season.

In January of 2020 the Club once again approached the Municipality with the idea of entering the next phase of the plan which was to update the skate park. Land use was granted and the Club commenced planning for the “All Wheel Park”. Unfortunately, Covid-19 intervened and while the project progressed, it was at a much slower pace than had been anticipated. The necessary permit from Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority was eventually obtained and topographical and geological surveys of the proposed area were completed. The Club was then in contact with the few Canadian companies that deal with this type of design and construction. Dropin Skate parks of Manitoba was decided on and a conceptual design was created. The proposed park is approximately 6,400 square feet. The total project will have an estimated cost in the neighbourhood of \$650,000.00 complete. The existing skate park will be repurposed as a multi use facility (i.e. basketball, ball hockey etc.).

