

# Minden Seniors Shuffleboard Club going strong

by SUE TIFFIN  
Times Staff

On a Monday morning in September, just past 9 a.m., the streets of Minden village are quiet with students in school and traffic from the workday commute at its destination, so the sound of weighted discs sliding along the shuffleboard courts located next to the tennis courts on Prentice Street fills the crisp air.

Almost 20 Minden Seniors Shuffleboard Club players who have met there for a game or two of singles and doubles shuffleboard are as relaxed as the morning feels, stepping into place to take their turn and quietly enjoying the sport, chatting about current events, family meet-ups, the status of their health, or their game itself while watching their partners across the court, noting which discs “count” in the scoring area. Every once in awhile someone will call out to gently tease a player down the way, sometimes their own partner, sometimes simply calling attention to their own playing that day.

The shuffleboard courts have been busy since the club had them built in 1986, with a \$15,000 federal New Horizons grant, on land donated by the then-municipality of Anson,

Hindon and Minden. Members of the shuffleboard club, which included then-club president Bill Ingram on a board of 10 directors, used the courts that year for instruction for beginners and fine-tuning of skills by the likes of the gold shuffleboard winners of the 1985 and 1986 Ontario Adult Games, according to a *Minden Times* article published in July 1986. The opening ceremonies were held Aug. 6 to celebrate the new facility, which offered four playing surfaces, a small equipment shed and benches for spectators and players that the club really began putting into play the next year for a full season. That court is still being used today, having seen a refurbishing in 2009 with another federal government grant for \$15,600.

“We’ve redone everything, we’ve redone the cement, the benches ... everything was getting to a point where it needed to be repaired,” said John Fortune, who has been president of the shuffleboard club for the past eight years. He got involved in the club here about 12 years ago, after he and his wife moved to the area.

“I liked shuffleboard, we had played it down in Florida,” he said. “I went out, and said, ‘let’s go see shuffleboard.’ We went out and started right away. So I became a director, and from a director I became a vice-president, and from a vice-president I became president.”

Together with fellow board members he helps manage the

club, which has stayed strong for more than three decades and today has 75 members, ranging in age from about 60 to their late-80s (the club is generally open to those 55 or older). Members sign up in the spring, and start playing, weather-permitting, during the last week of May until the middle of September on Mondays and Wednesdays, with a fun game

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John Fortune, president of the Minden Seniors Shuffleboard Club, said the club has about 75 members who play throughout the season in Minden. The club was responsible for building the courts in 1986. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

## THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- File No. PLSRA2019002:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Mountain Lake, lying in front of Lot 7, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Minden, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-10261, registered July 9, 2019.
- File No. PLSRA2019004:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Little Bob Lake, lying in front of Lot 14, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, designated as Part 1, on a Plan of Survey 19R-10264, registered July 23, 2019.
- File No. PLRA2018049:** Part of the original road allowance between Lot 8, Concessions 4 & 5, Geographic Township of Anson, designated as Parts 2, 3, and 4, on a Plan of Survey 19R-10248, registered May 17, 2019.

The above noted plans of surveys are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario during regular office hours. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned at 705-286-1260 (x206) or by e-mail at iclending@mindenhills.ca.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the proposed By-Laws will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting to be held in the Municipal Council Chambers at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, on **Thursday, September 12, 2019** at the hour of 9:00 AM At that time, Council will hear in person or by their counsel, solicitor, or agent, any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. If deemed advisable, the proposed By-laws will be passed at its regular meeting to be held on **Thursday, September 26, 2019.**

DATED AT THE Township of Minden Hills, this September 5, 2019

Ian Clending, MPI., Planner

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Shuffleboard helps about 75 members be active and social on the Minden courts. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

# Players hope for indoor court, too

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on Friday.

“Everybody pays 50 cents, and you pull a poker chip with a number [to match you to a partner],” said Fortune. “The winning team wins the money, depending on how many players are out. If there’s eight players, that’s \$4, split between two people, you win \$2. And I’ll tell you, regardless of how much money it is, they want to win.”

“They’re serious about it,” said Wally Reed, who joined the club about four years ago, becoming a director this year. He said he used to curl, but can’t do so as much with a “bad knee,” though he notes some shuffleboard players also curl and play pickle ball.

The cost of a season is \$35 for a full member, or \$15 for a spare player, a fee which includes game play and use of the equipment, and also a barbecue held at Fortune’s house. An awards banquet is held at the end of the season.

“How the barbecue started, was my wife said, ‘oh, we only have a banquet, why don’t we have a barbecue?’” laughed Fortune. “And that’s how the barbecue started.”

Games run about 45 minutes each.

“Being a member of shuffleboard, you don’t have to really be active at all, you just stand there and do it,” said Fortune. “It’s a good social club. It gets seniors out and socialized with other seniors.”

“It’s a real social, shuffleboard,” said Reed. “You’ve got the banquet, you’ve got the barbecue, and then the people joking and laughing while they’re playing the game.”

They both laugh as Reed explains the club plays so that those who “go into the kitchen,” a minus 10 point square on the board, lose 10 points but also have to pay up a dime.

“And of course, that gets people going all the time, yelling and shouting,” said Reed. “It’s lots of fun. The object is to knock the other person out, or get them in the kitchen if you can. We’ve got one there, who’s really deadly. You don’t dare get in front of him if you don’t want to end up in the kitchen. It’s a bit cutthroat but all in good fun.”

The club takes care of the outdoor courts themselves, with volunteers beginning at 6 a.m. some mornings to prepare the space for play, cutting the grass around the courts and planning maintenance, including this year the resanding and repainting of courts and repair of benches. Through the club, for the past five years, the Haliburton Red Wolves have come in every Friday afternoon for practices and games.

With support from the community, including a petition, Fortune and Reed as part of the Minden Seniors Shuffleboard Club have been requesting that the new arena and recreation complex being built in Minden include an indoor shuffleboard court for the fall, winter and early spring seasons.

“A lot of seniors won’t travel in the wintertime,” said Fortune, acknowledging an indoor court available in Algonquin Highlands. “Once you say, we’re working on getting courts, everyone’s excited.”

Mark Coleman, community services director, said the township is working to include two full-size or four compact courts in the gym design of the new complex, “pending line configurations between the other sports such as pickle ball, badminton, basketball and volleyball.”

It’s clear the Minden Seniors Shuffleboard Club members love the game, ensuring it thrives locally.

“That’s one of the reasons we want to keep it going in the winter if we can,” said Reed.

Olga Mark keeps track of the score at a game being played on the morning of Sept. 9.



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