

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Winter Wonderland event is back at Frank Crane Arena

#### *Six days of free skating sessions*

#### Summary

The City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is pleased to bring back the popular Winter Wonderland free skating event taking place on December 24 and again from December 26 to 30.

The Frank Crane Arena in Beban Park will be transformed into a "West Coast Winter Wonderland" theme featuring twinkling lights, seasonal music, a forest of real trees, a decorated 1957 blue Chevy truck filled with trees and presents and other holiday decor. Activities over the six days include free skating sessions. In addition, there is no charge for helmet or skate rentals. A Kinsmen Pancake Breakfast will occur on Thursday, December 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Beban Park Social Centre.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available. If you are a business or organization looking for exposure, consider sponsoring a session. This event attracts 6,000 skaters and gives all the opportunity to come and skate for free. Please contact the Arenas Department at 250-756-5200 for information on how you can be part of this worthwhile Nanaimo tradition.

Check the events section on the City of Nanaimo website (<https://www.nanaimo.ca/your-government/news-events/events>) for specific skating session times and the corresponding sponsors of the sessions.

*Strategic Link:* Cultural Vitality, Community Building Partnerships

#### Key Points

- This yearly event takes place thanks to partnerships between the City of Nanaimo and various local businesses and is a way to say "thank you" to the community and give everyone, regardless of age, skating ability or economic circumstances, an opportunity to enjoy skating.
- There is a Kinsmen Pancake Breakfast on Thursday, December 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Beban Park Social Centre.

#### Quotes

"Winter Wonderland is a Nanaimo tradition! For six days each year, the Frank Crane Arena is transformed into a winter theme with an abundance of participation. The City of Nanaimo is grateful for the local businesses and organizations for their support in bringing this event to our community."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

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