

Centennial's coming out

A FIGURE SKATING SHOW (REALLY!) PART OF THE REOPENING PARTY AT RIVERFRONT PARK

CATHY DOBSON
THE JOURNAL

Four years after being closed due to contamination, Centennial Park is reopening with a family-friendly community bash on Saturday.

The entertainment includes everything from live music on the new Suncor Agora stage to a figure skating show on artificial ice, a barbecue and sports demo.

The kids can look forward to inflatables, face painting, crafts and games. The whole family can walk through the park for the first time since 2013 and see the unveiling of a mosaic wall made in honour of Canada's 150th.

Aside from the barbecue, it's all free.

The cleanup of asbestos and chemicals in the soil led to a complete reconstruction of the park's seawall, its special features, walkways, playground, gardens and waterfront stage. The fencing that kept the public out came down June 2.

"We're excited to be celebrating our park and our beautiful waterfront," says city event organizer Rachel Veilleux.

An Ontario 150 Community Celebration grant is covering 75% of the estimated \$45,000 cost and the city is picking up the rest of the tab.

As a result, the party is a salute to both Sarnia's premier park and Ontario's sesquicentennial.

The musical acts include a rock band from Strathroy called Upside of Maybe and francophone pop singer Gabrielle Goulet, who hails from Bourget in eastern Ontario.

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Best in Ontario



AVERY SMILEY of Northern Collegiate strides for gold in midget boys sprint hurdles at the OFSAA Track and Field Championships. Avery was one of eight city high school athletes to medal in Belleville, Ont. June 1-3. For more, please see page 38.

BRUCE SMITH, Special to The Journal

Local group trying to save Jackson Pool

A citizen group is coming together in a bid to save Jackson Pool.

The six-member team has been canvassing the business community with the goal of repairing the East Street swimming hole, which has been closed since 2015.

"I believe we can find a

sponsor," said co-organizer Daniel Harding.

City staff told The Journal earlier this year Jackson requires at least \$167,000 for a major reconstruction and upgrade to meet today's building codes and accessibility requirements.

Harding believes that's tar-

get is achievable. At least 15 local businesses have already expressed an interest in donating money or services to save the pool, he said.

Jackson Pool has been a go-to summer destination for families in central Sarnia since it opened in 1966. But usage has fallen in recent

years, said Rob Harwood, Sarnia's director of parks and recreation.

"Demographics are changing, so the demand for that pool is much less than it was originally now that we have other public pool options in the city."

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