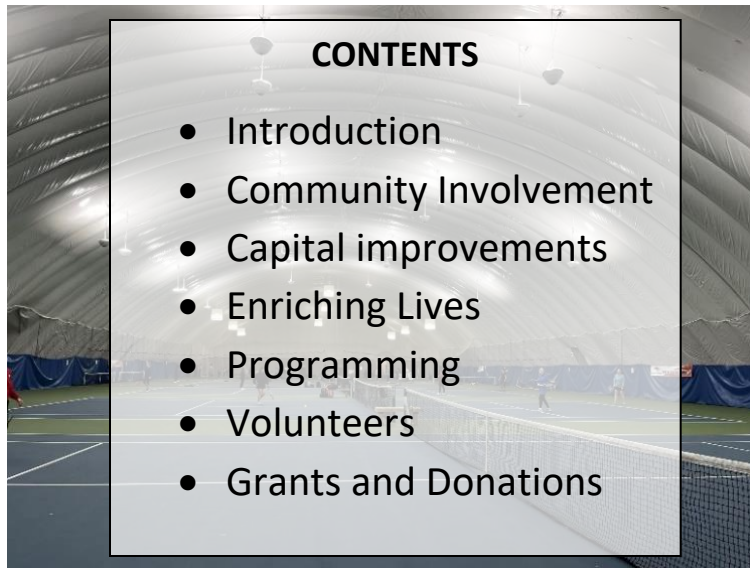


2024 Cougar Dome Annual Report



INTRODUCTION

Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence (CSAE) or the Cougar Dome (CD) is a non-profit tennis and multi-sport facility, managed by a volunteer board. It includes racquet sports, tennis and pickle ball, as well as a turf area for soccer, rugby, indoor softball training and other sports and activities and includes a 260-meter track for walking and running.

In April 2024, Board President of the Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence Board, Leroy Lowe, stepped down after a term of remarkable dedication and leadership. Luanne Schenkels accepted the role of President of the CSAE board. In assuming this significant responsibility, Luanne shared some words reflecting on the task ahead. “I, with the CSAE Board’s support, hope we can continue build upon the foundation of our previous leadership and our benefactors while the Cougar Dome continues to thrive. It is a big job made easier by great staff, committed board members and Cougar Dome volunteers and the many athletes coming through our revolving door who recognize what a treasure we have here in Truro. We are grateful that our facility continues to be supported by sponsors and financial donations, all of which help us continue to operate.”

As of May 2024, CD is busy with regular court play of pickleball and tennis which includes lessons, leagues and King’s Court Pickleball. In 2024, CD hosted tournaments (pickleball and tennis), Lasar Tag tournaments and a multitude of athletes who ran, walked and jumped in our facility. We are proud to say that our first grouping of the CD Advantage group has “graduated” after 11 months of tennis lessons equating to \$1000 worth of lessons per student. The second group (CD Advantage 2) completed their first 6 weeks of lessons. Both groups of athletes were offered to have their lessons continued at Truro Tennis Club during Summer 2024 at no charge. CD Advantage 2 students return to CD for continuation



of lessons in Fall 2024. Our kids' multi-sport camps are thriving and reaching capacity numbers with camp offerings in March and in July/August. CD is open year round providing all weather play, summer camps and on average, during the fall and winter, welcomes over 125 guests daily.

The dome requires constant attention both inside and out. The current facility manager, Lisa MacDonald does an amazing job coordinating, leading and managing the facility, its many programs, staff and community relations. Staff maintain the interior with care and, with the assistance of our users, we showcase a remarkable facility. Exteriorly, our inflatable bubble has to withstand blizzards, power outages and hurricanes which requires proactive stewardship.

As an organization, we strive to continue to offer programming and sports opportunities and with your help and dedication, *our beloved dome* can continue its gift of serving our community.

Mission

The Cougar Dome offers everyone year-round, safe, and affordable access to multiple sports and health-promoting activities including tennis, pickleball, turf and track.

Vision

The Cougar Dome will continue to provide a safe, inclusive, and financially viable facility. We will increase membership and usage for all to play, learn, compete, and have fun together!



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

TENNIS CANADA Grant (GameSetEquity(GSE))



Consultations with twenty community organizations which provided us with:

- ✓ Valuable feedback
- ✓ New participants in our programs
- ✓ A positive and higher profile for the Cougar Dome within our community.
- ✓ Focus on increased access for female identifying participants

Resulting in:

- Experience CD Event/Open House
- Beginner Youth and Adult lessons (9 weeks at no cost)
- Female Adult Drop in
- GSE Track Access
- Community Tennis Facilitation Training (CTF)-13 female participants
- Pickleball lesson cohort (5 participants for 12 weeks)

CD Advantage

This program allows children selected by local elementary schools to participate in tennis lessons. Using funds designated for this program by our sponsors, students can access tennis lessons at no cost to them. There are 8-12 students in each group. The first group has graduated after 1 year of lessons while the second group has had 6 weeks of lessons. A new group will begin in Autumn 2024. Overview of program: [video](#)



The goals of the program are:

Play, have Fun – As computers, computer games and the Internet increasingly dominate the time and attention of our youth, it is important for all kids to have regular opportunities for social physical play and active fun.

Belong – We want to ensure that those who are in the local indigenous community, visible minorities, and other marginalized groups have an opportunity to be involved and we will ensure that diversity is embraced by creating a positive, accessible, friendly, and welcoming atmosphere that embraces inclusivity while promoting unity. This will be a safe and accessible space where everyone will be welcomed and accepted for who they are.

Be Strong - We want to improve the physical fitness, strength and coordination of the youth involved in these programs. We know that those who gain foundational sport skills become more physically capable and those who are challenged to reach higher levels of performance learn that commitment can help them achieve the goals they set for themselves. We also believe that participation in sports improves social skills, builds resilience, and will improve their overall health and well-being.

Summer camp partnership with Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC)

Each summer the campers from CD and RECC have several days of “exchange” with the campers at Cougar Dome. Staff, camp binders and children swap places for a day so all can experience the fun that lies within the Cougar Dome.

Student internship program with NSCC

The Cougar Dome accepts students within the internship program at NSCC. Last May, we had one student, Hannah, participate in the internship program. She will continue as part-time staff while she finishes her certificate of Community Recreation.

NS Cooperative Council – Career Rising Program

This program sent us a student for the summer and we were able to give him some work experience for his future and he did a great job cleaning those blue curtains!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Purchase of back up motor (this motor maintains inflation when there is a power outage)
- Horse blanket installation, July 2023 (Farley (Dome manufacturer) warranty program to protect Dome surface)

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

- Summer camp 2023-7 weeks, 4 days per week, 21-24 campers each week/Note partnership with RECC
- March break camp 2024-5 days, 18 campers/note partnership with Titan Lasar Tag
- Summer camp 2024-9 weeks, 4 days per week, 18 campers per week/ Note partnership with RECC
- Cobequid Educational Centre (CEC) daytime usage - Use for gym class, track & field team practice, special events (carnival week); Average weekly use is 6 – 8 hours of free use/week and 10 – 16 hours paid use/week.
- Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education (CCRCE) daytime usage - they usually want to use everything the dome has to offer, tennis, pickleball, the turf for soccer and the track for those who don't want to play, they can walk the track. Bussing the kids is a large cost for them, so offering the Dome at no cost supports schools.
- Daytime track walkers - at no cost, on average 6-10 walkers per day
- Locker room visits by guests-on average, 10 visits per day by community members to access washroom facilities. When there is an event on the nearby sports fields that number goes up exponentially as use of our washroom facilities increases.
- Locker room usage-the locker rooms get used by CEC teams
- New Year's Eve at the Cougar Dome- from 1-4pm on New Year's Eve, there were 300 children using the bouncy castles (provided by the Town of Truro)
- Firefighter fitness assessments - 80+ firefighters completed required physical ability assessments using the track
- Board room used by Aroma Maya, CD committees, tournaments, birthday parties, camp activities

Our local firefighters visited and then played soccer with the summer camp kids!



SPORT PROGRAMMING

Pickleball

- Adult programming
 - Learn to Play
 - Skills and Drills
 - King of the Court
 - Clinics
 - Instructor 1 Accreditation
- Tournaments
 - Nov 4th and 5th -16 courts
 - December 2nd and 3rd -16 courts
 - March 29th & 30th -16 courts
 - April 27th & 28th - 16 courts



Tennis

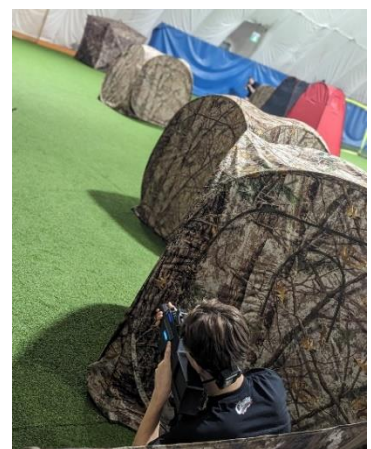
- Adult programming
 - Beginner 1& 2 (Skylar)- Fall2023 1, Fall2023 2, Winter 2024, Spring 2024)
 - Intermediate and Advanced (Mark)-Fall 2023 & Winter 2024
 - Elles (Oct 2023-March 2024)
- Youth programming
 - CD Advantage 1 (Skylar)-8 grade 6 students (no cost to students)-July 2023-May 2024
 - CD Advantage 2 (Skylar)-11 grade 4 students (no cost to students)-April 2024-April 2025
 - Youth tennis lessons (Skylar)- (Fall2023 1, Fal2023I 2, Winter 2024, Spring 2024)
 - Mark's Elite Youth: 3 females, 6 hrs per week (Partnership with Mark White Coaching)
- Tournaments
 - Fall Mixed Masters Oct 28 & 29- 4 courts
 - Fun tournament Sat Jan 13 & 14- 4 courts
 - PEI tournament Friday Feb 2, 3, 4- 4 courts
 - Ladies doubles 3.0 Saturday March 16- 3 courts
 - Ladies doubles 3.5 Sat March 23rd & 24- 4 courts
 - Spring Mixed Masters April 6 & 7- 4 courts
 - Juniors-PEI tournament, Feb 2/3/4-4 courts

Turf

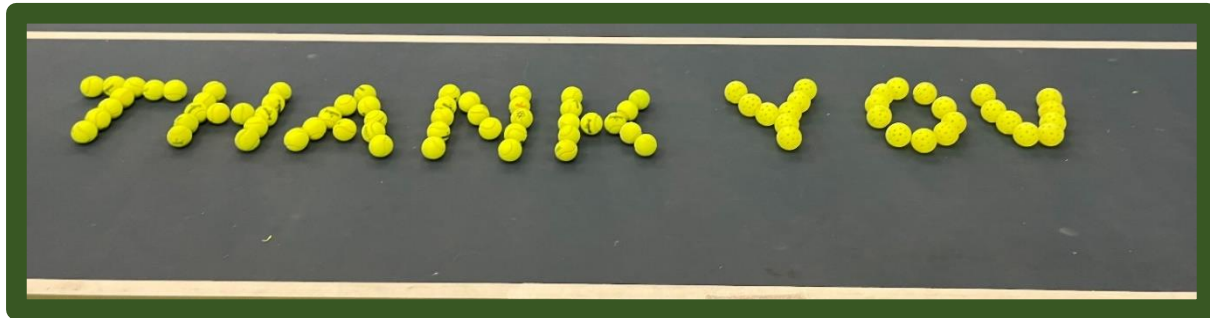
- Lasar Tag (Titan Action Games)
- CD Soccer Sunday
- Soccer- CC Riders Adult league and Bible Hill Kids League
- International student drop-in soccer
- Lion's Track & Field
- Birthday parties (average of 3-4 per month)

Track

- Training for track teams (+long jump pit)
- Walking track at no cost to users (daytime)



THANK YOU



Recognizing the incredible contribution that volunteers and donors make to our facility cannot be overstated.

The dome both continues to operate and continues to shine due to volunteer contributions. Estimated volunteer hours (Sep 2023-Aug 2024) are approximately 3500 hours over the year and include:

- Critical event volunteers (snow removal, collapse, hurricane preparations, etc)
- Board Members
- Board Executive
- Learn to Play PB
- CD Advantage
- Tennis tournament organizers
- PB tournament organizers
- PB tournament volunteers
- Skills and Drills PB
- Playtime Scheduler Volunteers
- Tennis coaching (Elles)
- Tennis coaching (general)

DONATIONS AND GRANTS		
Source	Initiative	Amount
Colchester Municipality	Insurance and Cougar Dome Advantage program	\$1000+\$3000
Town of Truro	The town provides a grant in lieu of property taxes on the facility and has since the Cougar Dome was constructed.	As of 2014-2024 the grant value is \$109,591 (cumulative since inception)
Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education (CCRSE)	March Break camp 2024	\$3000
Canada Student Grant program	2 summer students	\$9700
Tennis Canada	Increase access to facility for female identifying individuals	\$5000
Donations for 2023/24	Personal/Corporate Donations	\$108,200