



## COUGAR DOME CHATTER – 5<sup>th</sup> EDITION

**Tanya Colburne**  
**Facility Director**

Chatter, chatter, chatter... There's lots of chatter following our Grand Opening, and we have all of you to thank for that! A HUGE COUGAR DOME THANK YOU to all members of the community who took the opportunity to come down to 72 North Street to check out our facility, and give a few of our offerings a try! With more than 500 attendees, the Opening was a roaring success (excuse the pun 😊), involving lots of celebration, trials, prizes and giveaways, and of course, a cake (it's not a celebration without cake).

We were also honored to have Parliamentary Secretary Scott Armstrong, Minister Karen Casey, MLA Lenore Zann, Mayor Bill Mills, International Tennis Federation Board Member Mr. Jack Graham, and our own Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence Board Members Ron Chisholm, Jamie Bagnell and Nicole Bagnell (regrettably, Scott Annand was unable to join us) on site to assist us with the ribbon cutting, which was truly a moment to remember as we marked the "official" opening of the Dome.

Following the formalities, we opened the facility up for free use, and invited all to join our Golf Pros Heather Cameron & Stuart Cox, Tennis Pro Marijke Nel, and Bocce Ball representatives Keith and Linda Finck in a little fun, while some of our own Cougar Dome staff showcased and shared their soccer skills with the youngsters on site. Staying true to our slogan, "Living Life, Having Fun, Staying Fit at The Cougar Dome," the afternoon was filled with new experiences, lots of laughter and tonnes of physical fitness, and we loved it! Now, to keep the momentum going – here's what we have in store...

As I sit here writing this, we are hosting the largest Junior Atlantic Championships (for those that don't know, the sport is tennis) ever held, and the place is booming! With the top youth players from all four Atlantic provinces, I can tell you, these kids could put most adults to shame (I know I just started beginner tennis lessons, but seriously, these kids can hit!).

Following this weekend's event, we enter in to our last week of adult and kids tennis lessons, prior to March Break. Following which, we will begin a second round of programming with even more available for all ages, and all skill levels. Please visit [www.cougardome.ca](http://www.cougardome.ca) for full details.

Now, let's talk about March Break for a second. This being our first year of operation, we wanted to do something special. As such, we are hosting an "All Sorts of Sports Plus" camp, during which we will be offering a different sport each morning, including football, athletics, soccer, golf and tennis, as well as arts, crafts, outdoor play, etc. in the afternoons. All sessions are led by some of Nova Scotia, and/or Canada's best coaches, and the fee is a mere \$150.00 for the week, or \$30.00 a day. Sign-up now, as spaces are filling-up fast!

Prior to, during and following March Break, for those who are interested, we have Bocce Ball every Tuesday from 2:00pm-3:00pm, as well as our open golf range sessions from 11:30pm-1:00pm on Tuesdays, 7:00am-9:00am on Fridays and 2:00pm-4:00pm on Sundays (for those who do not already know, I wish to share with you a little secret... if our open range sessions are not convenient for you, give us a call or drop-in, and if our turf is open, we will gladly set-up a bay for your individual/group use).

Oh, and I should mention, for those who like a little healthy competition, we will be running our new *"Hoops for Cash"* golf event during the month of March, which is a tonne of fun, and the best part, the winner goes home with half the pot!

Although a poor segway, speaking of the pot, as some of you may have read, although we are very proud of the fact that we built our facility on time and on budget, and that we have had unmatched support from our community, unfortunately, we still have debts to pay, and as such, our fundraising efforts continue. We've raised just over \$1.75M, and we have another \$450,000 to go, and through sponsorship and donation requests, as well as grant proposals and our own toonie drive, we hope to raise the remaining funds required within the next few months. As a privately owned, charity organization, we have a very solid business plan, which will feel confident will more than cover any/all operating expenses, which means the asks we're making now, are one time only. That said, any assistance that may be available, would be greatly appreciated.

Alright, enough of the business, I have my first singles ladder match coming-up, and I need to practice, so I will sign-off for this Edition, and we will chat soon!