

Cargo Trailer Report for the Ontario Shuffleboard Association

July 15 2014 Nobel Ontario by: Gary Pipher

The Ontario Shuffleboard Association was in desperate need of new cargo trailer to replace the old and unsafe trailer which they were currently using to haul and store the equipment.

The subject of replacing the old unsafe cargo trailer had been discussed by the OSA executive and members for many years, and the latest discussion took place in 2013 at the AGM meeting in Nobel.

There was no breaking system on the trailer/ the roof leaked and the main frame was rusted to a point where it had become unsafe for transporting on the highway.

It would only be a matter of time before someone towing the trailer was pulled over by the authorities and charged under the highway traffic act for transporting an unsafe load.

In addition to the safety issues, the appearance of the old trailer did nothing to promote the sport of Shuffleboard.

The combined weight of the 20 roll out courts and the heavy court dividers was difficult to evenly distribute and some court dividers and score board easels had to be hauled separately in the tow vehicle.

I was asked by the OSA President Rendall Bilton at the OSA AGM in 2013 if I would be interested in taking on the project of obtaining a new cargo trailer for the OSA, and the following is the report of what took place.

The original prospective sponsor of the Trailer was Home Hardware, but the process of providing funding was taking too long to get approval and therefore I went to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for support.

I applied for a \$15,000.00 Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the fall of 2013 and the money for the purchase of the trailer was approved and made available in the spring of 2014.

Follow up reports of spending complete with measurable results for sustainability to ensure the activity will continue beyond the grant must now be completed as per the monitoring and evaluation plan by the OTF.

This detailed report must be submitted within the next few months to the OTF in order to close the funding account for this project. A copy of all costs and spending will be turned over to the OSA treasurer as well.

I might add that many articles of support were required by the OTF to accompany the grant request and much of this was very difficult to get from the OSA files.

Items such as Letters of Patent, Certificate of Status, Incorporation, and Budget forecast as well as previous three years financial reports, copies of by-laws and constitution, current board of directors complete with addresses.

The purpose of the grant, who will benefit from the purchase of the trailer and where it would be used was all part of the application process.

A cost estimate complete with quotations from suppliers for the trailer and all other incidentals had to accompany the application request.

This became a laborious task when much of the details and information were not within easy access and had to be sourced direct from Government archive files because they were just not available within the OSA.

These files had to be purchased and then recopied from the Ontario and Federal Government microfiche filing systems.

The original files that held much of this important information were apparently never turned over to the OSA by the Secretary /Treasurer when he was voted out of office several years ago.

Advertisement on the exterior walls of the trailer by Dom Sports / Allen R. Shuffleboard and Stan McCormack of the "Shuffler" as well as the CNSA helped support the total cost of \$2260.00 for the exterior graphics in the amount of \$981.00.

Thank you letters were sent to these generous supporters by me on behalf of the OSA.

The trailer is equipped with interior lighting in the front cabin and has a 110 V outlet to power the disc cleaner and is complete with a 100ft extension cord for connecting to a power source within an arena.

There is a hand cart for moving the courts from the arena floor to the trailer, and vice versa,

The rear double doors of the trailer open fully to allow easy access to the 20 rolled up courts which are stored in cardboard tubes and each one is nested in their respective bunks, all of which are made of aluminum construction to reduce overall weight.

The 44 heavy rubber court dividers are placed in a rolling cupboard located at the lowest point of the trailer, designed to keep the center of gravity as low as possible, and locked in place for travelling.

The cupboard rolls in and out beyond the rear doors of the trailer with very little effort and permits access to all court dividers, brooms etc

The 20 courts and all heavy items were strategically located over the tandem wheels to evenly distribute the total weight of 3,000 lbs , making for safe and easy transportation of the light weight aluminum trailer which has 4 wheel electronic braking system.

The 20 wood frame scoreboard easels are stored on the top shelf of the rear cabin, and the cues are nested in the center tube located between the rolled up courts.

The score boards are easily stacked in the front cabin within a custom made storage area.

All 20 sets of "special" roll out court discs are secured along the outboard wall and the disc polisher is secured to the rear bench next to the bulkhead.

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There is plenty of space to store other miscellaneous items in the front cabin items along the sides or in the upper cupboard located along the front wall.

The spare tire and wheel c/w lug wrench and hydraulic jack are also secured within this lockable front cabin.

Anyone who has ever helped to clean up after a tournament is no doubt aware that one of the hardest jobs in the cleaning up process, is rolling the courts and rubber dividers and packing them away in the trailer for transportation and storage.

Part of this job is now made much simpler with the new trailer since there is a specific location for everything and the time and labor required to secure the items once placed inside the trailer is greatly reduced.

The project of sourcing a new trailer for the OSA began in October of 2013, and with exception of losing the first initial major sponsor the project went over reasonably well.

The Trillium Foundation were more than generous with their funding and allowed for the purchase a superior quality all Aluminum constructed trailer from Action Trailers of Strathroy Ontario.

All layout and designs were by me and fabrication of the aluminum interior was contracted to Barrie Welding and Machine, and a good neighbor and close friend helped me to cut and install the plywood bulk head and shelving.

The trailer Graphics was contracted to Pros Marketing of Midland and all photos and copy art was supplied by me.

The two ladies shown in the photo are "Clara Clark and Ilse Vooght "who so graciously agreed to having their photos displayed on the sides of the trailer. They are to be thanked and congratulated for showing such great style and form, and for making Shuffleboard appear as interesting and challenging as it truly is.

On behalf of the OSA I sent each a thank you letter as well as enlarged photos of what they each agreed for me to use.

The new Cargo Trailer was first shown at the OSA Tournament in Goderich on June 24/26 2014 and was well received by the executive and members taking part in the tournament.

The OSA must now appoint a custodian of the Cargo Trailer and the equipment stored within to ensure it will be maintained and used for the purpose it was intended.

This report was to have been read at the AGM, but unfortunately was overlooked on the agenda and now forms part of an addendum or supplement report.

Gary Pipher

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