

TheSpec.com – Letter to the Editor - City rink staff need training on children in chairs

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THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

DUNDAS

Re: 'Dying boy in wheelchair barred from public skate' (Jan. 21)

Thank you, Kari Patterson for sharing your story. I was very disappointed to read this.

I thought the City finally resolved this confusion with facility staff, but I guess that is just at the J.L. Grightmire Arena in Dundas.

Our family went through the same situation when my daughter went skating with her school. One staffer said my daughter could go on the ice if she was in a sledge only, definitely not the wheelchair.

First, not all arenas have the sledges, and second, with my daughter's lack of head and trunk control and the specific positioning she needs, it was more of a liability to transfer her from the wheelchair to the sledge.

In the end, the supervisor did allow her chair on the ice. But every year I do have to call and give them a heads-up that we are coming so we have no hassles.

The City is in dire need of training staff at these facilities to be a bit more understanding, courteous and knowledgeable. Having said that, the city's rules and regulations for this area are very confusing and vague to the staff.