



SHERWOOD CENTRE



It is the end of an era as Sherwood Centre after 59 years of operation, closed its doors officially to the public on July 18th, 2018. Sherwood Centre was built in two stages, the first half in 1959 and the second in 1960, and when all was said and done, it boasted 48 five pin bowling lanes and at that time was the largest 5 pin bowling centre in Ontario.

Helen MacCallum (pictured above) who has been at the centre for 30 years and manager for a number of years, is quoted as saying "I haven't totally accepted it in my mind". She told the Hamilton Spectator that the centre was home to 35 five pin bowling leagues between September and April.

The O5PBA has utilized Sherwood Centre for a number of their tournaments over the years. The Ontario Open, which will be in its 55th year in 2019, was the largest event and has been played at this centre for the past 45 years. In a 4 day event over Easter weekend, we would see 24 Men's Teams, 24 Ladies Teams, 24 Mixed Teams and 72 Singles competitors from all across the province of Ontario, vie for the opportunity to represent Ontario at the Open Nationals. On Good Friday and Saturday, you would see up to 500 spectators in the centre cheering for their local zones. The air was electrifying and there was no other place you wanted to be Easter Weekend than Sherwood Centre.

Sherwood Centre was also the home for our Holiday Classic Provincial Team Championships, High Low Doubles Provincial Championships and the Executives Provincial Championships. It has also been home for our Ontario Bowling School which is a 4 day event held mid-July. The Bowling School was born at this centre in 1992 and is still running today. It is the final event being conducted at Sherwood Centre before it closes its doors completely on Sunday, July 22nd, once the event is completed.

It will be a sad day for a lot of people who played in that centre for a number of years. The O5PBA would be remiss if we did not thank Helen MacCallum and her great staff at Sherwood Centre for all of their professionalism and assistance in making our events run smoothly and seamlessly over the years. The counter staff, the pin chasers at the lanes and also back behind the lanes, were all ready and willing to make all of our events a success. The snack bar staff were second to none, and on Easter Weekends when the Open was being played, they provided us all with great food with smiles and friendly service, even though they were run off of their feet by the time the event was completed.

Thanks for the ride Sherwood Centre – it has been great, and we wish all of the staff good fortune and success in the coming years in whatever endeavour they may pursue.



O5PBA Board of Directors