

# 165 sign up for roller rink's reunion

Marcia Moore Jun 6, 2010 Updated Aug 5, 2014

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By Marcia Moore

The Daily Item

A yearning to reconnect with old friends led former Glen Iron resident Rosalie Englehardt Hassinger to set up a Facebook page about a favorite childhood hangout, Magic River Skateland, on Route 405 in Lewisburg.

The roller rink closed years ago, but in the 1970s and 1980s it was a popular recreational spot for hundreds of teens.

That's evident from the more than 500 fans who've joined the Facebook tribute to Skateland and posted memories of days spent at the rink.

"It," said Jody Estright, of Milton, "was some of the best times I had."

Posted online by Michael Russell, of Philadelphia: "I would hope the former owners know how much they touched so many lives by having Magic River Skateland. It was a sad day for me when I drove by the Lewisburg location and it was gone to be a gym."

Hassinger, who frequented the Lewisburg rink between 1981 and 1986 and met her now ex-husband there, is delighted by the response on Facebook.

"I don't skate anymore, but I wanted to reconnect to people," the 43-year-old Harrisburg resident said, recalling the years when buses ran through Valley towns and villages to take children to and from the rink.

"It was safe and fun and everyone just had a blast," Hassinger said. "That was one of the best times of my life, and obviously by the response, it wasn't just me."

After finding the Internet site, former Milton resident Shirley Temple Moore posted her own recollections.

"All the good memories I have come back from the days when I hung out there every weekend," Temple said. "My old friends, dancing with the guys, sock hops, and the skating. I wish there were places around like that now. What I wouldn't do to be there again."

That sentiment was repeated enough that a reunion is slated for 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. June 27 at Sunset Rink in Shamokin Dam.

So far, 164 people have confirmed they will attend the event for \$4 per person plus skate rental fees.

Responding to a post from Ruth Chappell Osman, of Beavertown, that the reunion wouldn't be complete without former Magic River Skateland owners, Rick and Claire Shampanore, a relative said the Florida couple plan to be there.

"Awesome," came the reply from several fans.

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