North Dakotans and Minnesotans with outdoor skating rinks are needed for Citizen Scientist Research. In 2012, scientists in Montreal warned there will be fewer outdoor skating days in the future. Their predictions were based on the results of data taken from weather stations across Canada over the last fifty years. In some regions, they warn there may one day be no more backyard rinks at all.

This prompted a group of geographers at Wilfrid Laurier University to create RinkWatch. They want outdoor rink lovers across North America to record every day that they are able to skate on their outdoor rink. They will gather up all the information from all the backyard rinks and use it to track the changes in our climate. The RinkWatch website will provide regular updates on the results.

You may not think of it as science, but that’s exactly what you will be doing – making regular, systematic observations about environmental change in your own back yard. You will be joining a growing league of **citizen-scientists** from across North America. Is the backyard skating rink an endangered species? The first step in finding out for sure is to gather the statistics. If we want to skate outside in the future, we have to find out what’s going on today. Join RinkWatch. <http://rinkwatch.org/>

