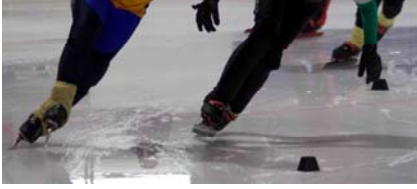


## SDCF grants do great things; deadline to apply is March 2



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In speed skating, like any other sport, the mechanics of motion are important and will help the athlete be the best they can be. But to those watching the sport it's as simple as this – man, they go fast!

But when your mechanics fail, or you clip skate blades, and you end up crashing, it's crucial that there be a soft landing spot and crash mats fill that need.

The Interlake Speed Skating Club was able to purchase new mats this year to replace its much-loved original mats that were bought in 1998, thanks in part to a \$16,100 grant from the Selkirk and District Community Foundation.

For Christine Duprat, the new mats mean safety for skaters but also growth for the sport.

“For our program, we have to have those mats to be able to run any kind of training, we can't train speed skaters without mats for safety concerns,” Duprat says.

“Our original mats are quite old and starting to deteriorate, plus, Speed Skate Canada has increased their requirements in terms of safety and what's necessary for national level competitions to keep the skaters safe.”

That's important, because the Interlake club, which runs out of the Selkirk Rec Complex, is hosting the Canadian Youth Short Track Championships (West) March 28 and 29.

The club's skaters have gone on to success at national and international competitions and Duprat says Selkirk is an excellent facility for hosting short track events.

Mats are expensive, and it's difficult for a small club to be able to come up with that kind of money without some help.

“(The grant) allows us to keep our program and it allows us to offer national level competitions in Selkirk. In my mind it helps the club and it also helps our provincial sport organization,” she says.

In Grand Marais, a SDCF grant of \$15,000 is helping the Recreation Association transform the curling barn – no longer in use – into a massive useable space capable of hosting everything from musical entertainment to large gatherings of all types.

“We’re putting in a heated floor and we need a boiler for it and the foundation was kind enough to give us some money to get that,” says President Tim Edwards.

When complete the new space will be about 7,000 square feet and Edwards says it’ll likely be the largest hall in the area.

“We’re kind of centralized, we’re between Selkirk and Lester Beach, Beausejour and Gimli on the other side of the lake, and there isn’t really a hall out here that can take that kind of capacity, and there is a real need for it,” he says.

“And not just for events, but emergency measures and evacuations, we use that hall.”

He says it’s a multi-purpose room that will also host bingo, community events like socials and weddings and it’ll have a stage for performers too.

The old rec centre is, in Edwards’ words, “not long for this world”, and though it’ll still be usable for a few years, its days are numbered.

Edwards says they’re about two years into the planning and building now, with pouring concrete the next step. He estimates the entire project cost to be between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

“It’s a big project but it’s coming along nicely.”

The spring deadline to apply for a SDCF grant is March 2. For more details go to [sdcf.ca](http://sdcf.ca); email [selkirkfoundation@shaw.ca](mailto:selkirkfoundation@shaw.ca); or phone 204-785-9755.

Selkirk & District Community Foundation is one of 50+ Community Foundations from across the province. SDCF *creates* different ways for people to give back to their community, *connects* donors with community wishes and dreams and *provides grants* that touch a lot of people. This means the Foundation works with thoughtful community minded donors, who believe in the power of endowment, that provides financial support to other charitable and non-profit community organizations. In its 24<sup>th</sup> year the Foundation has given in excess of \$2.4 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations. This volunteer board and staff along with donors from all walks of life - work together so the community is “Here for Good”. For more details contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.0547.