



Tom Matheson says the Selkirk & District Curling Club is having a great year. The Club applied for a SDCF grant last year; deadline to apply for this year's spring intake is Feb. 29.

SDCF grant helps Selkirk & District Curling Club get back on ice

Curling enthusiasts have worked hard to keep the aging Selkirk & District Curling Club open and when the ice plant's compressor croaked, it threatened not only the club's season, but its very existence.

Club Vice President, Reid Henderson, was thankful for some assistance in getting back up and running.

The Club applied for a SDCF grant last year. This year's deadline to apply for a spring grant is Feb. 29.

A provincial grant cut the \$62,000 price tag of the new compressor, and the Selkirk & District Community Foundation (SDCF) connected with the club to offset costs even further.

"The province stepped up which helped out for half, but as a curling club we don't have a lot of money in the bank, so the Foundation coming through was just awesome. We're floored," Henderson said.

SDCF grants support numerous non-profits and charities in Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements.

The club is busy, with Men's leagues running Tuesday and Thursday, a full-slate of ladies fill the ice on Wednesday, Friday's open night is full as well and on Saturday morning it's Learn to Curl for juniors.

"We have 48 kids that come out every Saturday, nine to 12:30, and it costs them roughly \$7," Henderson said.

"We give them a broom, a slider, they get full instruction and it's affordable."

The kids also get to fill their bellies with breakfast sandwiches from Coralea's Kitchen. Owner Coralea Courtland took over the kitchen in the lounge last year.

Henderson says if you just wanna hang in the lounge, there's beer on tap, two big-screen TVs and Coralea's good eats.

"It's fantastic food," he said.

"It's a place to come and watch live curling, if you want to watch curling on TV, you can, and it's just a great space."

Shauna Curtin, Chairperson of the SDCF, says supporting the community is what the Foundation is all about.

"We all live here, we all know how terrific the volunteers in these three communities are and how they put their hearts and souls into delivering for the community," Curtin said.

"Helping out when unforeseen issues arise is what the Foundation, and those who support us through their generous donations, are all about. It makes us feel good when a grant can help something as institutional as the curling club keep going. Sports and the camaraderie they provide is important for people's well-being, so we're happy to contribute to keeping curling alive in the area."

Bev Clegg, Executive Director at the Foundation, agrees that sports are key to a well-balanced and healthy lifestyle. And curling is a sport that people of all ages can enjoy, as evidenced by the men's and women's leagues that play out of the Selkirk & District Curling Club and the junior program on the weekends.

"It's an accessible sport, and that's important. It's also a lifelong sport and to be part of keeping that going in our community is a real feel good story for the Foundation and its donors," Clegg said.

The SDCF is accepting grant applications for the Western Canada Games Legacy Fund and the Community Grant program now, with the deadline to apply being Feb 29. Grant applications have moved solely online. Go to sdcfa.ca for an application. Call 204-785-9755 or email selkirkfoundation@shaw.ca for more information.