

Shelburne Curling Club celebrates 100 years with an open house

Written By Brian Lockhart

To celebrate 100 years as a local club, the Shelburne Curling Club hosted an open house on Saturday, Mach. 7, and welcomed the public to try getting out on the ice sheets to see what the sport is all about.

Curling has been played in Shelburne since the 1880s, when people played on local frozen ponds.

The Shelburne Curling Club was established in 1926 with an indoor ice sheet at the site where the Shelburne Legion is now. For several years, the Legion and the Curling Club have shared the building.

The current club building was built in 1962 on O'Flynn Street.

With over 160 members, the club is thriving and active, but it still would like to see more residents come out and enjoy the sport.

The open house was a chance for anyone interested in the sport to get out on the ice and try throwing some rocks and sweeping.

There was a good turnout of people who had never played the sport before, including quite a few youth who came with their parents.

All newcomers were given instructions by club members to help them learn the sport's techniques and nuances.

"We have a really good mix of people on the ice today," said Shelburne Curling Club vice president Lindsey Metz. "We have some little kids and mix of people who have never curled before playing with people who have curled before. Everyone is really helping each other out. Today is our 100th year celebration for the Shelburne Curling Club, and we're trying to get more people introduced to the sport and trying the sport."

While one of the ice sheets had a serious match underway, the other three were filled with people learning to throw a rock at the target. The recent Winter Olympics showcased the sport, and as a result, the timing worked well with the local anniversary, sparking interest in the sport locally.

"We wanted to have members of the public trying curling, maybe grow our membership, and to show people how fun it is," Lindsey said. "There's a good mix of people out there. We have members out there that are teaching them. We have a 'learn to curl' clinic at the beginning of the year. It's a six-week course. We also have other members who are stepping up today just to help."

The open house was a great opportunity for anyone who has ever driven by the club and wondered what it was all about to get out on the ice and give the sport a try.