

# CURLING CLUB RINK GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Aging roof replaced, curlers ready to rock

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NIAGARA FALLS -- With a new roof overhead, the shouts of "hurry, hurry hard" will soon once again be echoing throughout the Niagara Falls Curling Club.

Established in 1891, the club has been in its present location on Morrison Street for 50 years and in need of a new roof for at least the past couple. Things got so bad that some draws were lost when leaks left the ice unusable.

That won't be a problem this year thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

"It's hard to raise that kind of money internally, so we approached them with the thought that whatever they could give us would certainly be helpful and we could raise the rest," said club manager Brenda Grimo. "So we got \$38,200 and have to raise \$10,000 ourselves."

"It was very important to us to have a new roof, it was years of years of damage and eventually we were going to have a major problem. We decided that it had to be done this year."

"We are very appreciative of the Trillium Foundation because it relieved our burden of having to raise the money from membership or other means. Being non-profit, any money that comes into the club goes back either into the facility or the operating costs so to have a \$40,000 bill over your head is a nightmare," said club president Peter Feren.

Grimo explained that members have been asked to help cover the additional cost with voluntary donations.

"It may take us a couple of years to raise it, but we will," she said. "The membership has been very forthcoming with money to help out the club because it's their club. They realize that if they want to continue curling it is necessary."

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craiton will be at the club Oct. 6 to make the formal presentation of a plaque from the Trillium Foundation.

Also in attendance that evening will be representatives from the Canadian junior curling championships and the Brier to answer questions and hand out information to interested volunteers. The junior championships are in St. Catharine's and Hamilton will host the Brier in 2007.

Feren said he expects several members from the Niagara Falls club to volunteer at both events and the notoriety can only help the game.

"The more exposure the sport gets, the better for all the local clubs," said Feren.

As a wrap up to the club's Open House week Oct. 2-6, a curling course is being offered Oct. 7 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for \$40 CDN or US with lunch included.

The course will explain the basics of the game and give anyone interested a chance to try the sport. Anyone deciding to join the club will have the \$40 deducted from their membership fees.

"All new members of the curling club will receive a new broom as well," said Grimo. "The Open House week is a chance for members to come and socialize because curling is a social sport." From Jan. 27-29, the club will host the Master Men and Master Women's Regional Ontario Curling Association Playdowns. For more information check out [www.nflscurling.ca](http://www.nflscurling.ca) or call 905-358-6648.



Niagara Falls Curling Club ice maker Dave Fish gets things ready for a new season with the help of Jerry Collins and Bill Culligan. Working behind the scenes were Garry Fellows and Bob Rutherford.