



## **A stronger future for curling in West Winnipeg**

*The Deer Lodge Curling Club and Thistle Curling Club announce their amalgamation*

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 - Winnipeg, MB** - To create a stronger foundation for the future of curling in West Winnipeg, the Deer Lodge Curling Club (DLCC) and Thistle Curling Club (TCC) have amalgamated their operations. All curling leagues and associated events will be brought together under one roof at DLCC.

“We made this choice because we love the sport of curling and want to see it thrive for generations,” said Trevor De Ryck, from Thistle Curling Club. “By bringing these clubs together we can do more to support our members and the broader community. We have more than enough ice time available to accommodate all existing DLCC and TCC leagues, and we will be able to combine resources to fund essential building upgrades and create a stronger, healthier organization.”

The Thistle Curling Club and Deer Lodge Curling Club each have about 600 members. Despite this, there is plenty of open ice time at each facility. By coming together under one roof, the draws will be full, labor efforts can be maximized, and assets from the two facilities can be pooled. Redundant equipment and accessories that will not be required will be sold and the proceeds put directly back into improvements at DLCC. Also, following a recent change in the DLCC’s corporate status, which saw it move from a Shareholder Corporation to a Not-for-Profit Organization, the amalgamated entity will benefit from a new range of financial resources.

“Rather than two curling clubs fighting to break even financially every single season, the DLCC and TCC Boards of Directors are taking a proactive approach to avoid both clubs closing in 5 years,” said Corey Thompson from DLCC. “Both clubs have over 100 years of storied curling history and by working together we can help revive the sport of curling and keep it strong for the next 100 years.”

The popularity of curling at the club level has been in decline over the past two decades. In recent memory, Winnipeg has seen the closure of the West Kildonan Curling Club, Rossmere Curling Club, Grain Exchange Curling Club, CFB Winnipeg Club, Victoria Curling Club, and the Valour Road Curling Club, which was taken over by the Thistle Curling Club when their previous building burned down. The pandemic compounded the challenges many curling clubs face, such as declining membership, lack of volunteers, and the cost of maintaining aging facilities.



TCC will sell their building and property in Winnipeg's West End and both clubs will come together at the existing DLCC facility in St. James off Ness Avenue, roughly 5 km away from the existing TCC location. The Executives of the two clubs have already put together a proposed draw schedule for the 2023-2024 season that can accommodate existing leagues.

"This was a difficult decision and we're confident it is the right decision," added De Ryck from Thistle. "Curling is part of our culture and together we can help revive the sport in our community and set it on a stronger foundation for all of West Winnipeg to enjoy."

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