

Sport of floor curling draws seniors together

Michelle Pinon
Editor

Floor curling is good exercise and a great way to meet people, that was the overall consensus of participants during the Oct. 18 bonspiel at the Mundare Senior Citizens Centre.

Club President and chief organizer Marrien Chudyk, said they are blessed to have a nice facility and keen members who love to play the game. Merrien, who also serves as the Area 7 Director of the Alberta Floor Curling Association, (AFCA), was so pleased to host the event which had a total of 16 teams and 64 players from throughout the region.

There was even a team from outside the region compete. That team was comprised of Emil and Carol Schiller and Ed and Joan Leiman of the Flatbush area. Emil, who is the President of the AFCA, was happy to be in Mundare at the invitation of Marrien. "I just come and visit and have a good time," said Emil, who has enjoyed serving as AFCA president for the past four years.

In fact, Emil said floor curling "really supports our building" and in large part keeps the doors of the Flatbush hall open. Floor curling has also proven to be very popular in Mundare with an average of 25 members coming out to play every Monday and Wednesday afternoon.

One of those members is Darlene Huchulak who moved to Mundare around seven-eight years ago. After trying floor curling only once, Huchulak was hooked. "I just love it." She is also very grateful the club has enough members to play the indoor sport.

Huchulak, loves the relaxed, friendly and fun atmosphere of the club, and likes the fact they rotate the players on each of the teams as well as their positions on a regular basis so they get to know more about each other and the nuances of the various positions and the challenging sport itself.

"We've also put Mundare on the map," noted Huchulak, who is a member of the 2016 team that won the Alberta Floor Curling Provincial Championship this past June. Judy Shaw, Ed Perlik, and Helen Zachoda were her teammates, and she is proud of that fact they were able to achieve top spot.



Michèle Pinon Photos
Pictured from left to right are the visiting floor curling team from Flatbush: Joan and Ed Leiman, and Carol and Emil Schiller, with Marrien Chudyk, President of the Mundare Senior Citizens Club.

The Mundare Senior Citizens club hosts two bonspiels a year, and Huchulak looks forward to them, along with travelling to other clubs throughout the region. Some of the other clubs include: Vegreville, Tofield, Edmonton, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, Morinville, Villeneuve, Onoway, Barrhead, Westlock, Dapp, Fawcett, Flatbush, Jarvie, Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, Edson, and Redwater.

Even though it's nice to win, Marsha Woloschuk simply loves the sport because it allows her to get out of the house, get some exercise, and meet people. The 84-year-old, who used to play ice curling, floor curls twice a week. She especially likes having a cup of coffee afterwards with her floor curling counterparts.

Gloria Balla has been floor curling for 30 years, and loves the camaraderie she has found with other players. She participates as well as volunteers with other activities at the Mundare Senior Citizens Centre. "I'm here most days," said Balla, who calls bingo Tuesday night. She also helps stuff perigees with filling in preparation for the monthly perogy supper which is held the third Friday of each month with the exception of December, January, July and August. Marrien said the perogy supper is well attended, with an average of 200 people per month.

Gloria said her involvement with the senior citizens club has allowed her to meet many people, and she has gained many good friends in the process. She

highly recommends joining the club. Membership is open and available to anyone over 18 years of age.

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Mundare floor curler Darlene Huchulak gets ready to release her rock.

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