



ABOVE PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Flyers challenged the kids in attendance at the opening of the Emerado Park Ice rink to a game of broomball at the celebrations last Wednesday.



The rink's warming shack was made possible thanks to major donations from Scotiabank (above) and Artspan (below) who had representatives on hand to pose with city council. Right: The rink itself, meanwhile, was built thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Canada 150 fund in collaboration with the Winkler Community Foundation and the City of Winkler.



Emerado rink opens thanks to community donations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's newest ice rink in Emerado Park wouldn't have been possible without the support of the community.

This from Mayor Martin Harder, who lauded the individuals and businesses who stepped up to make the rink a reality this winter.

"All in all, it's probably close to \$30,000-\$35,000 that has been raised to get this all accomplished here today," said Harder, speaking at the rink's grand opening celebration Dec. 13, which included free hot chocolate and cookies and a rousing game of broomball with the Winkler Flyers.

A \$15,000 grant through the Winkler Community Foundation from the federal Canada 150 fund took a huge bite out of the cost of the rink itself, with that amount matched by the City of Winkler.

The site's spacious warming shack, meanwhile, was made possible thanks to significant donations from Winkler's Scotiabank and Artspan, whose names the building now bears.

Additional project funding came in from FB Industries, Triple L, and the Emerado Centennial School.

"So it's been a lot of community groups working together with the City of Winkler," Harder said. "I've said it before, but without the com-

munity we just wouldn't get half the stuff done that we do. This is just another example of how important community really is when they band together in order to make a project work for the benefit of everybody."

Getting an outdoor rink—complete with boards, lights, and the warming shack—into the south end of Winkler was a priority for city council, the mayor said.

"We were struggling with having activities available within walking distance of the southern part of town," he said. "It's always more difficult to go get to the arena or Scotia Park or downtown where the other rinks are. This gives this community something here."

"You can see even by the number of

kids out there today that it's going to get a lot of use."

Harder noted that the city hopes to have the warming shack open regular hours, but they're looking to the community for some help on that front.

"What I would like to see is some community ownership that would come together and say, 'Okay, we're going to man this thing for certain hours of the day,'" he said. "It happens in other areas and that would be ideal if it would take place here, as it would allow us to be much more flexible for when this building is open."

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