



Where Curling is for everyone, everyday!

January 15, 2024

Hello Avonair Members,

The Board has been getting questions as to the sale of the building and why we are having a raffle. Bear with me on this update as there is a lot of background information that is important in understanding the current situation.

First, I would like to provide some context on the operation of the curling club, as I suspect a lot of members are not aware of the organizational structure. The Avonair Curling Club was formed with the merger of the Edmonton Curling Club and the Alberta Avenue Curling Club in 1969. In 1987, to take advantage of grants and lottery funding, the overall structure was changed by splitting the management into two separate associations. The Avonair Curling Association of Edmonton was formed as a non-profit organization to take advantage of the government funding while the Edmonton-Avenue Curling Club was incorporated under the societies act to hold the ownership of the building. Each association has operated with separate boards of directors, with the Avonair Curling Association managing the day-to-day operation of the club and Edmonton-Avenue Curling Association owning the building.

Currently, the Avonair Curling Association has been fighting an uphill financial battle since the major repairs to the front of the building 15 years ago saddled the association with significant long-term debt, with additional debt having been added during the pandemic. On top of this debt, there have been long-term capital upgrades identified which included replacing the chiller, as recertification would have been required in 2025, and replacing the roof to meet insurance requirements. These long-term repair requirements led the Edmonton-Avenue Board of Directors to consider the options for the facility. Due to the prime land the building is located on, they decided that the best option moving forward was to list the building for sale and investigate options to construct a new facility. These plans were under way prior to the failure of the chiller this fall.

The failure of the chiller has been a very challenging situation for both the Avonair and the Edmonton-Avenue Associations. Replacement quotes have been received for the chiller and the cost will be over \$200,000. As the building will require additional capital upgrades in addition to replacing the chiller, and no viable funding options, the Edmonton-Avenue Board has continued

with the sale process. Currently there is an offer on the building. There are many hurdles that will need to be cleared before the sale is complete, but there should be clarity in the next couple of months.

So, this brings us too today. The Avonair Curling Association is still operating like other seasons with the exception that games are being played at other facilities. We have had a reduction in income due to the lounge not operating and not being able to host bonspiels, but we still have a lot of the same expenses as other seasons such as management costs, ice making costs at the Thistle for our leagues, ice rental fees to other clubs, utilities at the Avonair, insurance and debt payments.

To help cover these expenses we had our casino last week, we are selling parking to NAIT students, and we are holding a cash raffle. Everyone has been provided raffle tickets to sell and we have had some questions as to why we are raising money for the club since the building has been sold. The primary reason is that the building sale is not yet complete and we still need to cover our costs for this season. We have had raffles for the last number of seasons as a way to keep our league fees lower to make curling more affordable for our members. The other reason is that the Avonair Curling Association is not going to end. What does that look like? We don't know yet. There are long-term options that need to be explored and we will be reaching out to the membership to ask for your input as to what the future path should be.

Sorry for the long update but I feel that it is important to provide as much background as possible so that members can understand the situation. The Annual General Meeting for the Avonair Curling Association is scheduled for 2 pm on January 28, 2024 at the Avonair. If you are interested in joining the Board of the Avonair Curling Association, there are openings available.

Fred Greenhough

President, Board of Directors

Avonair Curling Association