



PO 3536  
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2T4  
Phone 780-467-9412  
[www.sherwoodparkcurling.com](http://www.sherwoodparkcurling.com)  
[manager@sherwoodparkcurling.com](mailto:manager@sherwoodparkcurling.com)

May 6, 2024  
Sherwood Park, Alberta

## MASSIVE COMMUNITY ART PROJECT UNVEILED IN STRATHCONA COUNTY

A massive mural has been installed inside the Sherwood Park Curling Club (SPCC) located within the Glen Allan Recreation Complex. The mural, designed and painted by local Sherwood Park artist Josh Harnack, will become a stunning focal point for the SPCC and a beautiful addition to the public art collection for Strathcona County.

The mural, titled "*Curling In The County*" includes representation of various curling activities, equipment, teams, abilities, and terms. Balancing the curling motif are items that showcase the diversity of Strathcona County. From local animals and birds to flora and fauna found throughout the County. Visual elements also include symbols from both Canada and specifically draw on the colors and landscape in the Alberta coat of arms. As an Act of Reconciliation to our local indigenous community, the mural includes various symbols important to the community. The image is colorful, playful and stylized. The images portrayed are ones of curling from the 1960's through to today, showcasing athletes of different abilities.

In 2023, the SPCC celebrated 20 years as a curling club and 60 years of curling in Strathcona County. Wanting to memorialize this milestone, the idea for a mural painted on what has been a blank white wall for since the Glen Allan Recreation Complex opened some 47 years ago was suggested by long-time members of the SPCC, Dianne Loesch-Fika and Donna Dosman.

The unveiling of the mural is the culmination of over two years of work by dedicated volunteers within the SPCC. Supported by the Club's Executive Committee, the Government of Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women, Strathcona County, many generous sponsors, and a fundraising campaign that brought the project from concept to reality in a matter of weeks.

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The celebration and unveiling of the mural took place on:

Sunday, May 5, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

at the Sherwood Park Curling Club located within the Glen Allan Recreation Complex  
199 Georgian Way, Sherwood Park

Sponsors, volunteers, and special guests were invited to attend the event.

## **Quotes:**

### **Josh Harnack**

Artist

"I am deeply honored to have been given the opportunity to paint my largest mural to date at the Glen Allan Rec Complex. Growing up in Glen Allan and now having the chance to leave my mark fills me with profound gratitude. It truly feels like a full circle moment. I am immensely blessed to have such an incredible team supporting me, without whom this endeavor wouldn't have been possible. My hope is that the people of Strathcona County will cherish and enjoy this mural for decades to come."

### **Dianne Loesch-Fika,**

Project Leader, SPCC Milestone Member and Donor

"This mural project has been a dream of mine for several years. I'm so excited that Josh has brought it to life! It's going to be hard to concentrate on curling next season."

### **Heather Nedohin**

Business Manager, Sherwood Park Curling Club

"We are beyond excited to showcase this piece of art history with our community. To see the transformation of the GARC wall into a commemorative art display by all involved individuals, is another example of the Sherwood Park Curling Club's commitment to bringing everyone together through a sport for life. The SPCC is proud of curling in our County and this celebration milestone signifies our continued dedication to bringing social and recreation together. The SPCC has prided itself to be the heart of GARC and welcomes all to enjoy this rinkshell showpiece all year round."

**Diane Yanch**

Acting Director of Strathcona County's Recreation, Parks and Culture

"This grant helps support community organizations in creating art in public spaces that celebrates diversity. The work being done by a local Sherwood Park artist makes the mural even more special at Glen Allan Recreation Complex, and for our community as a whole!"

**Quick Facts:**

Mural Title:	<i>"Curling In The County"</i>
Artist:	Josh Harnack ( <a href="http://www.harnack.ca">www.harnack.ca</a> )
Mural Size:	25'1" high by 122.5" long (7.7m high by 37.3 m long)
Medium:	Paint on cinder block wall
Cost:	\$38,135.00
Grant Contributions:	\$19,075.00
Fundraising:	\$11,060.00
Donations in Kind	\$8,000.00

**Media Contact:**

Heather Nedohin, Business Manager, Sherwood Park Curling Club

Phone: (780) 467-9412

Cell: (780) 850-5491

Email: [manager@sherwoodparkcurling.com](mailto:manager@sherwoodparkcurling.com)

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