

## Is Willmar an “arena club”?

**NOT!**

We are not an “arena club”. We are a curling club, that is currently lacking a traditional curling facility; and in the meantime we “convert” regular indoor ice into curling ice.

## SO - WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

The difference is in the methods, techniques, equipment, time, and most importantly – commitment and dedication.

### *The Ice Maker*

The Willmar Civic Center has a veteran icemaker with 20 years of experience. He has worked with the best icemakers in the world while volunteering on the ice crew at the 2008 men’s world curling championships in Grand Forks. Not only does Kevin care greatly about curling ice, but he also knows and understands ice, and the importance it has on curling.

### *Equipment & Methods*

Proper water, ice temp, flooding, scraping, pebbling and using innovative methods of keeping the ice as flat as possible, are all priorities and taken very seriously at the Willmar Civic Center.

### *Time*

Our greatest enemy is time - or lack thereof. With every additional hour/day available in using the proper methods, curling ice gets better. The Willmar Civic Center always pushes the limits of time available and methods necessary to make the very best curling ice possible.

### *Temporary*

We know that we need to continue to convert the very best curling ice possible in order to keep the game fun, interesting and continue to grow our membership; but only until we have that dedicated curling facility - and not a day longer.

## WEST CENTRAL MN CURLING HISTORY

A small band of Willmarite curling fans in the late 50’s and early 60’s would drive out to Montevideo on the weekends to curl in a Chippewa county fairground building.

During that same period, Curling was also happening in the small town of Clarkfield, just 10 miles from Montevideo. From ’71 – ’76 the Clarkfield High School yearbooks have curling teams in them. Fact is, Coach Don Schweer took a rink to the state championship in Hibbing in ’72, and they took a very surprising third place; beating Eveleth and Buhl, losing to Mankato, and coming back to beat Chisholm. As “underdogs”, this was a big upset, and it was also very exciting for the little town of Clarkfield. They returned home to a town celebration complete with fire trucks and a community assembly in the school gym. Interestingly, the Clarkfield “curling dynasty” as it were, died; killed by the overwhelming popularity of the snowmobile in the mid-seventies.

For the most part, however, the 400+ year old sport has been non-existent in Willmar and the surrounding area.

Though efforts were being made as early as 2002, a shortage of indoor ice and a lack of resources to make ice dampened the efforts. It was the summer of 2004 when the city of Willmar installed an ice making system in the Blue Line building; that winter a “rag-tag” curling league was organized and the Willmar Curling Club was formed.

The Willmar Curling Club continues to make curling history as we help promote curling throughout the region.

Club members and equipment have helped with open houses events in Alexandria, Brainerd, Walker, Litchfield and Buffalo; of which Alexandria, Brainerd and Walker all have new curling clubs.

## THE WILLMAR CURLING CLUB

We are a non-profit amateur sports organization dedicated to the sport of curling. We have “legally” been in existence since the Spring of 2005 and received our **501c(3)** tax status in the Summer of 2008. We are active members of the Minnesota Curling Association and the United States Curling Association.

We organize, promote and facilitate all of the local curling activities including instructional, promotional and educational events. We have adult curling leagues, high school P.E. classes, and we also facilitate two Willmar Community Ed and Rec programs; Junior Curling League and Open Curling. We staff all of these events and provide the necessary instruction and coaching for new curlers. We have four USCA Certified instructors.

Our goal is to one day have a dedicated curling facility that can provide curling opportunities to the public and foster competitive curling.



## Bonspieling In Willmar

*“We are not an arena club;  
we are a curling club  
currently lacking a  
dedicated facility.”*

**Please read  
on to learn  
the difference.**

### **WCC Support/Sponsors**

**WILLMAR COMM. ED. & REC.  
FENSTRA REAL ESTATE  
HARDWARE HANK  
SOUND IMAGE  
THOMAS TOOL  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS  
THE OAKS ON EAGLE CREEK  
DUNN BROS COFFEE  
APOLS HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

See you in Willmar!  
**WILLMAR**  
 Where the lakes begin.

A great place to  
 live, work, visit  
 and

# CURL!



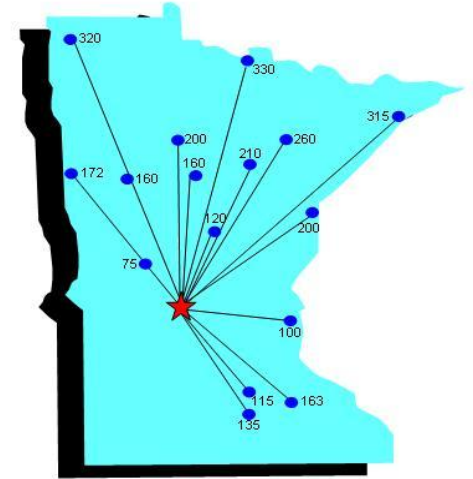
**Our Facility** is a two sheet municipal Civic Center with a newly remodeled lobby that connects the two ice rinks. The Willmar Curling Club is in the Blue Line Arena to the left. The facility has heating and dehumidification system, additional insulation in the roof and remodeled locker rooms. There is above viewing in a warm club area at the south end, and if you don't mind the chilliness; there is also side viewing from above and great ice level viewing as well.

**Our Community** Hospitality; those that visit Willmar find the people in the area to be very friendly and accommodating. We have many nice hotels, and Willmar is also a retail center in the area, with many of the shopping opportunities you may expect for the "non-curler" in your group. For more information about Willmar visit the local CVB website at [www.seeyouinwillmar.com](http://www.seeyouinwillmar.com).



## Willmar - hardly the boondocks'!

Fact is, Willmar is centrally and conveniently located where three major Minnesota state highways intersect; #71, #23 and #12. Just 50 miles South of I94.



Miles to Willmar (by car - NOT by airplane!)



**Our Ice** keeps getting better every year. DI/RO water is used for flooding and pebbling, and new this year we acquired a used Ice King to help in converting the ice. Kevin Madsen, manager and ice maker at the Willmar Civic Center (and avid curler) is becoming an authority on converting arena ice into curling ice, and continues to practice and develop innovative methods of efficiently converting great curling ice.

**Our Equipment.** We keep upgrading our rocks; we now have four sheets of reconditioned stones with blue hone inserts. We have custom made stone carts, and a properly vented stone cooler to keep our stones safe, dry and cold. We also have great large wood scoreboards; designed to be permanent additions to our dedicated facility someday.

