

■ ROTARY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CENTRE

Lending a hand to Youth Engagement Centre

According to P.E.I. government statistics, by the end of 2020 mental illness will be the leading cause of disability in the western world. And, even more concerning is that seventy percent of mental health issues are onset during childhood or adolescence.

Considering this startling statistic, six years ago Adam Binkley, Executive Director of the Summerside Boys & Girls Club, started the ball rolling to build an important facility aimed at supporting mental health issues for youth and their caregivers.

"At that time, Adam had a vision for a Youth Survivor Centre where 'at risk' youth could get off the streets and into counseling and life skills coaching. As President of the Rotary Club at that time, I reached out to Adam to see what he thought and how we could help address the problem," said Paul Power.

Binkley and Power continued to meet over the course of the next few years, and the concept of a support facility was developed into what is now known as the Youth Engagement Centre (YEC). The construction of the new facility began in June 2015, and the Centre is set to open in Spring 2016.

The ultimate goal of the YEC is to reduce the prevalence of addiction and mental health issues in the community. The Youth Engagement Centre will be



home to numerous youth structured and preventative programs all geared to providing support and much needed education for our younger generation.

The Rotary Club of Summerside was proud to take part in addressing such a serious need in the community. Rotary became a major sponsor of the Youth Engagement Centre, showing their support with a leadership gift of \$60,000 to be used for the infrastructure on the new facility.

"Over the years, Rotary has provided assistance to many such groups including: Community Inclusions in Alberton, assistance to re-build the Wellington Rink after its fire and we were a significant partner in the establishment of Community Connections, to name a few," said Power.



Members of the Rotary Club look forward to the opening of the YEC and its positive impact in the community.

■ FUN CURLING FUNDRAISER

Rotary Mardi Gras Curling Tournament

An integral part of the Scottish identity, the sport of curling is alive and well in Summerside, as is the Mardi Gras, thanks to enthusiastic efforts by the Rotary Club of Summerside.

Sponsored by NAPA Provincial Auto Parts, the Summerside Rotary Club's annual Mardi Gras curling funspiel was held on March 3-5, with proceeds going to Rotary's STRIVE scholarship program.

"Four years ago Rotarian Carl Delaney brought forth a proposal to the curling executive and management of the Silver Fox Curling Club about the Summerside Rotary Club taking on the event as a fundraiser. In the 1990's at its peak the event used to draw over a hundred teams but had bottomed out and needed some new energy," explained event chairperson, Paul Power.

"We took on the event as a way of raising funds to benefit our STRIVE program. Last year we awarded five, \$1000 entrance scholarships with the proceeds raised from this event."

The curling event starts on Thursday night and finishes on Saturday evening, accompanied with a hip of beef buffet dinner for all the participants. Each team plays three games over the course of the three days.

"It's a fun event with no curling experience necessary (no age or ability restrictions either) and the primary focus is on having a



good time and encouraging people to come out and have fun," said Power.

"On Friday night there are complimentary snacks, and come evening each participant receives a meal ticket for our final banquet."

Entry fee is \$160 per team. A silent auction and prizes are available. Five lucky participants also have a chance to draw to the button for \$50,000, sponsored by Hickey and Hyndman Insurance.

For more information visit: <http://peicurling.com>