

North Kildonan Community Club officially opened their expanded facilities last Thursday, with club members and community officials attending.

Guests at the dinner included Councillors Anne Jorowski, Harold Piercy, Phil Rizzuto and Jim Ragsdill, former councillor Alf Penner, director of parks and recreation Dick Todd, River East School Division administrative officer Bob Harris along with club president Lloyd Evans and first and second vice-presidents Don Allerton and Dave Anderson.

Speaking to the guests, Mr. Penner described the new facilities as "marvellous" and well-integrated with the old building. He said the Club was lucky in starting the project early enough not to be affected by present City cutbacks in spending.

"The people here are very fortunate in the fact that they have had such excellent people in the community club over the years," Mr. Penner told the gathering.

Councillor Anne Jorowski extended congratulations from Mayor Robert Steen and city council on the club opening, and commended the "deligence and perserverance" of club members in getting new

facilities. She also commended the volunteers for their work in the community.

Mr. Todd told the audience he remembers the club executive from 10 years ago, and the frustrations they had scheduling programs.

"With these facilities they would relish the opportunity to provide programs," he said.

On the amalgamation of the East Kildonan and Transcona parks and recreation departments, Mr. Todd assured the audience the community would benefit from the change. He said the appointments that have been made will provide a "high caliber of expertise." He added that most of the staff is new and still feeling their way around, and asked the indulgence of the club until the department gets settled.

Mr. Harris also extended congratulations from the River East school board, and assured the club the division will continue its support.

The one story structure, completed at the end of December, has a total floor area of approximately 7,500 square feet. It features four dressing rooms, a main hall accommodating 200 people, with a servery attached, an expanded canteen, activity room and offices.

Dave Anderson, second

vice-president of the Club, said with the four additional dressing rooms, the Club can now run hockey games back to back on their two rinks. There are also four heated dressing rooms between the rinks.

Mr. Anderson said the ladies auxiliary is especially delighted with the new canteen and servery, which offers them increased working space. The canteen is run completely by volunteers.

The Club's new activities room will house their judo program, one of the largest such programs in Winnipeg. During construction, the judo classes have been held in a local school. The activity room is also used for meetings, dress parties etc.

As well the buildings contains the secretary's office and a second, smaller office. Mr. Anderson said when the Club was being designed, they looked to the future when the parks and recreation department may have a recreation director working out of the Club, as in other clubs, and provided an extra office. In the meantime, the office is used by the referees.

The main hall is to be used for such activities as socials, banquets, and can be rented to local residents on a limited basis.

Work on the Club began

last May when the old schoolhouse, the original North Kildonan Community Club, was demolished. The newer section of the club, which has been added to the schoolhouse, was incorporated into the new facility by the architect Keith MacFarlane, of Murray Malkin and

Associates. Construction was done by Arc Enterprises Ltd.

The facilities are expected to compliment the facilities at the adjacent Springfield Heights School.

Existing facilities at the Club include the four outdoor dressing rooms, two main hockey rinks, one pleasure

rink and a kiddies rink, soccer field, base diamonds, a proposed parking lot extension and new outdoor lighting.

The Club's activities include hockey, ring-judo, baseball and fast T-ball, kids movies, program, the ladies auxiliary and soccer.



Former city councillor Alf Penner addresses the guests at the opening of the North Kildonan Community Club, March 16. At left are Councillor Anne Jorowski and her husband Joe. Club president Lloyd Evens and his wife are at right.

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