

Rocky start for Summerspiel

Recent rains cause humidity issues for icemakers

Rod Oracheski
rod@starnews.ca

Seniors hit the ice in the Irma Curling Rink, Monday afternoon, to kick off the town's annual Summerspiel.

Eight teams of seniors hit the ice for a stick curling bonspiel. The seniors' event is traditionally used as a testing phase for the icemakers, who often face tough conditions as they try to create optimal ice for the Summerspiel.

This year has proved no different, with the first scrape pulling off a full bucket of frost instead of the usual quarter-bucket. Recent rains are the culprit, according to volunteer Colby Oracheski.

"The rain we had is causing some problems," Oracheski remarked. "It's so humid that we're having some frost problems. We're trying to get it sorted out, but if it could just stop raining that would be great."

"We're trying to get it sorted out, but if it could just stop raining that would be great."

- Colby Oracheski

Senior curling occupies all of Monday and wraps up Tuesday morning, with the Summerspiel proper kicking off at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27th.

Oracheski said the humidity was a concern, but he hoped to find an acceptable solution prior to the start of Summerspiel.

"We really want to find something that works before the curling starts," he said. "The seniors are pretty good about testing the ice for us, and we'd like to get it fixed up for them."

The event drew 60 teams in total, with 20 mens teams, 22 mixed, and 10 ladies teams in addition to the eight senior squads.

Summerspiel runs through the weekend at the Irma Curling Rink, with the playoff rounds, Sunday, and the event wrapping up with the finals on Monday, August 2nd.

The event also features fastball and slow pitch tournaments at the Irma Ball Diamonds, with 12 slow pitch and



Lyle Clifford throws one of the first rocks of Irma's annual Summerspiel, which was kicked off Monday afternoon by stick curling.

Photo: Rod Oracheski

seven fastball teams registered as of the start of the week, as well as live entertainment each night.

Friday night, a hypnotist will take

center stage at the curling rink, with a cabaret on Saturday in the hockey rink. Sunday evening, local band G-String will be the entertainment.