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TWENTY ONE MEMBERS OF the Dysart 4H Multiple Club presented their achievements to visitors at Dysart Museum last Sunday. Erik Bruce chose archery as his topic for the year and demonstrated what he had learned as well as making his own quiver. See story and more pictures on Page 3.

Arts Centre a step closer

The new Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts which is to be based in the Old Central School building is another step closer to realization following the first annual general meeting on June 13.

Chairperson, Jim Harding announced at the meeting that the \$50,000 application for a matching grant from the Community Initiative Fund had been granted and the first work phase could begin in as little as three weeks with the repair of the roof.

"We don't think there is any doubt now that there will be a Centre for the Arts in Fort Qu'Appelle," said Harding.

"However, we need to move as quickly as possible now to have activities in that building but the next step is to appoint a board to replace the interim board we have had in place prior to receiving this non-profit organization's grant," he added.

Of the 20 plus attendees at the meeting, a board of 11, including six members from the interim board, were nominated, after which motions were discussed and made to continue the work and bring back the

arts to Fort Qu'Appelle.

Although a group was formed only last November when the probability of the building being demolished was announced, they have made great strides in a short time including becoming incorporated as a charitable cooperation in May with two main objectives to help preserve Old Central School as a heritage building and community landmark and to upgrade and maintain the building for re-use as the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts.

The interim board also approved the additional objectives to operate the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre as a place where artists, cultural and other creative workers can interact to nourish and share their practices and also as a place that hosts performances and events that bring the rich arts and cultural heritage of First Nations, Metis and Settler groups to the broader public.

"As of June 11, we had 56 paid-up members who will constitute the initial voting body of our non-profit organization.

"We hope to double and then triple this membership base

with your help. We are looking for members from the local area and region who will help with tasks and members from afar who will support the overall project," Harding added.

A motion was made at the meeting that the \$10 membership fees will now become the operating budget for the non-profit organization and Harding encouraged current members to work towards increasing the membership base.

As well, a motion was made that the board develops a lease proposal to be presented to the town for their consideration as owners of the building.

Harding added that he would be looking for a lease term of at least five years, adding that the partnership and support from the town with the initial interim board was very positive.

"We have come a long way since that first meeting six months ago. We have a team here who are fully supportive and committed to this project, what we need to do now is move ahead with the roof repairs, vapour barrier and insulation before winter - that is our current goal," he concluded.

Fort Knox welcome two new coaches

The Fort Knox Jr. B Hockey Club executive have welcomed two new coaches for the 2011/12 season.



MARK HARTMAN

Mark Hartman of Balcarres began his junior hockey career with the Knox in 2001 before advancing to Jr. A with the Nipawin Hawks where he remained for three seasons. A couple of seasons of college hockey and a player with the University of Waterloo recreational hockey team while he was studying for his degree in sociology wound up his 'away' hockey career.

Hartman continued to play senior hockey out of Balcarres as he pursued his professional career at Echo Valley Youth Centre.

"My season with the Fort Knox was a huge stepping stone in my hockey career and when I was approached to coach the team, this sparked a great interest for me and gives me an opportunity to give back to the team and the community that supported and encouraged me," Hartman said.

Hartman's co-coach and co-worker is Rylan Gebhart of Cupar who also has achieved an extensive hockey career, playing all his minor hockey in the area before joining a Midget AAA team in Tisdale.

Gebhart began his minor hockey in Cupar until Pee Wee then played in Fort Qu'Appelle until Junior. The next three seasons were spent in Melfort and his final Jr. season was with the Regina Pats. Upon entering the University of Regina to study Human Justice, Gebhart played with the U of R Cougars. During this time he worked at a hockey training facility in Regina.

"To co-coach the Fort Knox is a great opportunity - I'm really excited to meet and work with the players and hope I can encourage some local players to come to camp and try out for the team. It will be great to see some of our local players coming through," he said.

Gebhart earned his Bachelors in Human Justice and is also beginning his professional career with the Echo Valley Youth Centre.

"My season with the Fort Knox was a huge stepping stone in my hockey career and when I was approached to coach the team, this sparked a great interest for me and gives me an opportunity to give back to the team and the community that supported and encouraged me,"
Hartman said.

General Manager, Jim Williams said the executive were looking forward to working with Hartman and Gebhart - they are excited for another great season of Jr. B hockey.

In order to give the community and fans an opportunity to meet the new coaches, players and executive, a cabaret has been scheduled to take place at the new Fort on July 1.

The doors will open at 4:00 p.m. and, until 8:00 p.m. fans can take this opportunity to meet the coaches and players for an autograph, a chat and enjoy food and refreshments.

The evening will continue with entertainment by local band Magnum. A gate charge will be made after 9:00 p.m. with all proceeds supporting the Fort Knox Jr. B Hockey Club.



RYLAN GEBHART

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