

enthusiastic. Some of the men went "East" via tractor train for logs which were sawn into lumber. Most of the work on the building was voluntary, and the material was given at cost price from the local lumber yard.

Progress was unbelievable and curling was under way the same year — 1947, with two sheets of ice; although the roof was not finished until two years later.

This rink was known as the Memorial Curling Rink 1947. Members of the Warren Curling Club were invited to come to show the locals the finer points of the game. Everyone had an enjoyable evening.

Mr. H. Schwartz donated the Schwartz Trophy for the ladies competition within the club; later this was changed to an open competition.

In December 1971 a meeting was called to discuss plans for a new rink. A building committee was formed,

made up of: Russ Keeler, J. Breakey, Elaine Bruce, Lynn Jensen and Bill Beckett. These held office until the building was completed. Various other committees were formed, this plus good response from local citizens was the reason the rink was completed in record time. The old building was sold to Art Roehl and moved away. Art and Mildred Roehl donated an animal to be raffled for the Curling rink. Also at this meeting it was decided that the ladies and men's clubs amalgamate.

A steel structure, with four sheets of artificial ice was approved. Allan Bruce was sent to attend a course in artificial ice making. Through manpower and under the supervision of Elmo Helgason the building was erected and curling commenced in the spring of 1973.

Since then the rink now boasts of a fully modern kitchen, trophy cabinet, bleachers and a bar downstairs.



Schwartz Trophy winners first year: Ida Otto, Olive Porteous, H. Schwartz, Marge O'Connell, Doris Peterson.

Story of the Bank in Ashern

The Standard Bank of Canada, which started out in Toronto in 1874 and was known as the St. Lawrence Bank, was later reorganized. Its first venture into Manitoba came in 1909 when it opened in Winnipeg. In 1918 it was decided to open a branch at Eriksdale, Manitoba. Here it began business on December 5, 1918. Mr. G. C. Gies was manager. One week later a sub-agency was established at Ashern, some twenty-six miles north of Eriksdale. Mr. Wm. S. Pozer was in charge. Business was conducted in the St. George Hotel for a few months, until a new bank building was erected in 1919. This was situated on Main Street and First Avenue — which is still the present site.

While both communities were not large and a branch bank seemed hardly warranted except that they were both in the centre of a fairly prosperous grain growing and livestock area. Ashern was made an independent branch in 1921. Mr. O. B. McGiffin was appointed manager, and served in that capacity until he retired in 1959.

Both Ashern and Eriksdale continued under the banner of the Standard Bank of Canada until 1928, when that institution was absorbed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. About this time the depression was just around the corner. It was to bring grave problems to the North American Continent and particularly to the Prairies. As a result the Eriksdale branch was closed in