



Greater Grand Forks Sets the Bar Higher for Hosting Events

As Greater Grand Forks began preparing to host the 2008 Men's World Curling Championships and the 2008 North Dakota Democratic-NPL State Convention, it was expected our hotels, stores, restaurants, etc. would be very busy. There were a couple of small details we didn't expect, however: 1) the 2008 Men's World Curling Championships would set the attendance record for a curling event in the U.S. and 2) we would be welcoming both Democratic presidential candidates.

As usual, our community was able to not simply "pull it off," but to achieve success on a grand scale. In doing so, we demonstrated to event planners and our competitors that we have set the bar extremely high for hosting visitors from the state, region, country and world.

How did we accomplish it? The short answer to that question lies in partnerships and working together. The following is a list of all those local groups who made April a record-setting month:

- Alerus Center
- Ralph Engelstad Arena
- Hundreds of volunteers
- City of Grand Forks
- Grand Forks Curling Club
- Grand Forks Democratic Committee
- Greater Grand Forks Hotels
- Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitors Bureau

There are also a number of partners from outside the local area that helped us including the North Dakota Department of Commerce Tourism Division with a sizeable sponsorship for the World Curling event.

With regard to hosting future events, the outlook for Greater Grand Forks is bright. The spotlight is on us, and both planners and visitors know we can rise to any occasion, whether we have years or only days to prepare.

A big thank you to the people of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks – without your help, this would not have been possible. In the words of one Canadian curling fan, "Greater Grand Forks rocks!"

Sincerely,

Julie Rygg
Executive Director
Greater Grand Forks CVB

Steve Hyman
Executive Director
Alerus Center

Jody Hodgson
General Manager
Ralph Engelstad Arena