



Kaitlyn Lawes holds her gold medal in curling mixed doubles in front of St. Vital Curling Club's newest mural, which commemorates the winning of that medal, on Friday.

Curler honoured for mixed doubles performance in S. Korea

Another mural for gold medallist Lawes

ERIK PINDER

KAITLYN Lawes will always have a place at the St. Vital Curling Club — the two-time Olympic gold medallist now has a second mural honouring her achievement on the side of the club at the corner of Regal Avenue and St. Anne's Road.

The 29-year-old Winnipegger won the first gold medal in mixed doubles curling with her partner, John Morris, at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang.

The new mural, painted by local artist Michel Saint Hilaire, shows a gold

medal on a blue background, along with the winning duo's names.

Lawes is also part of another mural on the club, commemorating skip Jennifer Jones's gold at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics; Lawes played third on the team.

Lawes started curling when she was five years old and connected with the St. Vital club when she joined Jones's rink nine years ago.

"For the last nine years, this has been home," she said Friday.

The club's president, Ken Stevens, led the unveiling of the mural; Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman and St. Vital

Coun. Brian Mayes spoke at the event.

Mayes thanked the curling club's secretary and former president, Annette Giguere, for the work she does for the club.

"Annette, I think we waited until the last rock went down the ice at 5:30 in the morning or whatever it was, and then said, 'OK, we got to do something,'" Mayes said, referencing watching the gold medal game on a TV at the club in February.

Lawes, who is a two-time Canadian junior curling champion and a Canadian and world women's champion, was always an athlete, but said her Olympic

dream came later.

"I played as many sports as possible, but once I became more competitive and wanted to see how far I could go in the sport, it was certainly an aspiration of mine — that Olympic dream is so powerful," she said.

That dream hasn't died, she said: the Jones rink is prepared for the upcoming season.

"We're training right now, we've committed to another four years with the women's team," Lawes told the *Free Press* before the mural unveiling.

"We're going to try and find some more space on the curling club to hope-

fully put another mural up there in four years' time."

When she told a similar joke during her speech, Bowman quipped about making another building to find the space.

Although the murals commemorate her and her teammates' achievements, Lawes said she wants them to inspire others, too.

"I hope these murals can help our next generation of athletes realize it is possible to chase their dreams," she said.

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