

SKI & BIKE SHOP WON'T RETURN TO OLD SPOT GRAND FORKS CURLING CLUB NOW TEMPORARY HOME FOR MORE THAN 400 BICYCLES

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Instead of ice, rocks and brooms, the Grand Forks Curling Club building now houses more than 400 bicycles and other sporting goods salvaged from the floodwaters that inundated The **Ski & Bike Shop** downtown.

It's just one example of the quest for local businesses looking for new locations, whether they're temporary or permanent.

The **Ski & Bike Shop** will not move back to its recently remodeled location on DeMers Avenue, said Terry Knudson, part-owner. But he and his partner, Robert "Monty" Montgomery, will keep the store in business.

Finding a building to work out of was the first challenge. The business moved May 17 into the Curling Club building, just off DeMers and South Washington, where it will remain until about mid-October before moving to a yet-unknown location.

The next challenge has been finding enough help, Knudson said. Many of the **shop's** employees were college students who left five weeks ago when UND closed for the semester. Others lost homes in town and have found refuge else' where.

Knudson said a few local **bike** lovers have volunteered to clean bikes and prepare them for tuneups. He has also received calls from **bike** dealers in Georgia offering help.

"We've got good friends and good workers," Knudson said.

The repaired items are being sold at discounted prices.

"Once we fix them up, there's nothing really that can go wrong," Knudson said.

Knudson estimated that 80 percent of the **shop's** bikes were hit by the water, which filled the basement and reached two feet on the main floor. A flood-affected **bike** can take a mechanic up to six hours to repair. About 400 bikes already had been cleaned and repaired Monday, while stacks of bikes waited on the side. To add to the work, customers now are bringing in their damaged bikes.

"We sell fun," Knudson said, "A lot of people need that right now."