

# ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the  
London Curling Club

March 2019



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## The what, when and how of regular ice maintenance

You may have noticed on the club calendar that we close the club for a day and a half in November, during the Christmas break and in February for major ice maintenance. Here's what our ice technicians do.

Ice maintenance is actually performed every day, once in the morning for three hours and again in the afternoon for two hours if time permits. This involves removing the hacks, scraping the ice, pebbling, nipping and reinstalling the hacks. This process helps provide the best possible ice for our members and guests to play on.

Over time, however, the ice gradually builds up and becomes contaminated by dust, clothing fibers, dirt and debris left behind by dirty footwear, old grippers and broom heads. Every six weeks we need to close the club for major maintenance with the objective of creating a new layer of ice that provides a clean, fresh, level curling surface.

Ice technicians begin by removing the hacks and rocks from the ice surface. The ice is scraped and the rocks thoroughly cleaned.

Once this is done, ice technicians painstakingly go over every square inch of the ice, picking out any debris that they can see in the ice (see photo at right). This takes about nine hours to complete.

Next, the area around each hack is "burned" with a torch to release dirt from the ice. Any debris is then vacuumed up while still in liquid form.

With the ice surface now clean, it's time to flood. Our staff will lay 550 gallons of water across the ice rink, then leave it overnight to freeze.

The next morning, the ice is scraped, pebbled and nipped multiple times to ensure a flat, level playing surface. The rocks are moved back to the ice and the hacks are reinstalled. Finally, after 35 work hours of effort, the ice is once again ready for play.



So now that you know what happens behind the scenes, our technicians have a simple request -- help keep the ice clean! Replace your old gripper and broomhead. Keep your shoes and grippers clean. Avoid wearing fleece. Always use the boot cleaners and never, never allow your hands or knees to rest on the ice.

# Problems, leaks and repairs...oh my!

This season, London Curling Club staff has seen more problems, leaks and breakdowns than any year we can remember. Resolving these issues has been expensive, but some of them have also interfered with club activities and curling schedules.

Here's a list of the main items we've dealt with since September and how they were resolved:

- Exterior lights on the front and side of the building stopped working and were repaired by an electrician.
- Water leaked onto the carpet in the men's locker room. The source was very difficult to find, but eventually an old drain pipe was found leaking inside the concrete wall. Water was diverted to a different drain.
- Several chairs in the main lounge were broken beyond possible repair. For now, we're using a couple of stacking chairs from the upper lounge.
- One of the heaters in the arena broke down during the coldest week of the year. Both heaters will be replaced with larger units during the off season.

- A heating cable around a drain pipe coming from one of the arena dehumidifiers failed. This caused the pipe to freeze and crack, leaking water on to the ice. Scaffolding had to be erected on sheet six for the repair.
- The old dishwasher was leaking. Estimates indicated that the necessary repairs were going to be quite expensive. The board of directors approved the purchase of a new dishwasher and it was quickly installed.
- A piece of aluminum siding came off the building and we had it replaced. A week later a second piece came off during a wind storm. Once the weather warms up we will assess the condition of the boards behind the aluminum and replace them if necessary.
- The office computer has had a few issues and it will need to be replaced.

Let's hope that everything holds together and keeps working as it should during the 2019-2020 season!

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# Drat, another season is almost over

## A message from Paul Pergau, president, London Curling Club

Here we are already close to the end of the curling season and what a season it has been.

First of all, we got our new rocks, all 96 of them. We weren't disappointed as they curled tons and are really lively! Now we need to replace our arena heaters. Both heaters are old and difficult and expensive to maintain. They're undersized, overworked and consume more resources than necessary. Before we take out the ice in April, we're going to replace our heaters with two units from Roy Inch & Sons that are more suited to the size of our arena and are more cost effective to run. I'm looking forward to not freezing on the ice with the next polar vortex. With new heaters, our ice technicians will be able to provide even better ice. For sure we'll be incorporating our new rocks and new heaters into our plans for a new facility.

I think you'll agree with me that our head ice technician in training, Mark Flynn is exceeding our expectations. He's had his first six months of on-the-job training with Mark Phillips and will soon be able to solo. Thank you, Mark and Mark for great ice!

We had a hugely successful Academy of Curling in October. Based on its popularity we're running it again next October. Watch for sign-up details from Greg and get included early! You don't want to miss out.

I can't say enough about our junior program. Our three competitive team coaches, Jennifer Cuddie, Cheryl Phillips and Tony Francolini have taken our under 18 women's teams to the provincial level with Team Johnston and Team Zemmerlink competing in the Provincial Championships March 9 to 13 in Paris with Team Dobson very close behind. Team Evely/King is competing in the U21 Mixed Doubles Provincial Championships March 29 to 31 in Listowel. Congratulations all finalists and all the other aspiring



young curlers that are training to become future champions.

Staying with the competitive teams, Team Anneka Burghout and Tim Lindsay competed in the Provincial Mixed Doubles Championships, March 1 to 3 in Brampton. Good luck to all our competitive curlers. If you can't make it out to watch these competitions, search for the [ontcurl.com](http://ontcurl.com) web site for draws and scores and follow along.

We've had lots of excitement within our four walls as well. In addition to the Academy of Curling, Marc Claveau resurrected the Spring Thaw Bonspiel and we had successful spiels: Jeanettes' Early Bird, Sifton two-day, Apollo Slam, Grandmother's & Over 50 to name a few. Very important to the future of our club and the game are the several Brooms and Brews, Elementary School Kids, High School League and Can You Hack It events conducted by our many wonderful, avid volunteers. It's because of these events that we see so many active youths around the club and our membership increasing rather than following the downward trend experienced by many other clubs. Thank you volunteers, we owe you so much!

See you at the Annual General Meeting in June. Till then...hurry hard!



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# Women's daytime section event three and four winners

## Event three winners

Event three of the Tuesday social league finished on Feb. 5, with several close games and three teams vying for top spot. After the matches, a light snack and lively conversation were enjoyed by all. Thanks to co-convenors Rose Kuchinski and Nancy Fader, and everyone who helped clean up.

Congratulations to the first place team (shown below, left to right) of Marj Dudley, Rose Kuchynski, Mary Ellen Duggan, Janice Elloway and Sylvia Cass.



Finishing in second place (shown below, left to right) was the team of Marlene Benny, Dawn Lewis, Gwen Steffler and Katie Ungar.



## Event four winners

Event four finished on Jan. 24, with 40 curlers participating. Thanks to co-convenors Barb Leisinger and Liz Oehm.

Congratulations to the first place team (shown below, left to right) of Nancy Balcarras, Karen Jacobsen, Dayna Dann and Sylvia Leuszler who is missing from the photo.



Finishing in second place (shown below, left to right) was the team of Mary Lucas, Lise Tranmer, Joyce Hetherington and Mary Stokley who is missing from the photo.



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## Marj Dudley rink wins Grandmothers bonspiel

The 65th Annual “Grandmothers and Over 50” Bonspiel was held on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, sponsored by Heather Greenfield, CFP, recently retired from HollisWealth, a division of Investia.

The theme for this year’s bonspiel was “Snowbirds at Play” and co-convended by Jeanette Walker and Gwen Steffler.

Twenty-four teams completed in two draws, including 18 teams from Aylmer, Chatham, Highland, Ilderton, Ingersoll, St. Thomas and Tillsonburg curling clubs, and six teams from London Curling Club. Between one eight-end and one six-end game, curlers enjoyed a lunch catered by Linda Arthur of Village Catering.

The upper lounge was decorated with snowmen, penguins and red, blue, black and white accents, with one team wearing their beach attire for lunch.

Winners of the first draw were Jeanette Pesall’s team of Kathy Vandermeer, Bozena Boadway, and Bertha Strickland from the Aylmer Curling Club. Tina Sturgeon’s Ilderton team of Janice Miller, Gloria Austin and Allison Harter were second place winners, and third place winners were Jan Polgar’s Highland team of Pirkko Sheldrick, Marlene Suzuki and Trish Gamble.

Winners of the trophy and second draw (shown at right, left to right) were Marj Dudley’s London Curling Club team of Pam Harrison, Marnie Dickout and Sue Lundy. Second place went to Laurie Bruvall’s Ilderton team of Barb Morrissey, Marguerite Zavitz and Muriel Rampersad, and third place winners were Mary Robertson’s Chatham team of Linda Brown, Deb Gillier and Marion Schneider.

Many thanks to drawmasters, Fay Weiler and Lynda Reesor, and volunteers Sandy Ronson, Mary Lois Cooper, Stacey Farley, Rose Kuchynski, and Mary Hicks. Many thanks to Linda Round for her aid in making both lounge areas inviting to our guests. A special thanks to Pam Harrison for all her help as bonspiel secretary, from the mailing of registration forms, working with the London Curling Club webmaster to activate on-line registration to printing



name tags, as well as her sage advice. Also thanks to Heather Greenfield for her 17th year of continued sponsorship and support for this event. This year, Heather was traveling the southern hemisphere with her husband, so could not attend.



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# London Curling Club teams continue to excel at provincial bonspiels

## U18 teams head to provincials

At the U18 Provincial qualifying bonspiel held in Wingham on Feb. 1 to 3, London Curling Club junior teams did very well. Team Johnston comprised of Charlotte Johnston, Julia Markle, Larissa Musselman and Scotia Maltman with coach Tony Francolini were the A side winners, advancing directly to the U18 Provincial championships to be held in Paris, March 9 to 13.

Team Dobson, featuring Ella Dobson, Julia deKlein, Kate Phillips and Emily deKlein with coach Cheryl Phillips, lost the B side semi final.

Team Zemmeling comprised of Tori Zemmeling, Caitlyn Evely, Avery Sinasac, Kayla Cruikshank and Kyra Woodend, with coach Jennifer Cuddie, lost the B-side quarter final.

Team Dobson and Team Zemmeling then competed in the U18 Challenge Round in Orangeville, Feb. 8 to 10. Team Zemmeling was successful in qualifying and will join Team Johnson for two London Curling Club teams in the eight team field at the Provincial Championships. Team Dobson narrowly missed qualifying.

Congratulations to all teams and good luck at the Provincial Championships.

## Team with McKinley loses senior final

London Curling Club member Bob McKinley, playing lead with the Bob Armstrong rink out of Sarnia, won five and lost one in the senior men's challenge round in Whitby, Feb. 8 to 10 to proceed to the Senior Men's Provincial Championships in Brockville on Feb. 20 to 24.

At Brockville, the Armstrong team finished at four wins and three losses after the round robin portion of the event. They won a quarter final and semi final game to advance to the final, where they lost to Team Cochrane from the Russell Curling Club, who went undefeated in the tournament.

Congratulations on the great showing Bob!

## Burghout and Lindsay play well in mixed double provincials

The team of Anneka Burghout and Tim Lindsay from London Curling Club were 4 and 1 in the Mixed Doubles Qualifier in Fergus on Feb. 15 to 17 to advance to the Provincial Championship in Brampton on March 1 to 3.

At that event, on Friday, they lost their first two games to Kim and Wayne Tuck from Ilderton Curling Club, and Andrew Fairfull and Amanda Gebhardt from Guelph Curling Club. Because this was a triple knockout tournament, one more loss and they'd be heading home.

However, they rebounded on Saturday at noon with a clutch 11-8 win against Sheri Greenman and Michael Zuliani of Unionville Curling Club.

Their next game at 6 p.m. Saturday was against Catherine and Chris Liscumb of Ilderton Curling Club. Down 8-2 after five ends, Anneka and Tim scored three in the sixth end, then stole one point in the seventh, two points in the eighth and one more point in the extra ninth end to claim a 9-8 victory.



At 9 p.m., they were back on the ice for their third game of the day against Mike Aprile and Genevieve Bennett of the York Curling Club in Newmarket. This game was back and forth going to an extra end after being tied 9-9 after eight ends. In the extra end, Aprile and Bennett scored a single to take the game and eliminate Anneka and Tim.

Congratulations on battling so hard, playing so well, and representing London Curling Club so proudly.

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