

# ROCK TALK



Newsletter of the London Curling Club

March 2016

## A victim's survivor guide to curling's eight-ender

It happened to us. We didn't see it coming. There were no warning signs that night. Naturally, you know the risks when you lace up your curling shoes, but goodness knows that you push that fear to the furthest reaches of your consciousness when you step onto the ice and prepare to do battle. We did that.

Our game started out as it normally does. We give up two or three points in the first end before we settle into a better system of "making" the odd shot. That being said, giving up four points in the first end was not a complete surprise. The fact that everyone missed every shot was a little disconcerting and the team got a little quieter than usual. You see, we have a couple of strict team rules. One of them is that you can't criticize other team members' shots unless you make a shot. So, given that on average we were curling at around zero per cent, this started out as a pretty quiet night.

An "eight ender" sneaks up on you. You miss a freeze and your rock slides through the house. You miss a take out, or graze an opposition stone that slides slowly to a perfect spot. You miss a draw to get behind a guard and slide just a little too far. You look at each other wondering how we could all be off on the same night. You just start hoping that someone will make a shot.

An "eight ender" creeps up on you. You fail to notice the gleam in the other team's eyes. You ignore the fact that the opposition is getting quieter. They glare at the house like poker stars not wanting to give away a hint that they already have three aces in their hand. There are actually warning signs that it is coming, but as we wallowed in our misfortune we missed them all.

You know that feeling that you get when you hear a tell-tale foreshadowing sound just before a bad thing happens to you? Are you familiar with that dreaded gut-wrenching auditory warning that wakes you to the realization that fate is in full control and that it is too late to change course? Examples: The distant cry of someone yelling "FORE" just before a golf ball bounces one time before striking you in the shin. The screeching of tires just before an impending crash. The faithful voice of a religious leader asking you "Do you [state name] take 'such and such' to be your lawfully wedded . . . ?"

We heard the warning sound just before it happened to us. It was already too late. We had already over-thrown our eighth stone. We were counting on this marker to draw for a point so that we could regroup in the next end. But we had already swept it too much. It had already skipped off a front guard and changed direction as it continued to slide toward the house at an alarmingly quick pace. That's when we heard the warning sound.

"I can't believe you threw that shot facing eight points." We heard it loudly and we heard it clearly. We were powerless to do anything else but look up and take inventory of the house. We saw red. We saw only red. Then we watched in what now became slow motion, as our blue stone deliberately, surgically slid past all red stones. We watched our stone avoid contact with red rocks as if it had been pre-programmed to do so by the same NASA team that designed the guidance system for the Mars rover. Then that blue stone exited the wide-open back door of the house and stopped about a foot from the hack. It was too late! It was over.

A memorable quote from the movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" comes to mind now. In the scene, after suffering repeated misfortune during a day of pursuit, Principal Ed Rooney finally catches up to Ferris and, as slowly as the sinister grin materializes on his face, he declares "Les jeux sont faits". Translation: the game is up. Clearly, our jeux were really really fails!

See **EIGHT ENDER** Page 5



Author Larry Martel and his teammates, all good sports with a great sense of humour, wear masks to disguise their identity, while joking that everyone knows anyway.

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# LCC members urged to serve on executive or as portfolio director

I attended a lecture at Western the other day on World War I (The Horror of 1916). In it was a poster showing the commanding, moustached face of Lord Kitchener pointing an accusing finger and the urgent slogan "Your country needs YOU." I thought that's what I want to write about in our next Issue of Rock Talk.

Your LCC needs YOU! Fortunately, it's not for the reasons Lord Kitchener had in mind but we need you to help keep our curling club successful. We need you to consider spending only three short but fulfilling years serving as a member of our Board of Directors. Item four of our mission statement reads: "As a member-owned and operated club, we foster member volunteerism in all areas, including program development, convening leagues, new member recruiting and club leadership." We need to add to that: Advertising, Promotions, Member Services, Skills Development and OCA. Being on the board will get you exposed to, and in a position to help manage, all these aspects of our club and more.

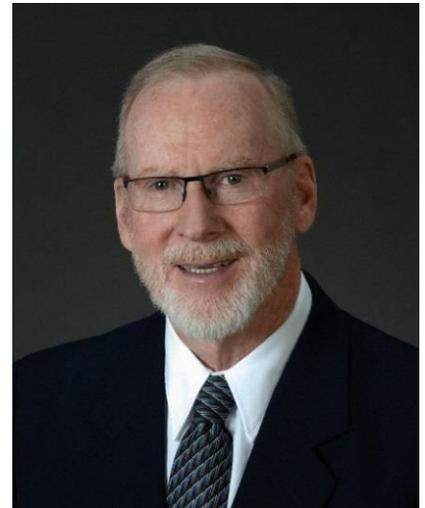
The board includes Portfolios and their directors. Very briefly, Advertising, chaired by Don Agnew, brings in money to the club by soliciting businesses in the London area. Each advertiser gets a sign in the arena and a spot in Rock Talk and other communications in the club. Promotions, chaired by Marj Dudley, ensures that the London Curling Club and its events appear front and centre in everything Londoners have access to, such as The Free Press and The Londoner. We fill our clinics and open houses thanks to Marj and her committee. Member Services, chaired by Roger Moyer, sees that the needs of our members are met and that new members are welcomed and are retained. Leagues and OCA, chaired by Bruce Thom, ensures that all of our 20 leagues have convenors and helps manage any league issues that arise. Bruce and his committee keep track of all OCA changes and events that affect our club members and help teams get registered for Zone playdowns. Skills Development, chaired by Pat Boothe, organizes training, open houses and clinics for club members and people off the street. They also recruit and manage our coaches, both club and competitive.

To help administer the board and the running of the club we also have President Paul Pergau, Vice-President Dave Rush and Past-President John Crosby, as well as Secretary Fay Weiler, Treasurer Bruce Turner, Executive Member Dave Weber and Daytime Women Representative Pam Harrison. It sounds like a lot of people but, as they say, many hands make light work. Club Manager Greg Lewis is also invited to each board meeting. He shares with us any issues he sees or that have been brought to his attention that require board intervention or approval.

Our board meets at least six times a year, usually on a Thursday evening, as well as at the Annual General Meeting in June. The meetings last about two hours and are fuelled by club manager, directors and executive reports.

This is your opportunity to participate in the running of our club. You are encouraged to volunteer for one of the available positions. You can either be a member of one of the committees, Portfolio Director or to be on the executive. If, come spring, we still have position vacancies, our past-president, or any member of the board may approach you. Please don't make yourself transparent. Your club needs YOU!

*Paul Pergau, LCC President*



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## Curlers rescue hockey arena put out to pasture

The original hockey arena, built as a Centennial project in 1967, was still in reasonably good shape. But it became expendable when the municipality built a new two-rink facility.

What do you do with a discarded arena? For the eastern Ontario community of North Grenville, 45 minutes south of Ottawa, the answer was simple. You offer it to the community's curlers. The Kemptville and District Curling Association, founded in 1989, had curled out of several clubs in the area but didn't have a permanent home. When the new arena/municipal centre was being built the mayor at the time met with the curling association to reach an arrangement.

The municipality retained ownership of the building but offered a five-year lease to the new North Grenville Curling Club. It was renamed to recognize the amalgamation of Kemptville, Oxford-on-Rideau and South Gower into the Municipality of North Grenville. The negotiations began in the early part of 2000 and the club opened in 2005. It recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and is now on its third five-year lease.

Club President Rob Kluge said they converted a fair amount of the building. The lower lobby's hockey dressing rooms were converted into men's and women's locker rooms. "That whole lobby is our lower bar area. Before and after games that is where a lot of our members sit. It's a good size area and it works. On double draw nights there is a fair amount of area there to sit."

The lower lobby can accommodate 75 to 80 people but it is dwarfed by the upstairs lounge, which can seat 200. This lounge is used for larger bonspiels, such as a women's world tour event that attracts curlers from around the world. Ottawa curlers Rachel Homan and Jenn Hanna have also played there. The extra space upstairs enables the club to rent it out for events.

The club has five sheets of ice, with a four-to-five-foot walkway on each side. Without that it could have accommodated six sheets, but with 330 members (50 to 60 of them youth memberships) it was not felt that the extra sheet was needed.

The club bought used rocks and sent them to Canada Curling Stone Co. in Lobo to get Blue Hone inserts for their running surfaces. The club has a jet ice water control system. Kluge says their ice can be quick. "We are getting wonderful curling. The majority of the time it is consistent." Like most buildings its age, there are "a few cracks here and there. The building is not tight." To counteract that, the club took out an older heater and put in two natural gas heaters, which are commonly used in curling clubs.

Kluge says most of the arenas built in 1967 to celebrate the Centennial have similar layouts and generous space. That may be good news for curlers, but only if municipal politicians are as innovative as they are in North Grenville.

*Burt Dowsett*

## LCC teams fail to advance in OCA playdowns

None of the three LCC teams advanced from the OCA Bantam mixed zones last month in Sarnia. The rink of Duncan Sizeland, Gabrielle McSloy, Hunter Csetri, Laura George and coach Kate Phillips went 0-2. The team of Jayden King, Sarah MacDougall, Patrick Meyer, Scotia Maltman and coach Karen Caldwell finished at 1-2, while the rink of Bryan Cox, Avery Sinasac, Graeme Daley, Kate Phillips and coach Peter Daley went 0-2.

In the 19+ Mixed Doubles at the Annandale Club the team of Russell Cuddie, Cassandra Lewin and coach Jennifer Cuddie went 0-2.

Early this month in the Ontario men's intermediates, the team of Tim Lindsay, Dave Ross, Bob McKinley and Bob Bourdeau had a rough time of it, going 0-7. Congratulation to all participants!

*Bruce Thom, Leagues and OCA*

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## ILDERTON RINK WINS SCOTIABANK TROPHY AT WDS TWO-DAY BONSPIEL

Spring arrived at the LCC when 80 female curlers, both in-club and out-of-club, participated in the WDS 64th annual Two-Day Bonspiel. Lots of memories were made and friendships renewed.

The team of Judy Oryniak, Lou Ann Archer, Shirley Ireland and Becky Ostrom from the Ilderton Curling Club won the First Event Scotiabank Trophy. First Event runner up winning the London Honda Trophy was the LCC team of Marj Dudley, Sherry Chambers, Valerie Clark and Doris Montgomery. Linda McKnight, Lynn Baker, Alison Muirhead and Dawn Butler of Ilderton won the Second Event Constellation Brands Canada Trophy. Winners of the Third Event Krown Rust Control Trophy were from the Tillsonburg Curling Club. Two teams from Ilderton won the Fourth Event Mykonos Restaurant Trophy and the Fifth Event Can-Am RV Centre Trophy.

The bonspiel's spring theme started at the entrance with a colourful spring garden lounge. Adorned with spring flowers and spring activities, the club was turned into a welcoming venue by Linda Round, Karen Lowry and the committee.

Monday and Tuesday breakfast was provided by Pat Bell. Marnie Sherritt and Pam Harrison provided Monday lunch. Dinner on Monday evening was catered by Linda Arthur of Village Catering and Joan Dickie. Tuesday lunch was provided by Linda Arthur, Lise Tranmer and Mary Lois Cooper. Supper was provided by Subway and Pam Harrison. Leslie Smith provided the snacks. There were several other volunteers.

Thanks to the committee of secretary Pam Harrison, draw master Fay Weiler, Sherry Chambers (in charge of prizes), assistant Joan Dickie, and co-convenor Pat Bell. There were many other volunteers who served, washed dishes, set tables and made coffee and tea. Homemade baking was provided by numerous members. Thanks to Bob Sivak and Dave Van Buskirk, who served as wine stewards for dinner on Monday.

Prizes were awarded for the elimination draw, the spring word scramble and the spring bonnet contest. Entertainment was provided by LCC's Marj Dudley and her singing group, The B-Flats. The accompanying skit was performed by Carolyn Sheppard, Dave Van Buskirk, Les Sonier and Bob Sivak.

Members of the club staff were amazing, including manager Greg Lewis, bar coordinator Les Sonier, head ice technician Kevin Breivik and his ice-making staff, as well as our housekeeper, Kristen Venner.

Thanks to everyone who made this event a great success.

*Sharon Sivak, Two-Day bonspiel convenor*



From left, Doris Montgomery, Valery Clark, Sherry Chambers and skip Marj Dudley were first-event runners-up and won the London Honda Trophy.



The first event winners of the Scotiabank Trophy were, from left, Judy Oryniak, Lou Ann Archer, Shirley Ireland and Becky Ostrom of the Ilderton Curling Club.



The second draw hat winners were, from left to right, Brenda Taylor, Judy Markle, Jinx Findlay and Joyce Hetherington.



Skip Linda McKnight's Ilderton rink of Lynn Baker, Alison Muirhead and Dawn Butler (missing from the photo) was the second event winner of the Constellation Brands Canada Trophy.

## Curling's roots on Thames River in London go back to 1830s

In the 1850s, London curlers would not have appreciated a mild winter such as the one we experienced for most of this curling season. They didn't have a warmer building to curl in than we have. They didn't have a building at all. Their rink was the Thames River.

In the Feb. 12, 1981 London Free Press, L. N. (Les) Bronson's column entitled Looking over Western Ontario chronicled the early years of curling in this city. He discovered that the 1855-56 winter was one of the coldest in years. The combination of a longer than usual winter and the completion of the railway through London two years earlier, enabled out-of-town curlers to travel here for bonspiels.

But bonspiels involving visiting curlers began even earlier. On Feb. 4, 1836, London Curling Club secretary F. B. Beddome issued a challenge in the Free Press: "Four members of the London Curling Club challenge four members of any other club in Canada West. The match is to be played in London any day this month." A Paris, Ontario foursome answered the challenge and the game was on.

The match took place on Feb. 14 on the Thames at the foot of Richmond Street. The next day the Free Press reported that the London curlers won "by two shots." Then on Feb. 21, the Free Press reported Paris won a follow-up game by 16 shots, thereby defeating London by 14 shots overall. There was no explanation of scoring by shots. Perhaps they simply meant "points."

Members of London's first rink, which won first game, were James Moffatt, club president Dr. John Wanless, McCrae and McFie. The second London rink, which lost, was comprised of Reid, W. McCrae, Horne and Patton.

Even in those days almost 200 years ago the host club members entertained their visitors, much like the LCC does today at its Harry Sifton Classic. The supper for participants from both clubs was at Robinson Hall, which Bronson described as "then a leading London hotel." Wanless chaired the event and contributed an "original" Gaelic song. In a rematch in Paris later that month the results were similar. London's first team won and its second rink lost.

Not to be outdone by the London curlers' hospitality, the Paris club reciprocated with a dinner in their visitors' honour. Bronson noted: "The festivities terminating the proceedings of the day were worthy of Scotia's sons."

*Burt Dowsett*

## EIGHT ENDER: It's more fun being on the winning side

Then much like the ill-fated Mr. Rooney who was about to have his victory yanked from his hands, we too had more bad news on the way. You see, just when we thought it was all over and that we had sunk to the lowest point, the poker stars had one hand left to play. They wanted pictures of the "full house" to capture the moment.

I am not a psychic and I cannot read minds, but I remember looking into the eyes of my teammates and I am convinced that, at that moment, I heard the sound of a synchronized collective mental nuclear blast. Then I heard silence.

In summary, there are two sides to an eight-ender. On one hand, the team that made shots celebrates a milestone of sorts for an end well played. On the other hand, the team that missed shots (and you have to miss plenty of shots) stands stunned and red-faced trying to figure out what to do next. Based on my experience, the better place to be is on the winning side of the eight-ender. They had way more fun.

### My practical tips for avoiding and/or surviving an eight-ender

1. Make at least one shot. We did not do that. I'm guessing that this would take the pressure off the team.
2. Cut bait. When you see six or seven stones in play for the other team, knock one stone out of the house. (See #1 on making a shot. We did not do that.)
3. Be aware. When the other team is huddled together and intensely glaring at the house, you can bet something is up.
4. Keep your composure. Keep your head up and don't lose focus. (Note to self: Remember this next time.)
5. Make sure that you have good friends on your team. I am lucky that way. We circled around after the game and talked it through. It was painful at first, but in the end we laughed at the situation that we put ourselves in. I wouldn't trade my teammates for anything. They are a lot of fun and so much cheaper than professional counselling.

*Larry Martel*

**Editor's Note: The names of characters may have been withheld to protect the identity of the victims, except of course, that of the author.)**

## Skills portfolio still busy

Many of our members are starting to think about winding down the curling season. Not us. We just finished the Family Day clinic with more than 30 new curlers. We had 11 coaches to help the rookies. After an hour of instruction, experienced curlers joined the new curlers in games on all sheets. Some of these new curlers will be starting Learn to Curl next year.

Jinx Findley, Kevin MacDonald and Steve O'Neil visited elementary schools, providing a workshop before the students join us for a morning at the club. It allows for more ice time and a better feel for what curling is like.

The LCC played host to a competitive coaching workshop over the Family Day weekend. We now have four more coaches trained to help with the bantam and junior programs, which are both growing.

The Skills and Development committee has had a good year. We are always looking for ways to help members and the public enjoy the sport. Your input is welcome. Thanks to all those who coached, came to workshops, brought friends and introduced new curlers to the club.

*Pat Boothe, Jinx Findlay, Darlene ten Haaf, Sandy Ronson, Skills & Development*

## Season-ending reminders

LCC management reminds members to remove all articles from their lockers, including the lock, at the end of the season. This enables lockers be cleaned. Also, members who have lost anything should check the club's lost and found area. All unclaimed articles will be thrown out or sent for recycling at season's end.

## Volunteers nominated for awards

In appreciation and recognition for their volunteer work for the LCC, the club has nominated four members to receive the Ontario Volunteer Service Award this season. They are Bob Hyatt, Peter Jackson, Nancy King and Doug Wilson. These awards are presented to volunteers, who contribute meaningful volunteer time on an ongoing basis over several consecutive years in increments of five, including the present year.

*Fay Weiler*

## Little Rockers successful at spiels

We had a much smaller group of Little Rockers this year after a number of curlers graduated to bantam at the end of last season. But our teams competed well at a number of bonspiels. Erin Laffling's rink of Emma Barron, Ivana Celic and Jacob Bugler got their feet wet in Brant, then finished first at Forest and second at Highland. Carter Bradley and Grace Phillips showed solid leadership when called on to skip at several bonspiels.

Little Rockers would like to thank Jinx Findlay, Cheryl Phillips, Scott Bugler and Natalie Bradley for coaching. Thanks also to Tatum Brownlee and Nathan Torrence for helping out on the ice. Pete Daley is leaving the role of Little Rocks convener after three years to move on to bantam-level coaching. If you would be interested in convening Little Rocks next year or helping the program in other ways, please contact the club.

*Pete Daley, Little Rocks convener*

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## Leads, seconds try their hand at third, skip

A WDS leads and seconds one-day event was held where curlers who normally play the lead and second positions played skip and third. This was a big learning session for the new skips. There were some amazing shots as 16 curlers participated in the Feb. 10 event. It was a lot of fun and no doubt more curlers will participate next year. Lunch and prizes were provided. A team skipped by Theresa Walsh was the big winner. Members of her team were Gwen Steffler, Jeanette Walker and Valerie Clark. Thanks to Jinx Findlay for organizing this event and to Joyce Hetherington for score keeping.

We hope that all members enjoyed a great year of curling, fun and fellowship. We look forward to seeing everyone again in October.

*Pam Harrison, WDS chair*



## WDS closing meeting scheduled for March 30

The WDS closing meeting and luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 30. The Executive Committee encourages WDS members to attend this meeting, as important decisions will be made regarding events for the 2016-17 curling season, including the election of a new executive. A catered luncheon will precede the meeting. Please plan to attend. Tickets will be available from any member of the WDS Executive Committee.

## Nash Jewellers, Subway finals coming in late March

The final game for the Nash Jewellers six-week sponsored event will be held on March 24, convened by Lise Tranmer and Connie Harris. It will be followed on March 26 by the final game of the Subway seven-week event, convened by Pat Boothe and Katie Ungar.



DORIS MONTGOMERY

## Doris Montgomery realizes dream to curl in Two-Day

Doris Montgomery, a long-time member of the WDS, had a special item on her bucket list. She wanted to curl in the WDS Two-Day Bonspiel. She had volunteered in this event many times, primarily working in the kitchen, but had not had an opportunity to curl. She was able to strike that one off her list recently, when she spared as lead on Marj Dudley's team. Not only did she curl in this event, but their team won the London Honda Trophy, as the first runner-up in Event 1. Doris went on to curl six games that week. Congratulations Doris.

*Pam Harrison*

## YEAR END BLOWOUT!

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Life's brighter under the sun

## LCC seeking volunteers

For the third year in a row, the LCC has been awarded the OCA bantam/junior mixed provincials to take place April 6-9. Volunteers will be required for timing games, serving light lunches and hospitality. Please sign the sheets in the main lounge if you are available to take a shift for this event that brings 16 teams from across the province into the LCC and generates funds for our club.

Jennifer Cuddie

## Final Member/Guest event March 18

The last member/guest event filled up quickly. As a result, we have decided to offer this once more before the season ends. The final member/guest will take place at 8 p.m. on March 18. Contact the office or sign up in the main lounge. These events are a fun way to introduce curling to friends and family. Members are asked instruct their guests, then everyone plays a game. It is free to members and \$15 per guest is payable at the bar.

## Silent auction leads way in boost of \$10,500 in prostate funds

A big factor in the increase in LCC-raised funds for prostate cancer research from \$18,500 in its inaugural year to \$29,000 this year is attributed to the silent auction. Ken Walmsley, who launched the fund drive last year, says the number of auction items increased from 83 to 118 and the money it realized went up from \$9,200 to \$14,400.

The 20 golf packages in the auction were the biggest fund-raisers, bringing in \$4,300. The majority of them are high-end courses and most of them were brought in by Bruce Thom and Larry Round, reports Walmsley. Golf is a winner in many ways. Golfers get to play a course they could not otherwise unless they had a friend who is a member. London Health Sciences Foundation, which is the recipient of the LCC fund raising, gets the money and the participating golf courses receive a public relations benefit. The sponsors of the LCC project are: Financial Horizons Group, GoodLife Fitness Centres, Huron Motor Products, EMCAD Consulting Engineers, Meridian Credit Union, McFarlan Rowlands Insurance Brokers, Dufferin Financial Group and 3 Macs Inc.



Attending the LCC prostate cancer wrap up are, front row from left, Bruce Thom, John Brown, sponsor Sandra Alblas of Meridian Credit Union, Shannon Digby of London Health Sciences Foundation, Ken Walmsley, sponsor Randy Hawken of Dufferin Financial Group, sponsor Dave Myles of Emcad Consulting Engineers and Jim Russell. Back row from left, Paul Pergau, Dave Rush, Bob Hyatt, Doug Wilson, Larry Round and Harry Steele.

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