ROCKtalk

The newsletter of the London Curling Club

October 2018

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Potential partnership with City of London seen as best option for new curling club

It seems like just a short time ago we threw our last stones and talked about everyone's off-season plans over. During the off-season, the London Curling Club new facilities committee actively explored various private developer and government partnership opportunities to build a new curling facility.

We've determined that the London Curling Club's best option to secure a new curling facility in two to five years, is to forge a partnership with the City of London. Several committee members have been working closely with City of London personnel, councillors and key electoral candidates, who have all conveyed positive feedback about a potential partnership with our club.

Working with the city involves several steps in a specific process and timeline. The City of London is currently updating their Parks and Recreation Master Plan, using a consultant to get input from stakeholders and the public. There's also a municipal election currently in progress that impacts city decision making.

Committee members met the City's consultant at a stakeholders input session and were successful at getting both curling and the London Curling Club prominently included in the consultants final stakeholder's report. This report will contribute to the city's final Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Curling is a sporting activity that many Londoners of all ages can benefit from. To those members who participated in the city's Park's and Recreation Master Plan public input survey last June, our committee thanks you for promoting the London Curling Club and curling.

The next step will require our committee to work closely with the city to identify and execute the criteria necessary to move a potential partnership between the London Curling Club and the City of London forward. Stay tuned for further updates.

DAVID BECKETT
NEW FACILITIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mark Flynn hired as new ice tech trainee

Mark Phillips has done an outstanding job as our head ice tech and we sincerely thank him for being there and providing us with great ice. However, he wanted us to look for his replacement as quickly as we could. After reviewing eight applicants, we welcome Mark Flynn to our ice maintenance team as head ice tech trainee. Mark Phillips will continue with us, both training Mark Flynn and helping us with ongoing ice maintenance.

Mark Flynn has been around London Curling Club for many years. As far back as 2009, Mark taught adults to curl. Since then he's been on some of the club's top competitive teams.

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NEW ICE TECH - CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Through his education at Fanshawe College and work experience at Reliance and other local industries, Mark has gained experience in tools, machinery and customer service that make him suitable for ice maintenance at our club.

Introduce yourself to Mark Flynn and welcome him in his new career as our head ice tech trainee. Any comments you have about our ice can be addressed to Mark. Which one? Take your pick. They're both great.

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Second annual funspiel a huge success

The second annual "Can You Hack It?" bonspiel was held on March 10, 2018 at London Curling Club.

The purpose of this "funspiel" was to help club members, and specifically Learn to Curl members, meet other club members. Almost half the curlers were learn to curlers from the past two years.

The bonspiel featured two six-end games. Individual registrants listed their preferred position and teams were created with the goal of placing curlers from different leagues together. Teams were shuffled after the first game, resulting in participants curling with or against up to 14 different people during the day. This format was well received by participants who enjoyed a delicious lunch of soup, sandwiches and desserts from Eat Your Heart Out Catering (Julie Cook).

Organizers Dan and Melissa Neeb would like to thank Jim Russell, Bruce Thom, and Michael and Barb Leisinger, bartender Les Sonier and the ice making crew. Special thanks to Greg Lewis and the London Curling Club pro shop for donating a broom that was raffled off during lunch. A 50/50 draw was also held during lunch.

All net bonspiel proceeds will go to enhance the Learn to Curl program at the London Curling Club.

The Can You Hack It? bonspiel is scheduled again for March 9, 2019, so mark your calendar now. Organizers hope to expand to two draws to include even more club members.

Spirit of Curling award winners honoured

Congratulations to Jeannette Walker and Bob Kerwin, the 2017-2018 winners of the London Curling Club Spirit of Curling awards.

These individuals were recognized for their love of the sport of curling and their good sportsmanship on and off the ice. Both have served their league and the club with volunteerism above and beyond the call of duty. The awards were announced at our Annual General Meeting in June.

Five club members honoured with provincial volunteer awards

In appreciation and recognition for volunteer contributions to London Curling Club, the club nominated (shown below left to right) Burt Dowset, Marj Dudley, Paul Pergau, Stan Smith and (not shown) Peter Fewster for the Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

These awards are presented to volunteers whose contribution is characterized by meaningful volunteer time given on an ongoing basis over several consecutive years in increments of five including the present year.

These recipients were presented with stylized trillium pins and personalized certificates from the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, during a ceremony March 24, 2018 at the Hellenic Community Centre. Congratulations to all!

Another eight ender

March 19, 2018, during the men's social league, left to right John Hamilton, Doug Whitmore and Willy Weiler scored an eight ender. Well done gents!

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Women's daytime section event five and six winners

Event five results

Event five was convened by Connie Harris and Marilynne VanBuskirk. The winners were (shown below, left to right) Judi Sofalvi, Pat Boothe, Marilynne Van Buskirk and Janet Legue.

Event six results

Event five was convened by Sandy Ronson and Sheila VanSickle. The event was won by (shown below left to right) Sue Ferguson, Karen Shearer, Dayna Dann and Mary Cross.

In second place was Jan Murray, Joan Crosby, Mary Lucas and Leslie Smith. The team of Sharon Sivak, Judy Sofalvi, Mary Blasl and Cathy Townsend finished third.

2017-18 women's and men's club champions crowned

The women's champions from the Thursday Night Business Women's league are, from left to right, skip Linda Hooper, vice Leah Cartan, second on championship night, Caitlin Carrera and lead Angelina Sloan. The team's normal second, Julie Lorenzin, was not available for the photograph.

In their first year as a team, representing the Teasdale league, skip David Ross (far left) led his rink to the London Curling Club men's championship. Remaining members from left to right are vice Dave Johnston, second Brian Piper, lead Greg Lewis and fifth-player Dave Beckett.

No longer balancing work , Ross club champ

Curlers often have to work out a schedule with their employer that enables them to participate in their sport and work too.

David Ross, who skipped the London Curling Club men's championship team this year, is now retired but had a system that worked for both parties. His job involved working on trains such as London to Toronto and Toronto to Sarnia for the Canadian National Railway.

"You were gone (on the train) for two days and then had a day off. Then they would start the cycle again," says Ross.

David skipped teams in both the Monday night Miller league and the Thursday afternoon Teasdale league, which he represented in the championship final. The Miller league has usually been the strongest league but the last two years teams from the Teasdale league have won the men's club championship. Last year it was won by Ron McLennan's team.

David's Teasdale teammates this year are all retired. Asked if he thought some of the best curlers who are now retired made the Teasdale more competitive, he replied "It can go either way. It does free up time for daytime curling. Not everyone wants to go out at night."

In curling, especially with the best players, it's not unusual for your teammate one year to be your opponent down the road. For instance, while Ross is enjoying his first club championship as a skip, he won a few years ago playing on Tim Lindsay's rink. Ironically, it was Lindsay that Ross defeated in the final this year.

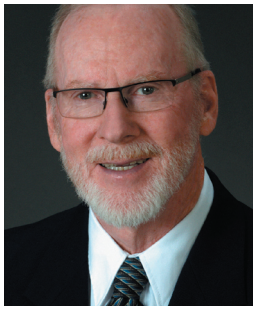
Ross followed his father into curling and working for the railway. "My dad was a good curler. He started in Fort William. Then we moved to London, followed by North Bay and then back to London. His dad worked on the railway too.

"When we lived in North Bay, a friend was a curler and he got me into it. When I moved back to London I took up curling in high school."

BY BURT DOWSETT

Notes on a new season

A message from Paul Pergau, president, London Curling Club



Time to mothball the golf clubs and haul out the curling gear! I spent a month in lovely Nelson, B.C. this summer, so I was spared this area's heat and humidity but nevertheless, I'm ready for some cool weather activity like curling!

The board of directors and I agreed that, based on the times we're in, it made sense to maintain some continuity in leadership from year-to-year for a bit. I'm pleased to be back as your club president. We welcome Kevin MacDonald and Ken Walmsley to the board of directors and are glad that Michael Leisinger and Jinx Findley can stay on to help us manage the club through the season. Jinx is also president of the womens daytime section this year, so she has her hands full.

You'll notice a new person working on our ice. Welcome Mark Flynn to our ice making team. With tutoring from Mark Phillips, Mark Flynn will soon be our head ice tech.

New curling stones have arrived. There goes another excuse for missed shots. Now what?

The Academy of Curling comes to our club this month. I hope everyone who wishes to take advantage of teaching from Russ Howard, Mary-Anne Arsenault and Grant Odishaw have been able to signup.

New stones, new head ice tech trainee and new curling skills. It promises to be a great year. See you on the ice.

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London Curling Club claims Malahide tournament

On March 14, three teams from London Curling Club reclaimed the coveted Malahide medal in a bonspiel against three teams from each of Aylmer, St. Thomas and Highland curling clubs.

The tournament has been contested for more than 150 years and is cumulative point bonspiel. The designated team number one from each club plays the other clubs' team number ones from each site as do the team number twos and threes. All points are added together for each club. London Curling Club hosted the 2018 bonspiel and squeaked out a win

The London Curling Club members contributing to the win are shown below. Back row left to right were Dave Mann, John Crosby, Michael Leisinger, Bruce Thom, Richard Rodgers, Stan Smith, Marcus Macrae, Larry Saunders and Jay Brownlee. Front row, left to right were Mike Williams, Gord Lammers and Jeff Schlegel.

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London Curling Club golfers raise funds for prostate cancer research

On June 12, several golfing members of London Curling Club, organized and participated in the Friends of Curling Golf Tournament for Prostate Cancer. They're shown below making a $1,500 presentation the London Health Sciences Centre Foundation. Great work guys!

Five past presidents receive special crests

At the June annual general meeting, five London Curling Club past presidents were awarded past president crests to thank them for their service; Fay Weiler, Gord Sellery, John Crosby, Paul Pergau and Dave Rush.

The crests used were traditionally awarded to all past presidents but somewhere along the way, the tradition had lapsed.

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Club welcomes new curling stones

Our new curling stones have arrived and are ready to go! These new rocks are expected to be more "lively" than our old rocks when they are hit. Please be aware of moving rocks and alert to the possibility of rocks coming from the sheets next to you.

The new rocks are also going to require a break-in period that could last from several weeks to a month or more. Initial testing shows that they're likely to curl much more than expected if thrown too light or with a slow rotation. Extra weight may be required. Our ice technicians will be monitoring play and adjusting things such as the ice temperature and pebble to make the game more enjoyable for everyone. We ask for your understanding and patience as we all go through this process.

Our previous curling stones were more than 50 years old and in dire need of replacement.

The new stones, which are the same as the one set of stones which were previewed on one sheet last spring, cost $53,000, including the trade-in on the previous curling stones.

Shown at right, president Paul Pergau gets the honour of throwing the first rock with the new stones.