



ENNISMORE CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER OCT 2015

WELCOME BACK

CLUB OPENING

Although you wouldn't know from the national media, the Canadian election is not the only important activity on 19 Oct. Thanks to many hours of hard work over the past weeks by the ice making crew led by John Norton's technical expertise, our curling club launches its new season the same day as voting for your favourite politician takes place. Since the media appear willing to ignore our Club opening, this newsletter has drawn it to your attention.

GREEN ICE and PRACTICE TIME

In early October it looked like our ice might not be ready for practice on Sunday, 18 Oct, because of technical problems. But everything worked out -- and a large number of members filled the sheets. While on the subject of practice ice, I need to remind all curlers that fresh ice is even more slippery than ice after it has been played on for a while. Already there are reports of curlers falling at clubs where curling started in early October. **EVERYONE IS CAUTIONED TO BE VERY CAREFUL ESPECIALLY WHILE THE ICE GETS WORKED IN.**

RECENT HAPPENINGS

As alluded to above, the work in opening our club for the new season did not proceed without obstacles. The new (and expensive) ventilation system mentioned briefly in the previous newsletter operates with a set of **SENSORS TO WARN OF TOXIC GASES** in the ice plant and back room. Unfortunately, when the ice plant was inspected (virtually all of our operations must pass regular inspections), the old sensors proved incompatible with the new ventilation and had to be replaced. With a lot of fast work, John Norton and Tom Antonopulos, the board representative for the physical plant, carried out a series of negotiations and arranged for a company to install new sensors – in a nick of time (and at considerable expense).

NEW WEBSITE: www.ennismorecurlingclub.com

Dan Deschenes has made more progress installing our new **CURLING MANAGER** program that runs the Club **WEBSITE**. Once registration is complete, you will be able to go there to find league schedules, team rosters, team standings, and other league information. The program enables links for businesses that advertise in our Club, opens a history of the Club, posts the newsletters, a calendar of events, rentals, information about our pro-shop and has links to other curling sites, such as the OCA and Curling Canada. Over time and with Dan's skill (and hard work) much more will be on the site. Club members will have access to a range of information through an identity you establish after your registration; the general public can obtain less privileged club information, such as event schedules and bonspiels. **CHECK IT OUT.**

LEAKY ROOF AND CLUB FACILITIES

Those around over the past few years will remember only too well the problems caused by WATER LEAKING ONTO THE ICE in mid-winter. Last winter was especially bad, but there have been leaks in previous years as well, and not only onto the ice. Unfortunately, the overall problem is complicated in several ways, not the least of which is that different leaks have developed from different sources, some of which have been virtually impossible to locate even by specialists. The fact that the building is owned by the township but the Club is responsible for maintenance adds another layer of complication in the situation. Over time different boards have addressed the problems with greater or lesser success. However, we have very good news to report. After a lot of hard work headed by Tom Antonopulos, and in particular by Wayne Stafford, Selwyn Township has agreed to deal with the leak problems and will do so this fall.

In addition, the board has arranged to replace the EXHAUST FANS IN THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DRESSING ROOMS. The existing fans were inoperative and so old they could not be repaired. Steve Thomson and Keith Howson located new fans which Keith is installing. As well, new timer switches will complete the job. As Steve pointed out, "Doing this ourselves will be less than half the cost of the quotation from the contractor."

This past year, people sometimes smelled NATURAL GAS IN THE KITCHEN. This summer we had the stove and gas system inspected and learned the source of the intermittent smell. Sometimes when the stove was being used, only the pilots for the specific elements or specific ovens in operation were lit, which meant that gas was being emitted by the pilots not lit. As well, the fan was often turned off because its force was so strong that it made the kitchen unworkably cold. The inspector revealed that all pilots must be lit at all times when the stove is in use, and the fan, which now has a speed control installed, must be running.

CLUB PRO LESSONS

Our Club Pro, John Norton, has agreed to offer lessons on a private basis for individuals and groups from our Club or outside. The rates will be negotiated between the curlers and John. More information will be posted and circulated as the season progresses. John is an experienced and talented coach and teacher. This is a valuable opportunity that most clubs do not have.

AFTER SCHOOL CURLING PROGRAM

Following the success of last year's "Student After School Program", the Ennismore Curling Club is again offering a curling league for primary school students. This six-week league will cost **\$30 per student** and will be held at the Ennismore Curling Club every **Tuesday** from **November 3 to December 8, 2015, inclusive, from 3:45 - 5:30 p.m.** This league will be a fun activity for students in grades 6 - 8 with a focus on learning the curling basics. Don't miss this opportunity to join in on an activity we all love as a volunteer or by signing up your children, grandchildren or kids you know. Registration forms and information are available from Kim Ray at kimberley.ray@gmail.com 705-292-6827 or Tom Antonopulos antontg@sympatico.ca at 705-292-9721 or John Norton at the ECC.

BANTAM BOYS' TEAM JOINING MEN'S COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

It's a pleasure to announce that the team of Hayden Tekauc (skip), Liam Cole (vice), Cole Cotter (2nd) and Zachary Hatton (lead) will be competing in the men's league on Monday nights. These fellows, all of whom had a successful season in 2014/15, already serve as valuable examples to other young curlers. I am sure that everyone wishes them the best of curling this year.

ECC SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITIVE TEAM

Our Club will be represented this year in a range of bonspiels by skip Gayle White, vice Kathy Reid, second Sharon Stafford, and lead Susan Plant, with alternate Annette Thomson. Tara Welbourn is their (patient) coach and will urge them through practices and lead them into competitions, the first of which, the Travellers, is the weekend of 25/26 Oct in Oshawa.

OLYMPIC CURLING BROOM RAFFLE

Through the astuteness of our Senior Women's competitive team, Goldline has donated a carbon fibre, Olympic games' broom signed by the teams of Jennifer Jones and Brad Jacobs. Tickets are being sold (\$5.00) for a draw later in the season. No doubt this broom would do a great deal to improve the winner's curling. So, don't miss the chance to buy tickets.

NEW OPEN BONSPIEL

Get ready for a new bonspiel. On 7 November, the Club is holding the WELCOME BACK BONSPIEL: RUSTY SHOTS, being sponsored by Russelle Toyota. It will have two six-end draws, lunch, dinner, prizes and lots of fun. You'll have a chance to take off the rust that formed on your shots over the summer layoff. And it allows snowbirds, who miss the bonspiels after Christmas while they are in the sunny south, a chance to play in a Club spiel.

KITCHEN, BAR and ICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Everyone is reminded of the requirement in membership to provide at least four hours of volunteer help each season. The schedules for the kitchen, bar and ice assignments are being set up and will be posted shortly. Please check the "Volunteer" bulletin board in the lobby.

FOOD HANDLING COURSE

The course that was to be offered by Matt Faris of the Peterborough Department of Health on 3 October had to be cancelled. But another course will be scheduled in the near future. More news about this will be available as soon as plans develop.

FUNDRAISING, MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND CLUB PROMOTION

You may have sensed an underlying theme in this newsletter: continuing expenses. The Club has incurred additional unexpected expenses in the past two months. Coincidentally, this week the Ontario energy board granted an increase in rates to Ontario Hydro. So, to say that our recent expenses were unexpected seems to ignore inevitability: the reality is that the Club incurs large expenses on an ongoing basis, rates continue to increase, and the Club must plan for the costs of replacing and/or repairing existing equipment as it wears out or malfunctions. All clubs face this problem, as they also face gradually declining membership.

With this situation in mind, the Board plans on establishing committees that will generate ideas of ways to raise funds, increase our membership and promote the Ennismore Curling Club.

You will receive a message through our new website asking anyone who would be willing to help in these areas to let the Board know. Please give this request serious consideration. You could help our Club in crucial areas.

HAPPY CURLING IN 2015/16