



ENNISMORE CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST: NEW SEASON: 2017/18

You may or may not be thinking of curling these days, but some of us are. In fact, a number of us have been busy lately getting the Club ready for the new season. So, here's an update on your Club.

The first item on the agenda is to say a large THANK YOU to DIANNE HARRIS and MARILYN SMITH for looking after the GARAGE SALE and to SYRIE GARDNER and CYNTHIA GUERIN for the BAKE SALE. The event was a huge success and raised a record \$5200.00. Obviously, thanks and credit need to go also to all the Club members (and spouses and friends) who spent hours setting up and pricing the mammoth number of items, worked as sales people on the floor and clearing up after, as well as to those who baked for that really effective arm of the sale.

The second item is to remind you that REGISTRATION NIGHT is FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER from 7:00 PM. Last year the club had over 50 new people who joined, thanks in large part to those of you who invited friends and family to try curling again or for the first time. This past year has seen a lot of new families move into the Peterborough area, so we are asking all of you to consider inviting anyone you think might enjoy curling to come for a tour of our club and enjoy the Club friendship and the complimentary refreshments at Registration. Assure them that curling is a wonderful way to meet new people from the area, get some exercise, and have fun through the winter.

New members are the best way to keep our fees low and help offset the costs of repairs and maintenance of our facility. As well, we are a club which is run by volunteers, and the more people we have, the better it is for spreading the work out. Ennismore Curling has the reputation of a club that is well organized, that puts on amazing bonspiels, and whose members have a lot of fun together. So, let's all try to continue this work, and carry on our great heritage.

We will have items available from our Pro Shop as well as merchandise from Kawartha Embroidery. There will be some special sale items: for example, GRIPPERS will be available for \$15.00 instead of the usual price (you will be getting almost 25% off Goldline's price of a few cents short of \$20.00). We'll also announce the winner of the Volunteer of the Year award.

You will also be able to register using the Club's Online site in early September but because we have not yet finalized a system for payment online, you will have to pay in person or by mail. Payment must be made before start of curling. So, see you at REGISTRATION night.

A new initiative is our involvement in the OCA TRY CURLING project. You will soon be seeing signs throughout our region displaying information about TRY CURLING and NEW CURLER leagues. The OCA is sponsoring 100 signs for each OCA Club which will direct prospective curlers to a contact with the club of choice for a TRY CURLING OPEN HOUSE. That event leads to a NEW CURLER LEAGUE in the club. Our NEW CURLER LEAGUE was a great success last year and we are offering a similar league this year: 8 weeks on Sundays, 1:00 – 3:00pm in Oct-Dec for the low price of \$100.00. We'll have more information about the OPEN HOUSE shortly.

Several other initiatives in response to member feedback mean that we have more new curling options for you. We are introducing a FRIDAY MORNING TEAM LEAGUE that will offer a COMPETITIVE EDGE. We all recognize that in recent years there have been few opportunities for women to take part in more competitive leagues at our Club (really, only the Wed night open league provides that opportunity), so this new league may be especially appealing to our ladies. As well, there are members who don't find the Monday or Wed evening leagues fit their schedules and this will give them a daytime league.

Another new option is a DOUBLES LEAGUE scheduled for Tuesday evenings. We have two curlers who are experienced in doubles play and are willing to convene a league for us on Tuesday evenings. Doubles is growing at a fast pace, possibly because it is now an Olympic sport, but probably especially because it is a lot of fun and brings an opportunity for new curling strategies to our sport. The game normally takes only about an hour-and-a-bit to complete, which also means players have a shorter time commitment – it fits busy schedules better.

These leagues are on our registration form and representatives will be at the tables to provide information. We will run the leagues if enough people sign up for them. To accommodate these developments, the SUNDAY SCHEDULE has been set as follows: Practice time 11-1pm; Instructional league 1:00 – 3:00pm; Junior league 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Also among additions to our activities is an OCA-run RINK RAT COURSE on 28 October that will train people in ice maintenance to provide skilled assistance to our ice technician. This is a new service from the OCA but it is obviously a popular one. A quick look at information about the course showed me that already four clubs have signed up to host courses; in fact, Annandale is doing two days of the course. It is a 7 hour commitment and covers a range of skills, among them nipping, pebbling, ice monitoring and safety. Registration is on the OCA website by each individual; our course will be open to members from other clubs and may fill up quickly. Go to the OCA website: CURLON- Program-ice technician courses.

The ECC board has also taken steps to provide WiFi in our Club. DAN DESCHENES has negotiated a deal with Bell that provides more coverage for less money than we are currently paying. More news on this development will be available once we have the WiFi upgrade installed and running.

THINK CURLING

When you enter the Club this year, you may notice that the inside front door no longer scrapes across the floor as it is opened. GILBERT SPERRY and WAYNE STAFFORD spent a long morning completing the repair. Say THANK YOU when you see them. And speaking of repairs, our ELEVATOR has caused us some grief. The motor on the door burned out. We have learned from the experience that the door cannot be held open, for example when loading, because the motor runs trying to close the door and eventually burns out. Why the elevator technicians who service the elevator several times a year never explained this to us before the incident we don't know. But now we know that the elevator must be put into "service" mode for loading. Signs will be installed to instruct people on how to handle loading. The motor cost us approximately \$2600.00 and we don't want to have to replace it again. In an ironic side bar, I can add that shortly after the technician fixed the motor, John and I discovered that the elevator would not move at all. John had to call the technician in again and he fixed the problem – a simple adjustment that took only a few minutes.

When you begin curling this season, you will notice – at least we hope and expect you will notice – that the rocks are more lively on take-outs. That is because we had the striking bands retooled by Canada Curling Stone. Over the years, the rock's repeated contact with each other had gradually flattened and widened the bands, which deadened the stone's action when hit. The work was done over the summer, cost approximately \$4000.00 and should improve everyone's curling – at least we hope and expect it will improve everyone's curling. Certainly there will be less reason to blast a rock at another to take it out.

And this just in from Peter Gardner: "Just to let you know that we had 8 ECC members join together to play golf at Tamarac Golf club as part of the "Stay-in-Touch" Golf program on Tuesday Aug 15. We played a Best Ball format so our scores were quite low and everyone was pleased with the exceptional skill with which we performed. Judy Schramayr, Bev Ringrose, Wendy Clarke-Spaulling, Stan Barry, Bill Ingram, Gil Sperry, Keith Howson and Pete Gardner tore up the course and Kirk Gardner was the official score keeper. After the game we enjoyed a BBQ at the Gardners' and everyone was well behaved, well almost everyone."

One final note: Wayne, Dick and John, with moral support from Reg, installed the new digital playing-time clock that NELSON and MAUREEN PICKETT's generous donation inspired. We will have an inaugural running of it at an appropriate moment before the season, possibly even on Registration night.