



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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A word from your President... Mike Schneider

It's hard to believe another season is almost half over but here it is December already. I'd like to wish each of you and your families a happy, safe holiday season.

There has been a lot of discussion in the lounge about what appeared to be a significant drop in membership this year (based upon the preliminary figures made public a month or two ago). The board has recently received updated December membership figures and while there was still a small decline in membership, the decline was not nearly as significant as first indicated. Our biggest membership category (new and returning full time active members) was down less than 1% from 468 to 464 active members. Overall, membership was down by slightly less than 5%. Sadly, most of the decline was in the Novice and New (once per week) Members; something we need to continue to focus our recruitment efforts on.

As we enter 2016 RKCC is only 4 years from our Bicentennial. During our October board meeting we held a "Blue Sky" session to start the ball rolling on how, and to what extent, we should celebrate our Bicentennial. A number of great ideas were put forward but we, as a board, felt it was important that the membership as a whole, should be canvassed for their ideas. With that in mind, we are looking for volunteers to sit on an ad hoc committee to not only canvass our creative members for their ideas but to also develop an initial plan/proposal on what should be done and how to best put the plan into action. Anyone who is interested in joining this committee can contact myself, or our Member at Large, Martha Tanner.

I hope you all enjoy your holidays and I look forward to seeing you at the club in the new year.



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Next Sweep





Bill Duffe was a man of many minds.

He was the master of one-liners. At times, he was his own worst enemy. He was a jokester. He was a carpenter. He was an inventor and innovator. He was an astute map reader. He was a businessman. He was a chef...and yes he was also a curler.

On a sheet of curling ice, Bill, when his hip started bothering him and he had to use a stick, was the first in the long history of the Royal Kingston Curling Club to introduce the "stick" slide as part of his warmup routine. While the normal curlers would take their warmup slide, Bill would calmly stroll out of the hack with his stick in the throwing position and give it a little flick just before the hog line. "I'm ready now," he'd say.

Bill was the man behind the Monday noon lunches which are now a highlight of the Senior Men's Flight League. When the league first started, games were played at 8:30, 10:30 and 12:30. Bill didn't like that. He said the club was losing money because the 8:30 curlers left immediately after the game because the bar wasn't open." Why not start at 9 a.m. and you can have a "unit" at 11 a.m. More money for the club and more enjoyment for the curlers." After he got the opening hours changed he organized the ever-popular noon lunch and handled most of it by himself along with sidekick Brian Collingwood. It has been a fixture ever since and all profits go back to the club.

He invented the left-handed soup server for workers in the kitchen and also the "immaculate contraption" (an outside burning wood stove) at his beloved cottage.

He was a task master in the kitchen with a varied menu every time he was in charge. He loved applying a dry rub to beef before putting it in the oven and likewise with pork when pulled pork was on the menu. He would cook it, but never pull it. He also had a

knack with potatoes. He always managed to nick himself with the potato peeler on the first swipe and was out of commission (time for a unit) so he always had his helpers do the peeling. Over the years he developed a special bond with Jim Lesley, but it used to drive him crazy that Jim always put the butter back in the freezer after Bill had put it out early so it was soft and spreadable. Even last June when the cancer was taking a bigger toll on Bill's life he managed to work all day at the curling club marinating and smoking at least 24 huge salmon fillets in a portable smoker outside the club for the curlers annual golf tournament.

A fixture on the Senior bonspiel circuit, Bill checked maps (this was before he got a GPS) regularly and knew the exact location of every legion no matter where he was playing. He even found a bar in Richmond, aptly titled "Duffy's Tavern" and made a stop there every year.

In his later years Bill played on five-man teams skipped by Lefty McDonald on Monday mornings and Tuesday nights. Lefty needed a fifth man to handle Bill's extra-curricular activities....such as St. Patrick's Day (when he always dressed in green and orange) and also on his birthday. No curling on these days, but he always showed up at the club if his team was playing. And if they weren't playing well, he would always have a brown paper bag mask to put on, so nobody would know he was associated in any way with the team on the ice.

His death last Friday (Nov. 13) leaves an enormous void in the lives of his wife Sandy and his children Billy (Heather) and Jamie (Leah).

As a lasting tribute to one of the most treasured life members of the Royal Kingston Curling Club I would like to ask the Board of Directors of RKCC to consider re-naming the club's kitchen the "Billy and Brian Eatery" or "Billy and Brian's Place" in honor of Bill Duffe and Brian Collingwood, who left us way too soon. May the memories and good times live on forever.



by Ron Brown

Committee Reports



Finance Committee

Martin Sherris, Chair

As I am writing this, there is just under two week until Christmas and we are enjoying spring like weather, it looks like a white Christmas is in serious jeopardy!

At the Finance Committee we are preparing for our last meeting of 2015 and looking forward to 2016. Our financial position is steady; however, we could use a boost in pro shop sales. This is a great chance to drop into the club and see Graham for some new curling equipment or accessories; there are great gift ideas and stocking stuffers.

On behalf of your curling committee we would like to wish all of our members and families the very best of the Holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year!

Feel free to contact me or any member of the Finance Committee if you have any questions or concerns.

The committee is comprised of:

Karen Matheson, Rob Campbell, Brian Ward, Paul Cridland, Donna Poirier, Graham Weatherby and myself.

Happy holidays,
Martin



Marketing Committee

Tom Bryant, Chair

Revenue from sponsorships adds a significant amount to the bottom line of the club. Without this money (which amounts to the same cash inflow as 50 new

members would), other revenue sources, such as bar and membership, would have to increase substantially. The Marketing Committee (Linda Lott, Dave Fraser, Roger Taylor, Garry Dupuis', Bruce Jeffery, Tom Bryant) wants to ensure that our present sponsors do not get inundated with requests to assist other RKCC groups (bonspiel organizers, section heads, etc.). With this in mind, if you are going to approach any business or organization (whether they are a sponsor or not), please talk to a member of the Marketing Committee first to ensure that we do not jeopardize the good relationship we presently have with our sponsors.

As you have done in the past, continue to support our sponsors and when visiting their place of business, mention that you are a member of RKCC.



Membership Committee

Linda Lott, Chair

The membership committee would like to wish you and yours a very joyful Christmas season filled with laughter and cheer. If you are still searching for a great gift for a co-worker, cousin Bill or the couple next door, why not get them a couple of prepaid passes to the "Sunday Learn to Curl" sessions and accompany them to the club.

We have a new sign on the Days road side of the club that we hope will attract some new members but you our members are still our best recruiting campaign.

See you on the ice in 2016!



Social Committee

Pennie Robert, Chair

The craft sale held on December 5 was a great success. We have a wide variety of wares vendors were selling

and a good response by both vendors and patrons not only about the craft sale but also how warm and welcoming the atmosphere of the club was. The Social Committee would like to thank all of you who rented a table, donated baked goods, and came out to shop. Also a big thank you goes out to the volunteers that helped set up, take down, and everything in between!

It's hard to believe 2015 will soon be over! In 2016 the Social Committee will be hosting our second annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, our annual St. Patrick's Day Dance and Championship Night. Please watch for ads going up in the New Year with details for each event.

The Social Committee wishes you all a happy holiday and all the best in 2016!



Governance Committee

John Ryce, Chair

It is hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner and the curling season is almost half over.

Some of the accomplishments of your Governance Committee so far this year has been the development of a refund policy due to sickness or injury, splitting of the HR & Communications Committee into two committees (still has to be approved by the members at the spring AGM), we helped with the joint membership with The Landings, and established objectives for the 2015/16 Board.

We have been working on updating and revising various club policies which include existing ones as well as introducing new ones. Some examples are: Concussion and return to play policy, Liability Release policy, creating a HR Appendix for the Policy & Resource Manual, review of the Wall of Fame parameters, Accident Response & Reporting Procedures and Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy.

Another important function that we perform is to help recruit and train members to join our various committees and possibly the Board. This year's nominating committee consists of Mike Schneider, Jim Barton, Joanne Miller and myself. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on one of the various committees, please speak to one of us. Without the hard work and dedication of our member

volunteers, this club would not survive.

I would like to thank my committee members, Mike Schneider, Henry Treier, Martha Tanner, Joanne Miller, Jim Barton, Bob Helliard and Edward Gibson.

I would be remiss if I didn't pay tribute to Betty Bush who was the person that recruited me to the Board a few years ago. Right up until the end Betty was still worried about who would do what for her various Club committees and who would take over her responsibilities. Betty, you are an inspiration to me and will be missed but not forgotten.



Member-At-Large

Martha Tanner, Chair

In 2020 RKCC will celebrate its 200th anniversary! Like Christmas, it will be here before we know it. We had a quick brainstorming session during our October Board meeting, which generated lots of ideas from just 12 people. Imagine how great a celebration we will have in 2020 if every member gets involved! For this reason, I encourage anyone who has ideas or who would like to be involved in planning events for the bicentennial to contact me so we can get started. After Christmas I will be posing a series of questions to the membership to help plan for 2020. For example: do you think the club should adopt official colours (for apparel) and what should they be? Red, like the original jackets? Blue and gold? Can we come up with a motto for the 200th? What kinds of events should we hold during that year? Do we need to hold some fundraising activities to help pay for the anniversary celebrations? I have lots of ideas, but I know you'll have many more. So I also hope to host a brainstorming session early in the year to really get the ball rolling. Let's start talking about it, planning for it, and generating excitement for a celebration worthy of Canada's second-oldest curling club!

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Conflict Resolution

At the September meeting of the Board of Directors, a motion was passed to add the following paragraph to the Curling Guidelines on page 5 of the Curler's

Handbook. "From time to time, it may happen that a flight team finds itself in a position where one or more members may be asked to leave the team for reasons such as incompatibility, skill mismatch, poor attendance or chronic tardiness. Before the team arrives at this decision, it must make every effort to resolve the conflict internally. However, if the team cannot resolve this issue to the satisfaction of all team members, the matter may be brought to a Resolution Committee comprised of the Chair of the Curling committee, the head of the particular section involved and the Member at Large. The decision of the Resolution Committee shall be binding on all members of the team."



Section Reports



Day Ladies

by Donna Jeffery

'Tis the season and everyone is busy. Luckily we have curling to ease the stress. We have finished our first round of the schedule and are well into the second. The results of the Tuesday Club first round are as follows:

1st Division winner was the team of Nancy Gray, Linda Miller, Jill Spettigue and Carrol Knowles.

2nd Division winner: April Welsh, Barb Tureski, Kathy Jackson, Alice Pignal

3rd Division winner: Marilyn Bellringer, Jane Kelly, Barbara Robertson, Pat Simms.

The Thursday club results for round one are:

1st Division winner: Linda O'Sullivan, Darlene Boucher, Tensia Cannon, Virginia Flynn.

2nd Division winner: Lin Jenkins, Barb Tureski, Lois MacArthur, Claudia Stevenson

3rd Division winner: Marilyn Bellringer, Marilyn Chilton, Cathy Warwick, Marie-Ann Carey.

The Day Flight league has an A and B section. After the first round of games 3 teams from A moved down to B and 2 teams from B moved up to A. The teams that moved from A to B were the Brown, Bush(Ross),

and Hutchinson teams. The teams of Scott-Zelt and Paterson moved from B to A.

It's a long curling season so everyone is still in the hunt for a top finish. Of course we all like to win but as I tell each of my teams "We are not playing for the grocery money" so relax and have fun. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.



Evening Ladies

by Heather McMillan

Congratulations to the winners of our first draw in Evening Ladies Club Curling. First event went to Denise Mulville's team of Lisa Mulville, Pam Power and Cyndy Jones. They will compete in the play-offs in April. Runners up were Donna Smith, Kathleen Poole, Sue Chamberlain and Christina Dinsmore. The winners of the second event were Nancy Roantree, Marg Craig, Louise St-John and Jennifer Robertson and our third event winners were Christy Gilmour, Liz Brown, Marianne Farrell and Dagmar Jones. The second draw of the year is underway, with draw playoffs scheduled for December 16th, 2015. Thank you to our league conveners Monica Kirk and Liz Baer for all their work to run the Club league, as well as to Judy Russell who continues to offer instruction from 5:30 to 6pm every Wednesday before the games.

The first round robin of Flight Curling came to a close at the end of November, and after movement between divisions, the second round robin is underway through February 1st, 2016. Many thanks to Susan Hara and Denise Mulville for convening our Flight league.

On November 21st, 2015, our annual RKCC Ladies Open Invitational Bonspiel, themed "High Tea at the Royal", welcomed 16 teams to compete on the RKCC ice, including 6 out of club teams and 10 RKCC teams. A strong team of volunteers helped to make the day a success, with great curling, meals, and fun had by all! Many thanks to Gillian Turnbull, Christine Sweetnam, Mary Buchanan and Beth Gliberson for the many hours spent in the kitchen keeping everyone well-fed throughout the day, as well as April Welsh, Denise Mulville, Mary Andrews, Tensia Cannon, and Celia Russell, and Georgie O'Shaughnessy's team who ran the breakfast for the spiel. The winning team was Heather McMillan's RKCC rink of Erica Simpson, Jennifer Cook, and Katie Jeziorski/Christy Gilmour. Thank you to all teams for making this bonspiel a

highlight of our ladies' season! Ideas and volunteers for next year's bonspiel are welcome; we need a committee in place by the end of the season to be able to plan the bonspiel effectively.

Remember that the club offers half year memberships to start curling in January so pass this information on to friends, family and co-workers. The third draw of Evening Ladies Club Curling begins on Wednesday, January 6th, 2016 and new curlers are welcome!



Mixed Curling

by David Townsend

I would like to start by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2016!

For me, I have received a great Christmas present – 3 new teams for Friday recreational curling! That brings C flight up to 10 teams and a total of 46 mixed teams in all. Please take a few minutes and welcome our new curlers. A huge thanks has to go to the Novice League and Learn-to-Curl programs for getting new members enthused and confident.

Saturday, December 12 saw our first Mixed Club event of the year. We had 48 curlers take part in two games. Our overall winning team was Joe Murphy, Bev Boyd, Broniek Korczynski and Lynn Plumb. Well done. And our two best with draw weight in the corner-to-corner were Michael Braun and Gail Irving. Also, way to go!

Please mark on your calendar that the next Club event is on Saturday, January 23. Again, it will have a limit of 48 curlers and I fully expect this to fill quickly as we have our first wine spiel! The third and final club event will take place on Saturday, March 19 and will be our famous chocolate spiel. If there is enough interest to try 3 draws – 9:00, noon and 3:00 p.m., the Mixed Committee is willing to increase participation from 48 to 72 curlers. Again, anyone in the Club is welcome to come curl those days.

The dinner and dance also took place on Saturday, December 12. What a hoot. Great camaraderie and fantastic music. So good to dance to that we are booking the same band for our closing dinner on Friday, April 15 – during championship week – and hope to have more members attend. You don't need to play mixed to come and share in our parties!

Two full rounds are in for A & B flights. No one is running away from anyone else and all comments are that the curling is close, good and social. What else can we ask for?

I would like to thank the Mixed Committee for all that they do. Thanks to Mary Kelly, Dale Marecak, Lorne Carmichael, Kathleen Poole, Trish Beckett and Dave Lollar. My two years at the helm of Mixed is coming to a close in June and with a committee as strong as this, it is a good time to step right in and become the next convenor. Let anyone of us know and we can fill you in to the role.

Till we meet on the ice in the New Year, have a safe and happy holiday.



The Stick Leagues of RKCC

by Ian Duncan

The season is now well underway and everything seems to be proceeding apace. When this appears, our first fun day will have been played. At the time of writing, turnout has not been as healthy as last year. Perhaps this will change, but hopefully we can encourage more people to participate at the season end event.

Our section is one that saw its membership remain stable from last year. We have the same number of players, which is encouraging.

May everyone have a merry Christmas and a happy holiday.



Unfortunately, donations to the food bank have dried up. The need remains as great as ever, and members are encouraged to think of others less fortunate, especially at this time of year.





Look who showed up to curl with the little rockers last Sunday! Ho! Ho! Ho!



Curling Skills Development

by Denis Faubert

Adult Novice Program:

The Novice Program held its eighth and final session on December 6th, "graduating" more than a dozen new curlers, all of whom have either registered as members in evening mixed or day leagues or are thinking about joining the **new** Wednesday Evening Novice League (also open to members with 4 or less yrs of curling experience) starting in January. Over the eight-week program the new curlers and instructors formed a real bond, so we are thrilled that so many will be carrying on. We hope that all members will welcome and encourage these new curlers as they join their first teams outside of the Novice Program. As instructors we will be following their progress and will be available to offer extra coaching, as we are to all members, on Sunday evenings at Learn to Curl. This

program would not have been possible without the leadership of Denis Faubert, who not only led all of the sessions and provided weekly game plans, but also led each week's warm-up, all with his usual grace and humour. Thanks to our loyal cadre of instructors: Martha Tanner, Kathleen Poole, Mirelle Ringuette, Michel Ringuette, Peter Coughlin and Jim Rayner. Thanks also to Kevan Welch and Graham Weatherby for their support. This program will be provided once again at the start of next year's curling season.
Martha Tanner, Convenor

Thursday Daytime Learn to Curl:

The Daytime Learn to Curl program consisted of 12 participants who received curling instruction for 8 sessions. This group involved both new and somewhat experienced curlers some of whom registered through the Senior Centre. Both stick and regular slide delivery was taught and a variety of curling techniques & strategy were provided by John Koronyi, Mike Charette, Sandra Fairbairn, Greg Ruse and Tom Bryant. Some have already joined the club and others have expressed an interest in curling. Sessions will be offered once again next fall.

Tom Bryant, Convenor

Member Clinic:

A team-oriented member's clinic will be provided on January 10th, consisting of mentored instruction for each position during a 2 end-game. Some of our best curlers will be shadowing curlers during play and providing some input into optimizing their individual and collective team performance. This will be followed by an off-ice strategy session. Members can register on the RKCC website or add their names to the sign up sheet at the club.

Novice League:

The club will be providing an opportunity for novice curlers to play in a "league of their own" on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm starting in January 2016. New curlers to the club as well as existing members (with less than 4 yrs experience) are welcome. Please contact Martha Tanner (thetanners@explornet.com) or Denis Faubert (dfaibert@cogeco.ca) for more information. In order to field an adequate number of teams, this league will require a minimum of 16 participants to run successfully.





OCA Report

by Linda Lott

Congratulations to the following RKCC teams that have been competing in OCA events and doing well:

Carole Rivington
Donna Smith
April Welsh
Kimberly Barker

The team competed in the Traveler's Club Championship zone/regional's at Quinte CC, October 24, 25 and advanced to the provincials at Kitchener-Waterloo Granite CC, October 30, 31.

The RKCC men's team of
Garth Mitchell
Alex Scott

Darren Waters
Murray Robertson
Played at the zone/regional's at Quinte CC. on October 24 & 25th losing in an extra end, without last rock advantage.

RKCC had three Master's men's team playing in the OCA Master's zones on November 29th at Brighton curling club. Two teams were successful in advancing to the Regions. Congratulations to Mike Braun, Dennis Faubert, Lorne Carmichael and Irwin Batalla for their 'A' side win and Nigel Retchless, John Koronyi, Dave Bracken And Dave Wolovick for their "B" side win. The two teams travelled to Pembroke on December 5 & 6th for Regions.

RKCC is hosting the OCA men's Tankard this Saturday. Games times are 9, 1 & 5. There are 4 teams competing in this event:

Greg Balsdon-Cataraqui Golf & Curling Club
Matt Mills-Cataraqui Golf & Curling Club
Dave Collyer-Quinte Curling Club
Rob Dickson-Napanee District Curling Club

Sharing the ice with the Tankard teams are three Bantam boys teams:

Daniel White-Garrison Golf & Curling Club
William Smith-Cataraqui Golf & Curling Club
Hazen Enman-Stirling Curling Club

Join us to watch some great curling. Spectators are welcome!



Urgent!!

Convenors needed for the 58th Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel February 12 &13, 2016

The "EL" is a 2-day, 24-team, 3-game points 'spiel. The big push at this time is to decide on a theme (how about that other great sport – golf) and to post the flyers.

Please contact April Welsh for more details. There are excellent notes from last year and people are volunteering to help.

The bonspiel will have to be cancelled if no one steps up soon to convene!



Upcoming EVENTS



Calendar of Events December 2015

Date	Event
Sat, Dec 19 – Sun, Dec 20	OCA Boys and Girls Bantam Zones OCA Men's Tankard
Mon, Dec 21 @ 7:30 PM	Men's Christmas Dinner
Fri, Dec 25 th	Merry Christmas
Sun, Dec 27 th @ 10 AM – 3 PM	Family Day
Mon, Dec 28 th to Fri, Jan 1 st	Club Closed
January 2016	
Fri, Jan 1 st	Happy New Year!

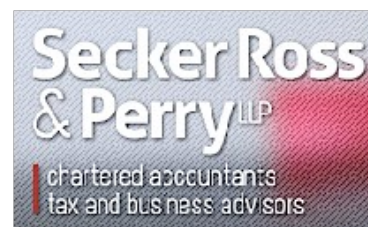
Sun, Jan 10 th @ 9 AM to 12 PM	Member Clinic
Thu, Jan 28 th to Sat, Jan 30 th	Whig Standard Bonspiel
February 2016	
Wed, Feb 3 rd	KCA Spiel
Fri, Feb 5 th	Open Mixed Skins Spiel
Sat, Feb 6 th	RKCC Junior Bonspiel
Tue, Feb 9 th @ 5 PM – 8 PM	Pancake Dinner
Fri, Feb 12 & Sat, Feb 13	Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel
Mon, Feb 15 th	Family Day
Sat, Feb 20 th & Sun, Feb 21 st	Tim Horton's Colts/Trophy and Bantam Mixed Zones
Sat, Feb 27 th	Community Living Kingston Spiel

donated by Canadian Tire, Grizzly Grill and Loyal Oarsman, breakfast by Robert Reid and bonspiel championship cash prize by Ryan Hanes, Touchstone Property Management.

Ernie Carter



THE TRAVEL BROKER



RENT-A-CHEF
Joe de Sousa
613-389-6241



Bonspiel Reports

Day Men In-House Bonspiel

The Day Men held their first in-house bonspiel of this season on November 13th. It was another successful bonspiel with a significant number of first time participants. We had a tie for the championship by the Flames Team skipped by Garth Mitchell and the Bruins Team skipped by Glenn Owen. The big winner of the hotly contested corner-to-corner draw was Ed Grice with a measurement of 7 1/2 inches from the pin. The food was great, thanks to the breakfast sponsored by Robert J. Reid, and the Chinese food catered by Jim Lesley and his amazing team of Jim Rines, Tom Mercer, Guy Lajoie, Chuck White, Garry Smith and Chris Potter.

Thank you to our donors and sponsors: gift certificates



"We'll Get You Moving"



2015 Scottish Women's Curling
Tour to Central Canada

On November 15th the Royal Kingston Curling Club hosted the Scottish Women's curling tour. The Scottish women arrived on November 6th in Montreal. On the 15th they curled and lunched at the Gananoque Curling club then travelled by coach to the Royal Kingston Curling club for a 3:30 game. Six teams of Scottish curlers and six teams of RKCC curlers were led on the ice by a piper (Kevan Tanner), Kingston's Town Crier, Chris Whyman and Mayor Bryan Paterson. The teams were introduced by our Town Crier then Mayor Paterson threw the ceremonial first rock to start the games.

This was the Scottish team's eleventh game on Canadian soil and they were victorious on all sheets but one. Once the games were completed the players joined the spectators in the lounge for celebratory drinks and light snacks.

Taya Williams led the group in the singing of the Flower of Scotland and O Canada. Mary Smith said Grace. Reg Gore brought greetings from the Board of Directors and John Shea brought greetings and pins from the OCA. The group dined on Tea cup chicken consommé followed by Caesar salad, lasagna and Georgie O'Shaughnessy's homemade apple pies.

Entertainment was provided by Taya Williams who lead the singing of two curling songs, the Catarauqui Kingston Rotary Synchronized Swim team who demonstrated what Canadian men do when they are not curling and a choir of the Scottish curlers who sang three songs.

The dinner was prepared by Jan Ray, Lee Thompson, Bev Townsend, Sally Stewart, Tracy Mallen, Gerry Buist, Gary Dupuis, Dave Poirier, Gwen Mitchell & Susan Hara who deserve a huge "Thank you" for a job well done!

The Scottish curlers curled 13 more games before they left for Scotland on November 27th.

Convenors: Donna Poirier, Linda Lott & Fran Cooney



Culligan

better water. pure and simple.®

**Schneider Actuarial
Consulting Inc.**



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