



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club
Celebrating '10 Years on Days'

Volume 18, Issue 2

November 2016

A word from your President...

By John Ryce

In this issue of “*The Sweep*” I will provide my presentation from our SAGM (semi-annual general meeting) that was held on Sunday, October 30. To those few who did show up, I apologize for repeating myself. We have over 600 members and we need only 25 to meet quorum. I was very disappointed at the SAGM because we only had 18 members in attendance, most of whom were there to present a report. This is your club and you really should make an effort to participate in important events like the SAGM in the fall and the AGM in the spring.

Here is the content of my report to the members:

I first thanked Graham for his 26 years of dedicated service to the club and wished him and his wife Christine all the best in their new life in British Columbia. On behalf of the Club we bought Graham a “Fit Bit” and the Board presented it to him at a farewell dinner at Ramekins on Sunday, October 2.

I also thanked the staff, who have really pitched in to help get the season up and running in the middle of a change in the GM’s position.

“This is your club and you really should make an effort to participate in important events like the SAGM in the fall and the AGM in the spring.”

We are lucky to have Steve Hulton, who has agreed to act as the Interim General Manager until such time that the Personnel Committee can review the job description and the core duties and responsibilities, and then post the position of full-time GM.

Steve’s contract will run until at least February 3, 2017 and possibly until the end of this season, depending on how the interview process goes. I know that every one of you will help make Steve’s job go as smoothly as possible. Remember that just because Graham did something one way doesn’t mean that we will continue to operate that way. If you have any ideas on how we can improve this club please present them to Steve or a Board member.

It is impossible to thank our volunteers too often. Without you this club does not survive. Keep up the good work and thank you for all that you do.

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A Word from Your President, continued from the front

When I started curling about seven years ago, I was quickly hooked on the sport. What I need all of you to do is to help us find more people like me who, once through the door, become committed members. This is good for the club and it is good for the sport, both of which have an aging demographic. With new members we help increase our membership and fill the leagues up. We also help those who are tired of always volunteering with the various committees and on the Board. Volunteer “burn out” can be a real problem with an organization like ours.

We are fortunate to not have a mortgage and to be in decent financial shape, as many clubs are now being forced to close because of dwindling numbers and rising costs. Financially we are not in bad shape, but we can always do better.

Related to our finances is a grant that we recently applied for under the Ontario 150 program. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with this initiative, especially Jim Barton, who really went above and beyond to pull this all together and to meet some very tight deadlines. We have applied to receive \$136,500, which is 75 per cent of the cost to do some major upgrades to the facility in order to better utilize the club year-round. We are just waiting to see if we get approval, but it might not be until late January when we hear back. Keep your fingers crossed.

Exciting times are ahead. We are celebrating 10 years at this location and we have one of the nicest curling clubs in the country. We are the second-oldest curling club in North America. Kingston has a lot of history and we are a big part of that. Look for big things to happen in 2020 and don't be afraid to play a bigger role by joining a committee in preparation for this historic milestone.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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Limestone win a first for Campbellford

By Dave Leeson

A hugely successful Senior Men's Curling Bonspiel, sponsored by Chartwell Conservatory Pond Retirement Residence, was held on Saturday, October 29. This was the 31st edition of this popular annual Eastern Ontario curling event, which continues to attract entries from most curling clubs in the vicinity. This year included teams from Garrison, Brockville, Cataraqui, Manotick, Prescott, Campbellford, Napanee, Land O' Lakes, and RKCC, as well as a Cataraqui/RKCC hybrid team.

Once again, food was one of the highlights, with Conservatory Pond showing off their excellent food services by providing a superb prime rib dinner. Murray Cotton impressed everyone by organizing a delicious soup and sandwich lunch, and Jim Lesley purchased food for breakfast and coordinated volunteers for both breakfast and supper.

This year's champions were Al Lowe's team including Jim Anderson, Bob Burke and Dave Burnham from the Campbellford & District Curling & Racquet Club. This is Campbellford's first ever win of the Limestone in 31 years.

Eight different clubs have won this event in the last eight years, and it looked like RKCC had a lock on winning the championship for the first time since 2009.

Going down to the last rock of an extra end in Campbellford's last game with all other games completed, RKCC held the top three positions, only to have Campbellford leapfrog all three teams, beating out Larry Paradis' second-place team by a quarter point.

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The winning team from the Campbellford & District Curling & Racquet Club, from left: Dave Burnham, Al Lowe, Bob Burke, and Jim Anderson.

Larry Waller and Nigel Retchless finished third and fourth respectively, and John Postma from Catarauqui took fifth place, with the balance of his team consisting of three players from RKCC. The undisputed stars of this bonspiel are the members of RKCC, and not just for their curling prowess. By an unfortunate quirk of scheduling (hopefully to be avoided next year) there were two other significant curling events scheduled on the same day in the Kingston area. As a result, four teams that normally participate did not have

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enough players to field teams. RKCC filled the void by entering eight teams versus the usual of four to six teams, as well as providing a few players to fill out teams from other clubs. With so many of the male RKCC curlers playing in the bonspiel, the ladies of RKCC stepped up and played a much bigger role than usual, filling out the volunteer contingent. Thanks to April Welsh for coming to my rescue.

As always, the ice was great, the beer was cold and nobody left hungry.



Newest inductees to the 8-Enders Club

Congratulations to the team of, from left, second Marge Craig, skip Jan Ray, lead Sylvia Myers and vice Liz Brown who rocked an eight-ender in Evening Ladies Club curling on Wednesday, October 12.

Committee attributes declining numbers to aging membership

By Linda Lott

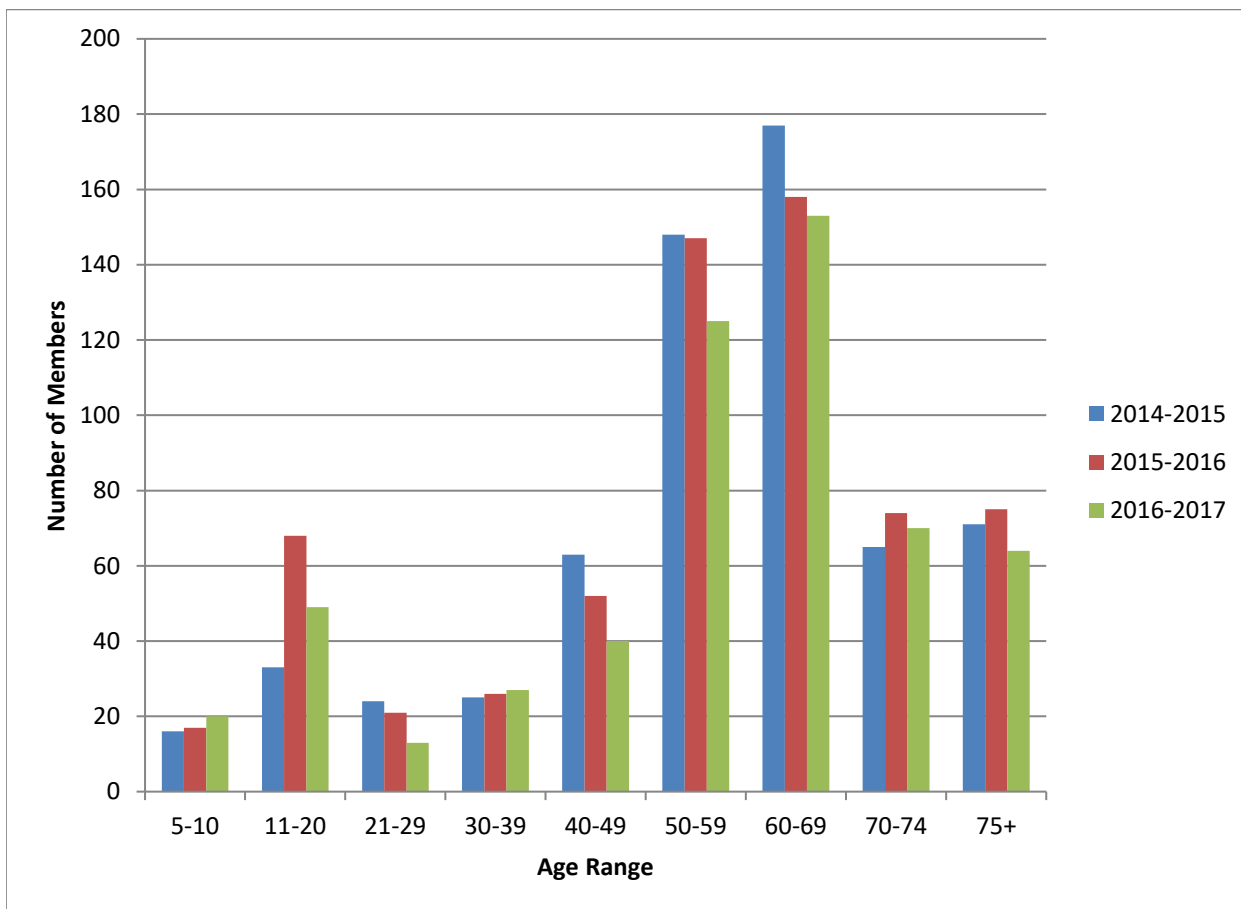
This year's membership committee, chaired by Linda Lott, includes RKCC members Leslie Higginson, Michael Cook, Steve Orme, Andrew Upstart, Michael Flowers, and Trish Beckett. The membership data for the last three years, shown below, shows that membership has decreased 10-15% from last year. The cause for this decrease is most likely due to our aging membership. Approximately three-quarters of our members are over 50, half are over 60, and one quarter are over 70; just 12% are between 30 and 50 years old. Our recruitment activities targeted this demographic, as they are the most likely to try curling and join as members.

The committee began this season with signs advertising the Open House curling clinics at two major intersections. Also, we sent out Facebook and Twitter blasts to slow-pitch, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee leagues in the city. These leagues contain people in our targeted age demographic that may not play a winter sport. Curling offers the same athletic and social benefits as their respective summer sports. RKCC participated in the Kingston Gets Active Campaign on September 25th. This month-long, city-wide campaign advertised daily activities in *Kingston This Week* and the *Whig Standard*. The club was open from 2-5pm with free instruction. Approximately 10 people attended. Lastly, we proposed an under-30 membership category, which offers membership at a reduced rate in order to attract young professionals.

With our declining membership, it is critical that we approach this issue together. We need to attract people to Learn to Curl, the Adult Novice Program, the Novice (U4) League, and to other club events. These programs are designed to teach beginners how to curl, and develop their skills so that they can eventually join more competitive leagues. The committee welcomes suggestions and input to help increase our membership numbers for the upcoming season and beyond.

Registration Type	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Active Member	388	378	345
Active Member(2 nd season)	41	46	43
Active New Member	35	40	19
Adult Novice Program	28	4	10
Curling 1		3	4
Junior in an Adult League	5	3	4
Junior/Parent a member	4	6	2
Junior/Parent not a member	39	27	26
Mixed Only	43	35	34
New Member/one night only	38	26	19
Social Member	25	26	13
Social member enhanced	5	5	9
Student	4	4	1
High school	23	47	0
Total	678	650	529

Membership, continued from page 4.



The above chart shows a decline in membership in almost every age category over the past three years.

- Member Menu**
- Member's Home
 - Member Information
 - My Information
 - My Sparring Availability**
 - My Volunteer Interests
 - My Event Registrations
 - League Information
 - Teams, Schedules, Standings
 - Sparring Lists
 - Member Search
 - Member Roster
 - Site Search
 - Free Agent Listing
 - Member Classifieds
 - Member Registration

Buddy, can you spare?

Don't forget to update your sparring availability on the website. After logging in, click on 'My Sparring Availability' under Member Menu. Click on the leagues for which you are available or not available, preferred position (optional) and you are done!

Help plan our 200th birthday!

The Board of Directors is seeking committed volunteers to help with the preparations for the 200th anniversary of the club in 2020 and, in particular, to sit on or chair the 200th Anniversary Committee. If you are interested, please contact any Board member. The first meeting will be held in December.

More on-ice help needed with junior curling program



The Royal Kingston Curling Club's Little Rock Program is thrilled to have World Junior Champion Mary Fay, centre in photo at left, with instructor Kimberly Barker, helping out as an instructor on Sunday mornings. Early this year Mary skipped her Nova Scotia team to win both the Canadian and World Junior Curling Championships. Mary was also chosen to skip the Canadian team that won gold medals in the 2016 Youth Olympics in Norway. She is now attending Queen's University in Kingston.

Mary said she was "really excited" when RKCC's Judy Russell asked if she would help out. "I love working with kids," said Mary, who started curling when she was eight years old.

By Janet Fowlow Junior Curling Chair

Our Junior league started this year with an Open Ice and Registration on November 1. There were 40 kids that participated. Our members are still signing up and, so far, between the two sections there are over 30 youth signed up for this season.

We have Dale Marecak, Kimberly Barker, Christy Gilmour and Mary Fay as instructors for Little Rock Curling, along with four high school students: Sam Fowlow, Josh Fowlow, Samantha Marecak and Max Hannah. Mary Fay is our Canadian and World Curling Junior Champion; we are grateful to have her come out and help with the Little Rock Section this year, a real inspiration for our kids.

The Junior Section has Judy Russell, Kimberly Barker, Christy Gilmour and Laura Brown to instruct our Bantam/Junior Section. We do need more assistance at this time; we have the experienced instructors, and just need more on ice help.

I will be convening the Greater Kingston Curling Junior league this year with five clubs contributing eight teams. The league will start in November and end on February 4, with finals and a year-ending Pizza Party.

The bonspiel is planned for February 18. Our flyer is almost complete and will be posted on the Ontario Curling Association and Ottawa Valley Curling websites soon.

We look forward to our season with many good ideas coming from our committee.

Good Curling!

November a busy month for spiels

By April Welsh, Bonspiel Chair

The weather cooperated for the “Swing and Sweep” spiel on October 1 and an enthusiastic group of golfers and curlers had a great day. Many thanks to Kathleen Poole, Janet Fowlow and their committee for putting on a very well-run event.

David Leeson convened the Limestone Senior Men’s spiel on October 29 with a full slate of 24 teams. A big “thank you” to David and his committee. David has a summary elsewhere in the Sweep.

November is a very busy month at RKCC for spiels. The Betty Bush Memorial Spiel, “Wicked Witches” was held on November 5. The Evening Ladies’ Invitational spiel, “Battle of the Bands”, will be held on November 19. The Senior Men’s in-house spiel closes out the month on Friday, November 25.

Please volunteer and/or curl where you can!

I am pleased to announce that Kimberly Barker has volunteered to convene the **Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel** again this year. Circle **Saturday, February 11, 2017** on the calendar and put together a team. This spiel is open to all RKCC members and we would love to increase the number of out-of-club entries. Do you have friends or family members from other clubs?

Why not enter a combo RKCC/Club X team? Stay tuned for news on an exciting addition to the Empire Life bonspiel activities. Kimberly will be looking for helpers for her various committees, so please consider volunteering your time.



Battle of the Bands

A dozen teams competed in the ‘Battle of the Bands’ Ladies Open Bonspiel held November 19. Sonny and Cher, left, a.k.a. Gay Chamberlain and Liz Baer, won the Lip Synch Contest, while the Village People team of above, from left, Karen Peters, skip Georgie O’Shaughnessy, Tanya Ledford and Nancy Roantree won the curling event.

Curling Committee invites you to have your say

By David Townsend, Curling Committee Chair

Buzzers

In keeping with the idea of fairness and good sportsmanship, the buzzer rule has been implemented for all sections and for all games. The buzzer will sound 90 minutes after the scheduled start for your game. You can then finish that end, plus play one more. The impetus behind this is to ensure that all games have the same opportunity as others, regardless of whether or not there are games following yours. The Curling Committee will re-visit this at Christmas. Feel free to share your thoughts with your Section Chair.

10th Anniversary.

The Curling Committee is arranging for John Epping to visit our Club on Saturday, February 11, 2017. More details will follow, but you may wish to hold the date so you won't miss out!

Curling Task Force.

Do you have any concerns or issues with the curling schedule or the opportunities you have to curl at RKCC? If yes, then you may wish to help this Task Force in its review of all on-ice games, leagues and schedules. We have had questions about equity and equality. We have heard comments about late games. We understand other clubs have created open leagues, two-person leagues and other creative opportunities to attract and retain members. E-mail me at bev davidtownsend@gmail.com to get involved or share your thoughts.

Championship Weekend

Hold the Date for Championship Weekend on Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2017. Games will likely include A and B Championships. A 'Hot Shots' competition, open to all members, will take place on Saturday morning. All of this will be followed by a closing dinner - open to all - on the Saturday night. More details to follow.

The Curling Committee continues to meet the second Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. each month. These meetings represent all sections and are open to all Club members. We would love to see you at one of these meetings.

Day Ladies celebrate curling friendships

By Donna Jeffery

I would like to begin by paying tribute to Esther Cliff who died on July 7, 2016. Esther was a very active member at our club. She was on a team that won the Senior Mixed Championship in 1987. She played with the Day Ladies and Stick Leagues and often volunteered to help when needed. She earned the status of Life Member. Thank you, Esther, for being a part of our curling community. Our opening potluck dinner, held on October 4, was a great success. There were 85 ladies present, including 20 social members. It goes to show that being a part of RKCC is not just about curling. It is also about maintaining friendships that were developed out on the ice. That was a pleasure to see. Everyone enjoyed reuniting and sharing summer stories. The food was plentiful and exceptional.

Thank you so much to Brenda Charette and Pat Thompson and their many helpers for a lovely evening.

Our curling season began with 18 teams for Tuesday club, 10 teams for Thursday club and 14 teams for Wednesday flight. The first Draw Championship will be played on November 14 when the Tuesday club winner takes on the Thursday club winner.

On Saturday, November 5 the First Annual Betty Bush Memorial In-Club Rated Spiel was held. Betty was a great advocate for giving new curlers the chance to experience the fun of a bonspiel. New and old - or 'experienced' - curlers participated in doing what Betty loved to do.



Denise Mulville's team won the first annual Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel, held November 5. Above Tony Bush, husband of the late Betty, presents the trophy to team members from left, Nancy Roantree, Pam Power, Denise Mulville and Virginia Flynn.

Photo by Nancy Gray

'Wicked Witches' theme of first annual Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel

By Linda Lott

The first annual Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel ran without a hitch on November 5, 2016. Forty-eight wicked witches curled to their hearts content.

Winner of the event was Denise Mulville and her team of wicked witches, Nancy Roantree, Pam Power and Virginia Flynn. Tony Bush, on behalf of the Bush family, presented the trophy to the winning team.

Winners in other categories were:

Susan Hara, Draw-to-the-Button prize,

Debbie King, Gay Chamberlain, Trish Lavalley, Gail Irving and Kathleen Poole had the best costumes, and Donna Jefferey and her team conquered the trivial quizzes to win that prize.

The organizing committee of Joanne Miller, Joanne Gizzi, Lilian Rynbend, Nancy Gray and Linda Lott would like to thank Gwen Mitchell for helping in the kitchen, Denise Mulville for collecting money and promoting the event and April Welsh for creating the scoreboard and score cards. We would also like to thank all the curlers who participated and helped make the day a success.

RKCC to host OCA men's Zone 3 qualifier in January

By Ron Cameron, Men's OCA Rep

RKCC will be hosting just one competition this year, the Intermediate Men's Zone 3-4 Qualifier on the weekend of January 14-15, 2017.

Information about this and all other upcoming Ontario Curling Association (OCA) competitions is posted in the change rooms, on the Juniors' notice board, and on the main notice board. If you have questions, please speak to Ron Cameron or Linda O'Sullivan. There are competitions for every age group, including stick curlers. Please be sure to note entry deadline dates if you plan on entering any competition. As in the past, you must register your team on-line at the OCA website, www.ontcurl.com. Despite past problems with the competition registration site, the OCA has brought it up-to-date and should be easier to use this year. Also, teams are reminded that they must complete waivers on-line for each of your team members. Good luck to all RKCC competitors registered in OCA events!

The Travelers' Women's Club Championship took place October 21 - 23 in Carleton Place. RKCC was represented by Joanne Miller, Vanessa Giguere, Joanne Gizzi, and Lil Rynbend.

The OCA has also been heavily involved in the Sweeping Moratorium on Brush Head Technology. The World Curling Federation, Curl Canada and the OCA have all issued documents regarding the new regulations for brush heads. At RKCC, the Curling Committee decided to adhere as closely as possible to the OCA guidelines and has issued a statement outlining these new policies and their implementation at RKCC. This is posted in numerous places around the club.

Omission

The name of Jan Ray was inadvertently omitted from the names of volunteers who helped with the end-of-year clean-up last year. *The Sweep* regrets the error.

Operations Committee busy with club improvements

By Wayne Smith, Operations Chair

Our committee is tasked with maintaining and improving our facility to the satisfaction of our members. In addition to replacing existing lighting with LED lamps as noted in the September *Sweep*, our group has proceeded with the following initiatives:

- 1) After several requests from our ice-maker, we have installed an ice pad for the scraper. This allows use of the machine without it having to sit on the ice to acclimatize before use. This will speed up ice preparation.
- 2) Scoreboards were lowered, allowing the removal of unsightly cable attachments, providing additional space for players and ice technicians on the boards and making it easier to mark scores.
- 3) Repairs were made to the carpeting around the ice shed to prevent. Metal edging was installed in critical areas.
- 4) Roof leaks were repaired in the cloakroom and lobby areas as well as the installation of access doors and drywall repairs.
- 5) To prevent degradation of the masonry on the north wall, as well as some erosion from the roof drains, we have completed a drainage project to evacuate water from the eaves-troughs and drains and divert water to a reconstructed swale.
- 6) We are doing an experiment with the Stick Curlers to accommodate their placement of sticks during games. On sheet 5 at the east end, we have installed brackets for horizontal placement. At the west end we have placed black receptacles for vertical placement. We will be looking for feedback from curlers on how they would like the other sheets to be enhanced.

My thanks to committee members Reg Gore, John Koronyi, Mike Braun and Gord Greer. An additional thanks to Chuck White and Roger Chown, who assisted with the lighting retro-fit.

Social Committee has lots of reasons to get together & have fun

By **Kathleen Poole**
Social Committee Chair

Welcome back to the *“Celebrating 10 Years on Days”* season. The Social Committee - Kathleen Poole, Linda Lott, Sandy Edwards, Trish Beckett, Janet Fowlow, and Pennie Roberts - has several fun events planned to remind us of our history, and get together as well.

“10 Years on Days” Swing & Sweep October 1, 2016

Forty-four people participated in the events through the day. Some participated for the whole event, some joined us at lunch and curled, while others had evening commitments and left before supper. The event resulted in a \$200 profit before club expenses, and was declared a success by all who participated!

- 26 people started on a sunny Saturday morning with nine holes of golf in a Best Ball format. The Mitchell and Jeffries team were the winners.
- Lunch was served, including sandwiches, veggies, chips and dip.
- 36 curlers led us in the first competition of the season in an eight-end game. The Cervenko team was the winner! Congratulations to the winners!
- Social time, including a **Name the Beta Fish** contest ensued, with Tammy Scott Zelt winning with her name of Beta Beauty. All enjoyed the delicious supper of fried fish, oven-roasted fingerling potatoes, green beans, coleslaw with watermelon radish, and rolls. Dessert followed with fresh apple crisp. Several people joined us for dinner only at the end of the day.
- In the kitchen, the volunteers who created the food magic included Janet Fowlow, Sandy Edwards, George Gratton, Linda Lott, Lee Thompson, and Kathleen Poole
- Other volunteers included Trish Beckett, Joanne Gizzi, Andrew Fowlow, and Gord Greer

“10 Years on Days” Christmas Dessert, Tea & Craft Sale - Saturday December 3, 2016.

The Social Committee will be requesting donations of cookies and squares to sell on that day.

“10 years on Days” - John Epping Curling event – February 2017.

Keep tuned for tentative date and events

“10 Years on Days” St Patrick’s Day Dance – March 18, 2017 with Steve Cheesman and the Heaters. Mark the date on your calendar.

