

The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 19, Issue 2

November 2017



From left, Phil Tomsett, Linda Lott and Tony Bush, accepting on behalf of his late wife, Betty, pose with their Wall of Fame certificates. Photos of the three inductees, as well as plaques outlining the accomplishments of each, are on permanent display above the trophy case in the club foyer.

Photo by Martha Tanner

Members named to Wall of Fame

By Martha Tanner

The Royal Kingston Curling Club inducted three members to its Wall of Fame at a special dinner and ceremony held October 14 at the club.

The accomplishments of Life members Phil Tomsett, Linda Lott and the late Betty Bush were celebrated by a crowd of about 80 friends, family members and fellow curlers. Tony Bush accepted the Wall of Fame certificate on behalf of his wife, who passed away on October 28, 2015.

Tony said that Betty would be humbled at joining such an esteemed group of inductees and would be especially proud to be inducted along with Linda, whom she called "sister", and Phil.

When thinking about what Betty would have said, had she been fortunate enough to be here, he continued, she would have given credit to all the women who curled and worked with her over the years. "Betty always insisted that her success was because of the efforts of all four members of the team.

"She would also thank the many club volunteers who worked tirelessly alongside her. Betty would insist on sharing her space on the Wall of Fame with both of these groups."

Continued on page 2.

'History is being made here tonight'

Joining Tony to celebrate Betty's induction were his son Tom, daughter-in-law Courtney, and granddaughters Olivia and Mallory.

John Koronyi, who worked with Betty on several committees, presented the Wall of Fame certificate to Tony and spoke of Betty's "drive for continuous improvement and bias for action", as well as her formidable powers of persuasion.

"Now is the time for RKCC to recognize Betty's excellence for her on- and off-the-ice accomplishments."

"Energizer Bunny"

Presenting the Wall of Fame certificate to Linda Lott were her teammates Gwen Mitchell, Lee Thompson, and Rene Marchen. However, as the three talked amongst themselves about which would do the talking, Lee's husband Ken, who chaired the host committee for the 2013 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, took the opportunity to take the microphone and list Linda's many achievements – past president of RKCC, member of many, many committees, leader of the high school curling program, chair of Greater Kingston Curling and volunteer at a number of curling events. "She's always there, she always has great ideas, and she's a very hard worker," he said. "She reminds me of the Energizer Bunny".

After accepting the certificate from her teammates, Linda thanked all of the "amazing" men and women she has been fortunate to curl with, as well as RKCC members for being her extended family, and all of the volunteers at the club, to whom she raised a toast.

"Complete Curler"

Joe Waller had the honour of presenting the certificate to his skip and curling mentor, Phil Tomsett.

After reading the accomplishments from Phil's plaque, Joe recounted a couple of Phil's escapades on the ice. He also read a tribute from Mark McDonald, who has known Phil since high school, when their team won the Canadian Schoolboy National Championship.

"Phil epitomizes what it means to be a complete curler," Mark wrote. "His neverending commitment to the sport is all about interacting and working with his fellow curlers." For his part, Phil thanked his wife, Janice, his children, who are all curlers, and expressed his hope that his baby granddaughter Sienna will one day carry on the Tomsett tradition.

"I do love this curling game," he said. "I love the strategy, I love the competitive side . . . and if you play with friends and have good chemistry, you can be successful."

Phil admitted that he felt "in awe" when he considered the previous inductees and all of their accomplishments.

Club president John Ryce congratulated all three "very deserving" inductees, noting that it was a great honour to be nominated. In the history of the club, he continued, only 11 people have been named to the Wall of Fame. "We are the second-oldest club in North America," he said. "In 2020 our club will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

"That's a lot of history, and history is being made here tonight."

The Wall of Fame Nominating Committee, responsible for evaluating the nominees, was chaired by Member at Large Joanne Miller and included Ella Brisson, Rene Marchen, Bill Cannon, Tom Mercer, and Erwin Batalla. The committee responsible for organizing the presentation dinner consisted of Deb Wilkin, Erwin Batalla, Rene Marchen and Chair Joanne Miller.

Cross training

By Martha Tanner, Communications Chair

Anyone who has curled against Ken Cross, in men's or mixed flight (where he curls with his wife Colleen), knows that he is an intense competitor. He'll fight end-to-end to be the one buying the first round post-game. But not many know that that same fighting spirit has propelled him to complete seven cross-Canada cycling trips in a far fiercer competition. As a seven-time National Rider in the National Kids Cancer Ride, Ken's goal is to help raise awareness of childhood cancer and to raise funds for research so that no parent has to hear the words, "Your child has cancer".

Ken and Colleen heard those words in April 2008 when their four-year-old daughter Megan was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. After six months of treatment, her cancer was in remission. After months of feeling overwhelmed and helpless, and determined to do something to help Megan and children like her, Ken took to his bike and was selected as a National Team Rider in September 2009. That year he raised about \$75,000 and met a community of parents and children with cancer at stops along the ride from British Columbia to Nova Scotia.

But just five months after that Ride, following a routine checkup, Ken and Colleen learned that Megan's cancer had returned. The couple was devastated. They decided not to tell Megan and her sisters Leah and Emma until the next day, so that children could have one more night of untroubled sleep. That night, as they said good-night to Megan, she surprised her dad by asking him if he would do the Ride again to help kids fighting cancer.

And so, as Megan began preparing for a bone marrow transplant, Ken began training once again. On May 14, 2010, Megan received the gift of new stem cells from Leah, then just nine years old. Ever since, the family has celebrated May 14 as Megan and Leah's birthday. And ever since, Megan has been cancer-free.



Ken, far right, with wife Colleen and daughters, from left, Emma, Leah and Megan, during the 2015 Ride in Belleville.

Photo provided

True to his promise, Ken completed the Ride in September of that year. And then he did it again five more times from 2013 to 2017, riding on average 170 km a day for 18 consecutive days, each day dedicated to a child – or the memory of a child – with cancer.

You can read about the Ride and riders' blogs at nationalkidscancerride.com. The stories and photos are deeply moving. Here's a sample:

"Yesterday I rode for Ty. Ty endured cancer, chemotherapy, and finally died. He was somebody' son. All I did was ride a bike to remind you that kids get cancer, and we don't spend nearly enough on their treatment."

Or this supportive note from a child with cancer: "When your legs get tired, think of me and the other kids who have cancer and you'll be okay too." Ken is inspired by Megan and other children and unconditionally loved and supported by his family in his training and subsequent absences. He has missed 11-year-old Emma's birthday six times, with her full blessing and understanding. And he is also fuelled by the need to raise awareness.

See 100% on page 4.

100% to cancer charities

Continued from page 3

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of non-accidental death of children in Canada. Yet only three per cent of monies raised go to childhood cancer charities.

The Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation, which organizes the National Kids Cancer Ride as well as the Inside Ride, gives 100 per cent of all receipted donations to childhood cancer charities, including the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation (UHKF).

"It's a good charity to support because 100 per cent of all money raised goes to charities that the Foundation supports," says Ken. "There isn't that administrative cost that some charities have. It's a small Foundation, all volunteer-based."

Ken describes himself as a passionate volunteer. He speaks at events like the Inside Ride at local schools and has organized fundraising events himself. In 2016, with the help of Jeff Farmer at Apex Indoor Cycling, he organized The Apex Big Spin, which raised over \$36,000 for the Children's Cancer Fund at UHKF.

In 2017, the event expanded into Kingston Fitness Fights Kids Cancer, with 10 fitness organizations holding events on the same day, raising over \$70,000 for the Children's Cancer Fund and Camp Trillium, a camp for children with cancer and their siblings.

Ken doesn't know if he'll do the Ride in 2018, seven might just be enough. But he knows he won't stop fighting to end childhood cancer. He is already planning to expand Kingston Fitness Fights Kids Cancer next April. "It's not about me and the money I've raised," he insists. "It's about the total amount raised. It's about engaging communities.

"When people think of cancer, they don't think of kids . . but when cancer hits a three- or a four-year-old, the question is why? How?

"We just don't know enough.

"I will continue to fight until the day when hopefully we don't hear the words, "Your child has cancer."

Donations for the National Kids Cancer Ride are being accepted until the end of November. So far, Ken has raised over \$66,000 of his \$70,000 goal. To donate, or to see videos and photos, and read Ken's full story, visit his blog at snkcr.com/kencross.

A Word from Your President

Changes afoot

By John Ryce, President

CHANGE" - some people embrace it and some people can't stand it, but one thing I know for sure is that change is inevitable. Even though RKCC has been around for 197 years (and looking forward to another 197) we have to adapt to the changing times.

Many of you will notice many changes around the club for this season and we are not done just yet. Different schedules, times, days and leagues are just some of the new ideas that we have come up with. I strongly encourage you to give your section head or the Board your feedback on any and all of these changes so we can help make things even better. We would also like to hear any new suggestions, as that is the only way that we are going to find out what our members really want.

Enough about change for now, as you will see and hear more in the coming months. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back for another fun and exciting season with a special welcome to any new members.

I would also like to welcome the members of the Kingston Sport and Social Club (KSSC) who are now curling on Sunday nights. We plan to build six beach volleyball courts in the spring, which will be the new home to KSSC and also bring us some much-needed additional revenues.

We are only two years away from the start of our 200th anniversary celebrations. Murray Cotton and his 200th Anniversary Committee have big plans for this historic milestone. RKCC is the second-oldest curling club in North America after the Royal Montreal, founded in 1807.

Good curling for the remainder of the season.

Clear your calendars 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championship in Kingston Nov. 25-27



By Brian Ward, Vice-Chair, 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championship

The 2017 Travelers Curling Club Championship is coming to Kingston next month. It is hosted by Greater Kingston Curling and being held at Cataraqui Golf and Country Club November 20 to 25. Yes, it is only a few weeks away.

The Travelers is a prestigious Canadian championship and we will be welcoming curlers from every province and territory of Canada. In total there will be 14 women's and 14 men's teams coming to Kingston for the week. It is an opportunity for the Kingston curling community to come together and show a huge welcome to the 112 curlers.

The organizing committee has been working hard over the summer getting ready for the big event. We have about 150 volunteers and half are from RKCC. Thanks for the great support. We have people doing driving, timing, being ambassadors, registration, coordinating ceremonies and entertainment and more.

Most of the teams have been chosen. If you go to the Curl Canada website and look for the Travelers Championship you can find the teams and the official draw and much more information. Web address is http://www.curling.ca/2017travelers/.

The teams will begin practice on Monday, November 20 in the morning with the first draw at 3 p.m. Curling continues the whole week with four draws per day. Fans can attend at no charge, except there will be a charge for reserved seating.

Opening Ceremonies are at 6:15 on the Monday evening. We will have some very "Special Guests" for the Official Opening Rock. So come on out for this fun evening and watch some good curling. We have lots of activities planned for the curlers outside of curling so that they get a great exposure to the wonderful City of Kingston. As well, Friday night is a "For the Love of Curling" Fundraising event (for the Curling Canada Foundation in support of junior curling development in Canada). It is a Gala "Cat-Sino" and dance. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend!

So come on out to see some great curling and show support to the curlers from across the country.







JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS GALA EVENING AND CHARITY FUNDRAISER!



CATARAQUI GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB 961 King St W, Kingston, ON

- Gala Evening 7pm Midnight
 Cat-sino Charity Fundraiser 7pm 10pm
 - Live Entertainment by "The Change" 9pm Midnight
 - Admission Complimentary
 Semi-Formal Attire

For the Love of Curling

All proceeds will go to the Curling Canada Foundation to help ensure that youth curling programs are offered and supported in every province and territory across Canada









Curling Committee: All things on ice

By David Townsend, Curling Committee Chair

So, 2017/18 curling is underway. There is a lot to cover in this article, so I will start with the easy ones! **Broom Heads and sweeping:** As long as your broom does not have inserts, such as ridges or aluminum, it can be used. For competitions and possibly for playing outside of RKCC we must conform to the OCA standards (yellow heads). Corn and hair brooms are banned. And please remember, your broom must be in constant motion in front of a rock and not "snowplowing."

Buzzer rules apply for all eight-end games. The big thing is that skips are to monitor the clock and not rely on the bartenders, as they may be busy doing their main job – looking after us off the ice. All eight-end games have a 95-minute window to finish the first six ends. That leaves a maximum of 35 minutes to play the last two ends AND get the ice done on time for the next draw. If in doubt, there are rules and explanations posted throughout the club.

Schedule changes: The Curling Committee has agreed to trial these times and draws for this year. The main intent is to maximize ice usage and create opportunities to invite new people to come and curl with us at RKCC. As many of you have heard from the Task Force members (or from me), RKCC has shown a steady drop in membership over the last 10 years. Our average age is north of 65. Unless we can attract and retain new and younger members, RKCC may be facing the same fate as many clubs in Ontario, starting with financial operating losses, to continued drops in memberships, to ultimately closing our doors. I know if you are reading this issue of *The Sweep* that is the last thing any of us want.

Membership: Yes, the curling year has started but we can still invite new players to the Club. Monday evening ladies have open draw times. Doubles has 38 players and is looking at times other than Wednesdays to play. Thursday men's Club has openings. Invite people to come and try our sport. If you want to broaden your own playing time, sign up for another draw! Doubles will be accepting new players as the year goes along, especially in time for the second draw in January. Friday night Mixed Club starts their second draw on December 1. Again, that is a great time to sign up for mixed and it does not matter if you sign up as a single or couple. If you were challenged by the three-step registration this year, give Steve a shout in the office. He can help!

Saturday games: We have been waiting until the season started to launch Saturday curling for doubles and an Open League (where a team can register with any four curlers). I was thrilled to welcome Michael Cook as the Convenor for the Saturday Open League. Congrats to him, and tough for us, we are losing Michael to Ottawa, for a great job opportunity. Convenors aside, let Steve in the office know if you are interested or know of people who are interested in playing more on Saturdays. For the younger families, we are also able to arrange supervised children's activities in the lounge while parents are out playing! Finally, convenors: We have a great group of people helping share the load. A huge thank-you to them. Kimberly Barker has come on board to help with Sunday's Junior programs. Kimberly is ably assisted by Caitlin Welch and Christy Gilmour. Andrew Van Overbeke has been approached to kick-start and look after the U4/Novice League on Mondays. Again, this is a league geared towards our newer curlers. On Saturdays, we have Judy Sly leading the Learn to Curl at 9 a.m. Welcome aboard. The only two spots where we need more help are the Saturday Open League and the Saturday Doubles, which would both benefit from someone helping to create schedules. You don't need to be on site for the day, as long as you are willing to handle the backroom work.

Our Curling Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome all curlers to come and take part/listen to what each of our section Chairs is doing to support their leagues and curlers, as well as how we all fit into a bigger picture of curling at RKCC. Good curling, all.

Evening ladies off to roaring start

By April Welsh, Evening Ladies Chair

Welcome to the 2017-18 season! We opened the year by hosting the Ladies' Potluck on October 5. About 75 ladies came out and enjoyed some very tasty dishes. I thank Susan Hara and her committee for stepping forward to organize the event in the absence of a social chair for our section. Laura Brown has since volunteered to fill this position.

Club Curling

I would like to thank Past Chair Deb Wilkin for representing our section at the Curling Committee meetings over the summer. Thank you also to Liz Baer and Monica Kirk for organizing the first club draw. It is always a last-minute rush to accommodate late registrants into the schedule. We have 10 teams playing on Wednesday night at 7:10.

Flight Curling

Another big thank-you goes to Denise Mulville and Susan Hara for getting the flight league going. We have 17 teams (up from 15) playing on Monday night only, at either 5 or 7:10.

Stepping into the chair position after the season started was made much easier knowing that the abovementioned ladies are great at organizing their sections.

Bonspiels

The executive reluctantly cancelled the Evening Ladies' bonspiel on November 25, for this year. A change in date put us in direct conflict with the Travelers Nationals being played at Cat. We had too many curlers volunteering and/or spectating to run or fill a bonspiel at our club.

The 2nd Annual Betty Bush Memorial club-rated spiel will be held on November 11. Please come out and enjoy this fun event!

Executive seeks vice-chair

Our Autumn General meeting was held on Monday, October 23. Our executive is nearly complete with the addition of Laura Brown as Social Chair, Susan Hara confirmed as flight co-chair, and myself as chair. Ladies, we are still in need of a vice-chair! Please contact me if you are interested or have questions.

Club champions at provincials

Our 2016-17 ladies' flight champions competed in the Travelers Provincials in Niagara Falls Oct. 27 – 29, finishing with a 3-2 record. Congratulations to, Heather McMillan, Laura Brown, Jennifer Cook and Erica Simpson (curling for Katie Jeziorski).

Pictured from, left, are the ladies at Championship Night: Heather McMillan, Laura Brown, Jennifer Cook and Katie Jeziorski.



Day Ladies curling:

Competition and camaraderie

By Marilyn Wilson and Jan Ray

It was standing room only at the Club on October 14, 2017 when a memorial gathering was held to honour Carrol Knowles, a long-time curler who died on August 24, 2017. Relatives, friends and curlers remembered this talented and gracious member with stories, songs and laughter.

The first person to start using a stick, Carrol curled regularly in the Two Stick League and the Day Ladies Club League until she was 90, and impressed both new and old members with her shot-making. Over the years she was on many winning teams and her name is listed on several trophies including the Carrie Cole. Her presence, both on and off the ice, will be greatly missed.

Our curling season began the week of October 2 with 14 teams for Tuesday Club and 12 teams for Thursday Club. As many curlers are now playing up one position, this draw presents a special challenge! Thanks to Val Malmsten for completing this schedule. The Day Ladies Flight section on Wednesday mornings has 14 teams.



Carrol accepts her Life Membership certificate at Championship Night 2015.

On October 5 the Evening Ladies hosted a potluck dinner for 75 women from both the Day Ladies and Evening Ladies sections. Thank you to Susan Hara and April Welsh for providing us this opportunity to forge our friendships off the ice. Being a member of RKCC is not just about the curling, but also the camaraderie which we enjoy.

The 2nd Annual Betty Bush Memorial In-Club Rated Bonspiel will be held on Saturday, November 11. Entitled "Party on Top: Business on Bottom" it honours our new Wall of Fame member, Betty Bush, who was a great advocate for giving new curlers the chance to experience the fun and challenge of a bonspiel.



Wanted: Used Curling Shoes

Don't throw out your old curling shoes! They can be used by the High School Curling League. Please drop off your old shoes to Steve Hulton at the office.







Greater Kingston Curling

is proud to present the first in a series of **Strategy** sessions for curlers.

Join us

Sunday, December 3 at 2 p.m.

at

Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School, 130 Russell Street

for

a Strategy Session

aimed at the beginner skip and the front-end curler who want to improve their game and understand the strategy behind called shots.

> Contact your GKC rep, Joanne Miller

Lounge Committee seeks a few good men

By Jan Ray, Lounge Committee Chair

The Lounge Committee currently consists of the following women: Sylvia Wright, Claire Dominik, Mary Stevenson, Glenda Bauder, April Welsh and myself. On behalf of the RKCC members we would like to thank John Koronyi for all his input over the past several years.

The Lounge Committee is responsible for anything to do with the enhancement/upkeep of our club. This would include such things as chairs, curtains, trophy cases and placement of banners, etc. We have a budget to cover some smaller improvements, however, most require Board approval.

We feel it is important to have some "male perspective" to help us in our future decisions as to what our priorities should be. On that note I am reaching out to any man in our club who would be willing to volunteer to become a part of our team. We would like at least two men on this committee. Please feel free to contact any of the members on the Lounge Committee if you are interested. Please help us to continue to be proud of our club. We are looking for anyone, male or female, who would be willing to help refurbish the benches in both locker rooms. This would require some sanding, painting and replacing torn bench covers. The coat rack in the ladies' locker room also needs some TLC. We will supply the materials if you are generous enough to offer your time.

Just in time for Christmas

Social Committee hosting Vendor Fair, Craft and Dessert Fair

By Kathleen Poole, Social Committee Chair

The Social Committee, whose mandate is, in part, to develop social activities for members, has several activities planned for the upcoming season.

First up is a new event, a **Vendor Fair** to be held Monday, November 13 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Further to requests from people with home-based businesses (i.e., candles, Mary Kay, Arbonne Cosmetics) to participant in an event, the Social Committee agreed to host the Fair and chose a Monday evening when there will be Ladies Flight, U4 mixed League, Doubles league and others curling. We encourage all members to take advantage of this so they can do Christmas shopping, or personal shopping!

The popular **Craft and Dessert Fair** returns Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a great fundraiser for the club, and brings the public into our building to attend the craft fair.

Paint night. We are exploring finding a date for this fun, social event, where a portion of the sales goes towards a charity! The goal is to bring club members together for events other than curling. Watch for a date in late December or January.

Our annual **St Paddy's Dance** will be held on Saturday, March 17. This event, featuring Steve Cheesman and the Heaters, sells out every year.

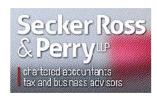
Unfortunately, the **Swing & Sweep**, which was scheduled on September 30, was cancelled. Only four people had signed up by September 25. We will consider holding this event a little later in October next year. We wondered if it was because the fall was so unseasonably mild that people were reluctant to participate...

Kathleen will represent the social committee at the committee planning the **Championship Weekend** events.

Committee members include: Trish Beckett, Linda Lott, Sandy Edwards, and Janet Fowlow. Pennie Robert has recently resigned from the committee due to multiple commitments for her time, but has agreed to assist in coordinating the two Fair events this fall. New members are welcome!







Bonspiel season begins

By April Welsh, Bonspiels

We've had a bit of a slow start on the bonspiel front, but I am confident that things will pick up. The Swing and Sweep on September 30 had to be cancelled due to lack of registrants. Thanks to the Social Committee for the prep work it had done.

The Evening Ladies' Invitational Bonspiel on November 25 was cancelled due to the unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Travelers Nationals at Cataraqui the same weekend. We will have many members over at Cat volunteering/and or spectating and the EL executive reluctantly decided to cancel the spiel for this year.

On a brighter note, the Limestone Senior Men's spiel on October 28 is full with 24 teams. A big "thank-you" to David Leeson and his committee for convening the spiel once again this year. A special "thank-you" also goes to Conservatory Pond for its continued sponsorship.

The Betty Bush Memorial club-rated spiel is set to go on November 11. Thanks to Linda Lott, Joanne Miller, Lil Rynbend and Joanne Gizzi for organizing this spiel. The spiel is open to all ladies of RKCC.

The Senior Men's in-house spiel closes out the month on Friday, November 17.

Wanted:

After running two very successful Empire Life Mixed Bonspiels, Kimberly Barker is moving on to other facets of club volunteerism. Wanted: A convenor for the 60th Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel to be held on Saturday, February 10. 60 years — wow! Let's keep the popular mixed spiel going strong. The bonspiel is a one-day, two-game points spiel. Please contact me if you are interested or have questions. Help on the various committees is always needed too - food prep, decorating, score keeping etc.



QUESTIONS: Linda Lott spyderlott@sympatico.ca

Stick curling boasts 25 2-person teams

By Pat Simms, Virginia Flynn, Ken Burns,

Stick League convenors

Hello to all the stick curlers; we would like to say thank you for your patience with registration.

We are missing a few regular players this year due to injuries or illness, and we wish them a speedy recovery and look forward their return.

This year we have 25 teams in the two-person stick league and eight in the four-person. New teams are always welcome.

It was nice to see all the familiar faces and new ones and get back to the sport we all love, curling.

See you on the ice!