



# *The Sweep*

## Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 21, Issue 1

September 2019

## **Celebrations mark 200<sup>th</sup> season**

The Royal Kingston Curling Club is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary this season, and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been hard at work organizing a bicentennial to remember.

The season-long party starts with a Gala Dinner on Friday, September 27 at the Ambassador Hotel and Conference Centre, featuring guest speakers, Olympians and Hall of Famers Russ Howard and Cheryl Bernard. The gala event also includes the world premiere of the RKCC Bagpipe March and the unveiling of a commemorative quilt designed by Fran Cooney and Linda Miller and made by Linda. Special edition curling pins, designed by Nigel Retchless for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be available, and guests will receive an illustrated colour booklet celebrating the rich history of the club with new stories, tributes and more.

The following day, Russ and Cheryl will hold on-ice clinics at RKCC, followed by an off-ice strategy session. While the on-ice clinics are sold-out, there are still tickets available for the strategy session to follow.

On Saturday, October 19, a tree-planting ceremony and plaque unveiling will be held at the club. In honour of the club's military roots and our community's ongoing and valued association with the military, we will be planting a Vimy oak. Refreshments will be available.

In 2020, a special version of the Empire Life Mixed Bonspiel will be held from Friday, February 7 through Saturday, February 8. The Empire guarantees a good time and great costumes, and this edition is sure to be memorable for its theme of '200 years of curling at RKCC'.

Throughout the season, each section has been encouraged to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in events and spiels.

It was important to the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to promote curling in the community and so, with the sponsorship of Tim Hortons, we will be bringing the Rocks & Rings program to four local schools and students in Grades 7 and 8 from those schools will be invited to try curling on ice with the help of RKCC volunteers.

Sponsors have been an integral part of our celebrations and we are particularly indebted to World Financial Group, Tim Hortons, Parasol Financial Solutions, MNP, Assante Wealth Management, Kingston Oxygen Home Health Care Centre, Edward Jones Investments, Empire Life and the Wilkin Family.

Our celebrations conclude with the Tim Hortons Brier. Admittedly, the Brier is not one of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary events *per se*. But we like to think we thought of it first, back when planning began three years ago, and we are thrilled that Curling Canada seized the opportunity to bring the Brier back in 2020 to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of curling in Kingston.

# ‘Remember his joy and friendly way’

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

On August 21, our curling community was deeply saddened to learn that Graham Weatherby, who had worked at RKCC for over 25 years, had passed away the day before, with his wife Christine by his side.

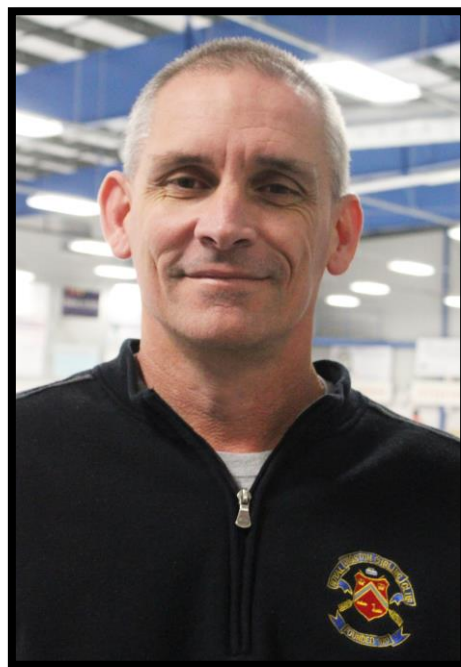
Just one month earlier, Graham, 51, had been diagnosed with Stage 4 brain cancer - glioblastoma multiforme – the same cancer that took Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip.

In an online post published days before Graham’s death, Christine wrote, “So many of you are feeling the sadness of what Graham is going through . . . he has touched so many lives in so many wonderful ways. Please remember his joy and friendly way.”

Graham left Kingston in 2016 to fulfil a dream that he and Christine had shared of moving to the west coast where they had honeymooned in 2008. In Qualicum Beach they opened a shop selling Christine’s holistic personal care products and quickly became part of the community, supporting various causes and amassing a cadre of friends who took over the shop when Graham became ill. On a GoFundMe page set up to help with expenses, Christine posted occasional updates. On one she wrote, “Another thing we have learned through all of this . . . don’t waste time! Go and do the things that make you happy with the people you love.”

Graham was still in college when he was hired by RKCC’s then manager Joe Jackimack as a part-time bartender.

In the 2005-2006 season, the last at the old club, Graham accepted the position of manager. Leaving a storied old rink and transitioning to a new club wasn’t easy. As manager, Graham sought to respect the proud history of Canada’s second-oldest curling club while building a new spirit of belonging in the country’s newest curling facility.



He invited school kids into the club and instructed them himself. He developed the two-person stick league so that members could continue to curl longer and he introduced the Learn to Curl program to entice new curlers into the club.

Graham was devoted to the club and its members, but his place was naturally with Christine. In 2015, when we held a special presentation on Championship Night to thank him for his quarter century of service, Graham wasn’t there. He had gone home earlier to be with Christine, who wasn’t feeling well that evening. We raised a glass in absentia and voiced our gratitude and affection for our long-serving, genial manager.

A celebration of Graham’s life will be held at the club on October 12. The family has asked that, in memory of Graham, donations be made to the Gord Downie Fund for Brain Cancer Research through the Sunnybrook Foundation.

# WFG proud sponsor of curling in Canada – and in Kingston



**World Financial Group is a major sponsor of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RKCC.**

The partnership between World Financial Group (WFG) and the sport of curling spans a decade and includes two WFG title events, World Championships and Olympic Gold. The genesis began in Albers where WFG supported local curling initiatives spearheaded by WFG agents in the community. With curling being a family sport, it aligns so naturally with the company's values of "No family left behind." With such enthusiastic support from WFG agents, the relationship with curling grew. It started with the relationship with Randy Ferbey and the sponsoring of his team as they chased Brier and World Championship gold. Building on that, WFG struck a deal with Curling Canada and the Season of Champions, eventually adding the World Financial Group Continental Cup. This solidified WFG's position as a major supporter of the sport on a national scale. But, it didn't stop there. When the opportunity came along to sponsor Canada's premiere women's curling team led by skip Jennifer Jones it couldn't be passed up, as expressed by Richard Williams, President of WFG Canada.

"Supporting such a talented team while they chased their Olympic dreams is something that was exhilarating to watch and we can't be prouder of them for winning gold in Sochi."

In 2014 WFG further strengthened its position as one of the largest supporters of curling in Canada with the addition of the Grand Slam of Curling and the WFG Masters. From coast to coast, in every province and territory WFG is proud to be in the curling family and looks forward to our curling growing strong in the future.

Jody Castle was born and raised in Kingston. She has been with WFG for four years and is committed to fulfilling the company's mission statement of "No family left behind" here in Kingston. Not knowing much about the support before her association with WFG, she developed a love of the game through her son, Lucas, who very quickly fell in love with the sport of curling (and Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing!) through attending WFG-sponsored events. He now curls with Special Olympics Canada and his love for the game continues to grow.

If you are interested in learning more about WFG and our commitment to "No family left behind" please contact Jody Castle at 403-629-1599 or [jcastle05fkvc@wfgmail.ca](mailto:jcastle05fkvc@wfgmail.ca).

# From the Ice

**By Terry Barker, Head Ice Technician**

We would like to welcome everyone back from whatever kept you occupied for the summer. Some remained in the fold and developed Pickleball skills, others spent endless hours wandering local golf courses. Some of the volunteers spent more time at the club than the furniture did (and we thank them for their efforts). Wherever you have been, we are pleased you chose to return and look forward to a new season.

While you were away, the folks at Canada Curling Stone spent many hours putting our rocks back into peak playing condition. The tops and bottoms of the rocks have been reconditioned and are ready for play. This allows us the opportunity to flip the rocks from time to time; thereby extending the life expectancy. Each side has distinct curling characteristics with the insert side presenting hard curl, while the top side presents more gentle curl. We look forward to seeing how they perform.

We have changed our ice staff mix somewhat to cover the loss of Kevan Welsh, who has moved away (and took most of my stuff with him). Paul Moorby joined us last year and will be taking on an expanded role this year. You may also see Paul behind the bar from time to time. If you haven't met him, say, "Hi" when you get the chance. We also added some young blood by bringing in Nick Halliday to pick up a lot of the slack. Nick will be learning the trade from scratch and should easily pick up most of my bad habits. Gene Miller will be back with us as well this year. We had to promise to take it easy on him to get him back for the year, but his experience will help keep the other two functional.

We took the time last year to adapt new methodologies into our routines with the ultimate goal of maintaining less ice than previous years. This significantly reduces operating costs and helps us keep the ice at a more constant temperature. The end result is more consistent ice and less wear and tear on the equipment. We are aiming for the same results for this year and a much cleaner surface, as we will have the Jet Ice system for the entire year.

We will be moving the boot cleaners outside the ice shed this year in an effort to reduce the amount of time the door is held open during game changes. Please do not pass these by on your way into the rink. As always, dirt on the ice is the greatest detractor from our game and only you can prevent that from compounding. Please ensure that broom heads are clean. (Many like to walk through the rink with the head on the floor. This is great for keeping the floor clean but does little when you start to sweep a rock.) Also make sure your gripper is not older than the combined age of your team. They do have a very short life expectancy and have no qualms about leaving bits of themselves all over the ice. Unfortunately, these are not always picked up by the mop and they become a permanent addition to the ice. Unless of course they are picked up by a passing rock.

As always we would like to hear from you. Suggestions, complaints or even the odd compliment can change the way we make the ice. Things on the ice may not be evident to those on the other side of the glass, and without your input we can make the wrong assessment of conditions. Feel free to approach any of the ice technicians.

Try to remember that before the first rock is thrown, all teams are tied for first place. We would hope that your season only gets better from there. Good curling, folks.

# Curling club comparison

By Deb Wilkin, Chair, Governance Committee

Since the adoption of the Guiding Principles beginning with the 2017-2018 season, here are some summary notes regarding the curling calendar at our club.

Our membership fee includes:

- A minimum of 10 leagues to join for all members
- An opportunity to curl six days a week in a variety of leagues

Both Flight and Club curling leagues are available in the following sections:

- Day Men
- Evening Men
- Day Ladies
- Evening Ladies
- Mixed

Two new leagues were added: Doubles (Wednesdays) and Mixed Club (Fridays). All leagues are strategically scheduled throughout the calendar to ensure maximum participation and enjoyment opportunities for all members.

Allocation of ice is equitably distributed to the men's and women's leagues.

We are the only club that offers both 2-person and 4-person stick leagues.

We offer scheduled free practice time and time for make-up games.

A few long-term rentals currently augment our revenue income:

- High school league
- Kingston Sport & Social Club
- Friday morning men's

Compared to the other four clubs in our region, we are a very busy club, with five days reaching or exceeding 12 hours of scheduled play.

# Bonspiels, funspiels, Turkey spiel & more!

By April Welsh, Bonspiels Convenor


Welcome back, curlers! We're off to an early start with bonspiel advertising in this special anniversary year. Bonspiel organizers are encouraged to include the 200<sup>th</sup> in their advertising or themes if possible. The complete list of upcoming bonspiels can be seen under "Events/Bonspiels" on our webpage. Flyers and registrations, under "Events/registration, are already up for the Evening Ladies' Invitational spiel on November 9, the Mixed Turkey spiel on December 7, and a new holiday spiel, the Winter Solstice Birthday Party on December 21.


The Empire Life spiel has a new format this year with knock-out, six-end games starting on Friday, February 7, with more games and finals on Saturday, February 8. Teresa Gibson and her committee have been busy over the summer getting a jump on the organizing.

**Date: December 21 2019**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

## Winter Solstice Bonspiel





*All are welcome  
Bring your family and friends  
Celebrate  
RKCC's 200th Anniversary with  
Winter Solstice Bonspiel*

**Included:**

- 6 end game
- Appetizers
- Birthday cake
- Presents for all

*Royal Kingston Curling Club  
Days and Front Road,  
<https://royalkingston.com/>  
Phone: 613-546-2243*

**Contact person:**  
Kathleen Poole & Linda Lott & members of  
the RKCC Social committee  
[Kathleen.poole@sympatico.ca](mailto:Kathleen.poole@sympatico.ca)  
[spyderlott@sympatico.ca](mailto:spyderlott@sympatico.ca)

Register your team by Dec 2nd for \$120 by cheque, or at the RKCC bar,

SKIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

VICE: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

LEAD: \_\_\_\_\_

I am pleased to report that the position of Bonspiel Chair is now part of the Curling Committee, where section heads can be made more aware of bonspiel scheduling, finances, etc.

As always, convenors will be looking for support in the way of teams participating or volunteers lending a hand on various committees. It can't be stressed enough that volunteers are the driving force of RKCC. Many hands make light work.

Please support our bonspiels and fun days and make this a terrific year!

The Winter Solstice Bonspiel is a new funspiel organized by the RKCC Social Committee to celebrate the club's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

# DL looking forward to a great season

By Joan Doucet, Day Ladies Chairperson

Hope everyone has had a relaxing summer and looking forward to getting back to an exciting year on the ice.

I am sorry to start with sad news. We have lost one of our valued long-time members. Lois McKeown passed away suddenly this summer. Her pleasant and upbeat nature will be missed by us all. Rest in peace, Lois.

Registration for DL Flight is in and we have 15 teams signed up for 2019-2020. At the moment we do not know how many we have for Club curling. I am happy to announce that at the DL Spring meeting in April, the ladies voted to return to the format of one division for club curling.

Here are some dates for early season events.

September 23, 24, 25 at 6 p.m. there are curling clinics for returning, new and prospective members to attend. Also there is practice time at 8 pm on the same days.

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> DL have a practice time at 1 p.m. Come out and find your "Ice Legs".

Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> DL Tuesday Club Curling begins.

Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, DL Flight Curling begins.

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday DL Club Curling begins.

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> Ladies Opening Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:15 pm.

*Good curling, good fun and good friendship!*



The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is pleased to present a special edition collector's pin, which will be launched at the Gala Dinner on September 27. The pin was designed by committee member Nigel Retchless and will sell for only \$15. This is a limited edition pin, so don't miss out. The pin, along with our 200<sup>th</sup> logo pin and button, will be available after the Gala at the RKCC bar, while supplies last.

# Evening Ladies Section welcomes all to new season

By Gail Irving, Chair

Welcome to the 2019-2020 season! Your convenors have been hard at work over the summer organizing leagues and bonspiels. It promises to be a great season!

## **Pot Luck**

First up is the Ladies' Potluck on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Evening Ladies are hosting the event this year and it promises to be another delicious buffet. If you are a new member to RKCC, don't bring anything but yourself. Cocktails are at 5:30, dinner at 6:00.

## **Flight League**

Deb Wilkin is organizing our Flight League, which starts on Monday, September 30 at 5:15 p.m. Flight night will be on Monday nights only, with games at 5:15 (6 sheets) and 7:30 (3 sheets). The league consists of A and B divisions this year and we are up to 18 teams.

## **Club League**

Liz Baer and Carol Fitzpatrick are organizing Club curling, which starts on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30.

## **Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel (Rated)**

The Betty Bush Memorial Bonspiel has been changed to the spring, to be held on Saturday, March 14. This fun spiel is open to all ladies of RKCC.

## **The Invitation Bonspiel, 'Canadian, EH?'**

Our Social Convenor, Laura Brown, is organizing our Evening Ladies' Invitation Bonspiel on Saturday, November 9. 'Canadian, EH?' is the theme. Get those thinking caps (toques) on for costumes! The format is a two-game points spiel, featuring a continental breakfast, lunch, and dessert after the final game (rather than a full supper in the evening). The flyer is on our website and has already been sent out to out-of-town clubs. This bonspiel had to be cancelled last year due to lack of teams—let's make sure this year that it is a successful and fun curling event at RKCC! Please register early.

## **Fall General Meeting**

Thank you to all those on the Evening Ladies Curling Committee. We are still looking for a Vice Chair. Our Fall General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 21 after the 5:15 Flight games. All Evening Ladies are welcome and encouraged to attend. We need and appreciate your input.

Here's to a great year of curling and comradery!



# Tim Hortons Brier update

By John Ryce

If you haven't already signed up as a volunteer then you better "hurry hard" as the positions are quickly being filled. We plan to have all positions in place by the end of November. There are still positions available in the Patch and in Transportation. For those of you that have already signed up, you should hear in the next couple of months what area you will be working in and who your Director is. We try to give you your first choice but that isn't always possible.

The volunteer jacket and shirts have been chosen and you will be impressed with your 2020 Tim Hortons Brier outfit.

Some people still have not converted their seat deposit so just a reminder to do so in order to get the best seat available.

If you or your company are interested in looking at sponsorship opportunities for the Brier, contact Linda Lott or John Ryce, Vice Chair Special Events.

Stay tuned for more "Brier Updates".

*John Ryce is Vice-Chair, Special Events, Tim Hortons 2020 Brier*  
*Linda Lott is Vice Chair Hosting, Tim Hortons 2020 Brier*

## Howard & Bernard Strategy Session

What to learn more about curling strategy? Why not learn from the best? Join Olympians Russ Howard and Chery Bernard for an off-ice strategy session at the Royal Kingston Curling Club on Saturday, September 28. Starting at 1 p.m., in the cosy seating of the lounge, you will be able to observe and listen to Russ and Cheryl as they instruct curlers in the on-ice curling clinic (sold out). Following the on-ice portion of the clinic, curlers and observers will gather in the lounge for the off-ice strategy session. Registration for the off-ice strategy session is \$30. (Remember that the on-ice curling clinics are sold out, but you can still learn by observing as well as by participating in the strategy session to follow.) Please register online at [royalkingston.com](http://royalkingston.com).

# Social committee plans busy calendar

By Kathleen Poole, Chair

The Social Committee has organized a number of fun events for the upcoming season, including some brand new events. First up is a **Hallowe'en Dance** featuring Steve Cheesman & The Heeters. Steve's St. Paddy's Day dances always sell out at the club, so be sure to get your Hallowe'en dance tickets early. On November 30, it's the annual **Craft & Dessert Sale**, just in time for Christmas gift-buying. On December 21, the committee is holding a new spiel, the **Winter Solstice Bonspiel**, featuring birthday cake and presents for all!

Last, but not least, is the annual **St. Paddy's Day Dance** with Steve Cheesman & the Heeters.

The Social Committee is chaired by Kathleen Poole and consists of Sylvia Myers, Janet Fowlow, Deb Kennedy, Pennie Robert, Trish Beckett and Linda Lott. Do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help with any of the events we have planned.

---

## Curling Committee committed to communication

By Linda Lott, Chair

The Curling committee has been hard at work since the last rock slid down the ice last April. The calendar is completed and posted on the website. We are officially on the ice for the opening clinics on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 23, 24 and 25 from 6 - 8 p.m. This is a great chance for members to bring out friends, neighbours and co-workers to try curling! At 8 p.m., the ice will be available for club members to throw some rocks.

The 2019 season starts for the evening men on September 26 with three draws of Men's flight. Sunday at 1 p.m. is junior registration, followed by practice time.

Monday, September 30 is the start of the season for Day Men and Evening Ladies Flight. On October 1 we are back to full scheduling.

The curling committee has committed to a year of better communication through and with all sections. We can achieve that goal with help from all members. If you have ideas and solutions, please seek out and communicate with any of the following curling committee members:

Day Men - John Pratt (jpratt2@cogeco.ca)

Day Ladies - Joan Doucet (ldoucet11@cogeco.ca)

Mixed - Keith Mitchell (keithmitchell1959@gmail.com)

Evening Ladies - Gail Irving (irvingg@queensu.ca)

Evening Men - Mario Fabbro (mfabbro1@cogeco.ca)

Juniors - Kimberly Barker (barkers44@cogeco.ca)

Doubles - Peter Coughlin (pcoughlin@cogeco.ca)

CurlOn Rep. - Karen Peters (kpeters@icloud.com)

Bonspiels - April Welch (bcwood@kingston.net)

Social Committee - Kathleen Poole (kathleen.poole@sympatico.ca)

The Curling Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at 5:15 p.m. in the Board room. All meetings are open to members, and if you would like to join us and hear firsthand what your Committee is doing, please do come and find out.