



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 22, Issue 1

November 2020

Gift commemorates Don 'Woody' Wood

RKCC - There's a new Boss at RKCC and the name is "Woody".

"Woody" is the nickname given to the brand new Icemaster Boss direct drive ice scraper purchased for the club by Donna and Wayne Smith in memory of Donna's dad, Macdonald (Don) Wood, aka "Woody".

Don passed away on May 13, 2020 at the age of 91. He was a familiar and friendly face at the club, even after he stopped curling. He loved to watch the game, although Donna describes him as a "fair weather fan". "If you started losing, he would move to another sheet. Dad was a bit of a skip behind the glass."

Don took up the sport during the 15 years he served in the Canadian Armed Forces, curling at the Garrison club at CFB Kingston until he retired from the military in 1972. Although he continued to work

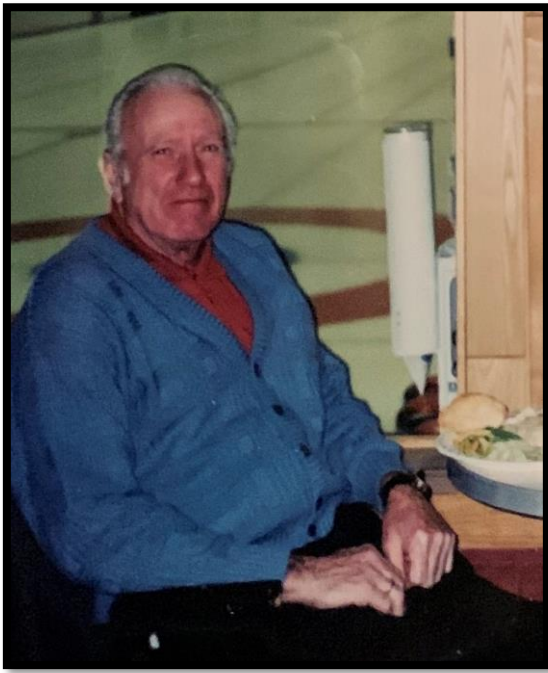
for another 20 years in the private sector, using his skills as a mechanic that he had honed in the Army, it wasn't until well after retirement, when he was in his late 70s or early 80s that he came back to curling. Cousin Lefty Macdonald introduced him to stick curling, so Don joined the Senior Men's League at RKCC. An unfortunate trip over the hack brought an end to his curling when he was in his mid-eighties. By then he had had three hip replacement surgeries and his family did not want him to risk another fall on the ice. Reluctantly Don agreed.

Don passed his love of curling onto his family. Donna became a member of RKCC in 1992, followed by Wayne in 1993. Their daughter Lacey joined Little Rocks when she was nine and curled competitively until she turned 21. Both Donna and Wayne have been tireless volunteers for the club, Donna serving as president in 2000 and Wayne as one of the hard-working and long-serving members of the Operations Committee, which oversees the maintenance of the club and all its assets.



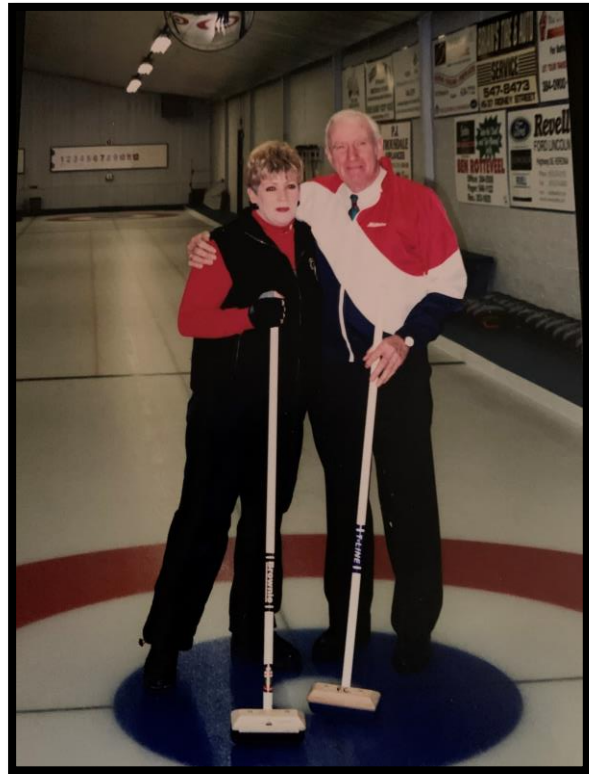
Wayne and Donna Smith present a cheque to Fred Veale of Canada Curling Stone for the brand new ice scraper.

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Don at the club, above, and curling with daughter, Donna Smith, right.

Photos courtesy Donna Smith



‘Woody’, continued from the front

“We knew the club needed a new scraper and we thought it would be a good way to honour Donna’s dad,” explains Wayne. “The club bought the old one 14 or 15 years ago, and it has never been a really good machine.”

No one will say that about “Woody”. The new Boss ice scraper, made by Icemaster Manufacturing of Manitoba and delivered personally by Fred Veale of Canada Curling Stone, is used at major events worldwide and is preferred by ice technicians for its superior performance and ease of use, including the ability to lift the blades with the push of a button. It has made RKCC’s new ice technician, Jeff Gray, a happy man. “It’s a beautiful machine,” he said. “I love it!”

“Dad watched us curl for 30 years,” says Donna, who is reminded of him every time she steps onto the ice and looks back towards the glass where he used to sit and watch. The new ice scraper with the plaque that reads “dedicated in loving memory of Macdonald “Don” Wood” will be another reminder of the man with the eye for good curling, who would have appreciated the importance of good ice and the work that goes into making it so.

Brier bonus

The Greater Kingston Area Curling Association has presented the Royal Kingston Curling Club with a cheque for \$25,000. as repayment of the money that RKCC contributed to the Brier bid. The club will also receive a further \$15,000 as its portion of the proceeds from the Brier. At the October RKCC Board meeting, Linda Lott, president of Greater Kingston Curling, extended a heartfelt-thank you to the club for contributing financially to the Brier bid and also for the many RKCC volunteers whose tireless efforts helped to ensure that the 2020 Brier was the best one ever!

A Word from the President

By Deb Wilkin, President

Nearly two months into our season and COVID-19 is still front and centre of all we do, whether in our personal lives away from the club, or while here enjoying the game. I thank you all for your continued patience in adjusting to all those new protocols that keep us as safe as possible. Please continue in your efforts, as the situation is constantly in flux; possible changes will be made with little time to adjust.

Behind the scenes the Board continues to complete its objectives for this year, and planning beyond 2020-2021. One of the key objectives is to develop an updated Strategic Business plan for the next three to five years. To that end, the Board appointed a Strategic Business Plan task force in June 2020. Chaired by John Ryce, the task force immediately began to meet in July 2020, with an interim report presented to the Board at its October 2020 meeting. Many suggested objectives, strategies and actions were brought forward for consideration. The task now turns to all the committee chairs and committee members to review, comment and recommend what is feasible to accomplish. Reports are expected from all committees by the end of January 2021. Further work by the task force may be needed at that time. I would like to take a moment to thank the members of the task force for all their efforts to date: Joanne Miller, Jim Barton, Shirley Kwakkenbos and John Giles.

To assist the club in its recovery from the pandemic's financial losses the Board is also in the last stages of completing an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund. The project is designed to upgrade the air quality in our ice shed enabling increased use for a variety of sporting activities throughout our off season. This initiative strongly supports the club's mission statement:



To develop and maintain a vibrant, year-round club that is financially sustainable and offers top quality curling facilities and programs, and other activities and services that meet the needs of current and future members.

Thank you to Brian Ward, Gord Greer and Steve Hulton who have embraced this project preparing the requisite quotes and information for the application.

Our Return to Play working group continues its work on your behalf and we are now meeting periodically to update the protocols when necessary. Again, my thanks to this group for its diligence and dedication: Martha Tanner, Keith Mitchell, Karen Matheson and Steve Hulton.

Lastly, but certainly not least, our club recently received a cheque for \$15,000 from the 2020 Tim Hortons Brier proceeds. Again, many thanks to all our volunteers and members who attended this wonderful event right here in Kingston. Memories will be with us for a long time to come.

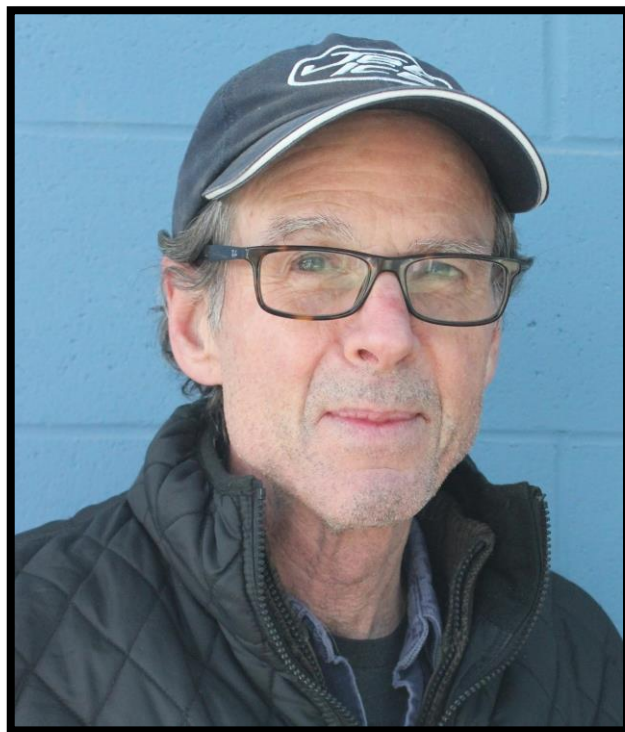
RKCC welcomes ice technician Jeff Gray

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

Not every cloud has a silver lining. Sometimes, with luck and good timing, it's a Gray.

That was the case for RKCC earlier this year when it hired Jeff Gray, after head ice technician Terry Barker informed club manager Steve Hulton that he would not be returning for the 2020-21 season. The pandemic had just closed clubs and businesses everywhere and, having been in this position two years ago, Steve knew just how competitive the icemaker market could be. But among the pool of candidates interviewed via Zoom, one stood out. In his report to the annual general meeting July 8, Steve wrote:

The final choice was not only quite easy to make it was a unanimous choice . . . Jeff comes to us with a wealth of experience that we can be excited about him bringing to RKCC.



This includes, but is not limited to 10 years at Avonlea, eight years at Peterborough and six years at KW Granite club doing everything from leveling sand floors and installing 16 sheets of ice to running the Zamboni at the RA Centre in Ottawa. To say that he understands ice is an understatement. Some of his accomplishments include:

- 1991 Refrigeration "Class B" training and certification
- 1993 Curling Ice Technician Level 3 training and certification
- 1996 Nokia Cup Ontario Men's Curling Championship ice crew under Teo Franz and Gord Carol
- 1998 Nokia Cup Ontario Men's Curling Championship ice crew under Shorty Jenkins and Dave Merklinger
- 2013 Road to the Roar National Olympic Pre-Trials ice crew under Jamie Bourassa
- 2016 Canadian Junior Championship ice crew under Tom Leonard and Don Powell
- Ice Tech for various events including: CIS (University) Nationals, CCAA (College) Nationals, OUA (University) Provincials, Travelers Provincials (2013, 2018). Senior and Intermediate Provincials, Men's Challenge Round and the Ontario Curling Tour KW Fall Classic cash spiel 2013 - 2018
- Operated Ice Painting business for several years in the Peterborough area

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Jeff Gray, continued from page 4

Jeff and his wife, Gisele Cyr, who is also a curler and Level 2 Ice Tech, had packed up their boat and were contemplating a move to the east coast when COVID-19 derailed their plans and the vacancy opened up at RKCC.

“It’s a nice place, I really like it,” said Jeff of Kingston. “I’m excited about having my boat close by. We live on the boat in the summer.”

Ice making is a natural fit for a guy who started curling as a teen and who loves having his summers off to camp and to spend on the water kayaking, canoeing and sailing.

He has been making ice for almost 35 years now, as curling gradually gave way to ice maintenance and then to ice management. His first exclusive ice-making gig was at The Terrace in downtown Toronto, a storied and much-lamented three-tier facility, with 18 curling sheets on one level and a year-round roller rink on another. Alas Jeff’s first year at The Terrace was the facility’s final year, as it was torn down in 1989 to make room for new housing.

Luckily for talented ice technicians, finding work isn’t difficult. Jeff went on to work at the 16-sheet Avonlea Curling Club in North York (which closed in 2007), the historic curling centre at the Scarborough Golf & Country Club (also closed), the Broom & Stone and the Tam O’Shanter, both with 24-sheets, the Leaside Curling Club, and finally the Peterborough Curling Club and the KW Curling Club in Waterloo.

Naturally, Jeff has a lot of stories.

“The Avonlea was Ed Werenich’s home base, and in his heyday we got a lot of visitors, including many major curlers,” remembers Jeff. “Shorty Jenkins would stop by whenever he was passing though and I would take advantage of his knowledge.”

It was also at Avonlea that Kurl for Kids was founded in 1989 by a group that included Ed Werenich and which continues to this day to raise funds for children in a bonspiel format that teams amateur curlers with celebrity skips.

Eventually, Jeff tired of Toronto living and moved to the Peterborough area, where he managed hockey arenas, got back into curling briefly, and became the ice maker at the Peterborough Curling Club where he met Gisele. Since Gisele had family in Ottawa, they ended up there, where Jeff worked briefly at the RA Centre and where he famously got to drive the Zamboni. And then came COVID.

So what draws Jeff to a job that columnist Bob Weeks described as one with “long, irregular hours, (where) you have to work in the cold and the pay is average at best. You hear from your clients regularly, usually when they blame their faults on your handiwork.”?

Besides the summers off, Jeff says simply, “I love the work. I love the hands-on, physical, active work.

“There’s a lot of head work too, taking in all the parameters like humidity, and pebble and the number of people on the ice. I like the excitement of achieving something, of making good ice.

“I strive to make the best conditions I can.”



Head ice technician Jeff Gray makes ice in September with assistance from Gene Miller and Gisele Cyr.

Photo by Celia Russell

Room to play in Open Doubles League



Doubles players Courtney Barnhill, left and Kaitlyn Welch are ready for their Doubles match with their bright jackets, awesome masks and a broom length of physical distancing. The Return to Play committee reminds us that on the ice, distancing can best be maintained by extending your arm and holding out your broom = two metres.

Photo by Peter Coughlin

By Peter Coughlin, petercoughlin77@gmail.com

Our fall season is off to a good start with 19 teams, registered in A and B flight competition. We are delighted to welcome several curlers new to our club and several RKCC members who have added Open Doubles to their weekly curling schedule. When league play ends in December and the points are totalled, we will adjust the team placement in each Division and be ready for the second draw starting in January 2021. We are looking ahead to a successful and safe second draw through 'til April, and plan to award, for the first time, the Riverhead Doubles Championship trophy.

We have room in the league for five additional teams that might like to join the Doubles action in January 2021. Please be in touch if you would like to join and if you do not have a teammate, please let us know and we will do our best to match you up. Many Doubles curlers enjoy the fast pace of the game, an active role for both players on the ice and a chance to try some different shots and strategies that you might not have during a regular four-person game. Doubles is quite egalitarian, it values good timely communication and fun opportunities for strategy input by both team members. One Doubles curler was pleased to report feeling much more active and involved in the game in comparison to when playing in a four-person match. Wednesday evenings – first game at 7:50 pm and the second game is at 9:20 pm. Games are six ends or a maximum of 75 minutes. Stick players welcome.

Doubles is also the perfect game for physical distancing, with two players per team and maximum four players per sheet – there is more room out there for you. We are currently exploring the options for a new pilot league – Daytime Doubles. Members would register for the league, and it would be a drop-in format, with teams arranged pending curlers available on the given day. Watch for more announcements in the coming weeks.

We have posted the rules for Doubles on the website (See League Info/Teams/Schedule/Standings). Learn about the modified Free Guard Zone with rock placements, the sequence for the five rocks thrown per team per end and knotty little challenges like, can one hit your own rock out of play, early in the end? Doubles uses a variety of shots with one fine sweeper helping to set up the shot. We are happy to help with an orientation and a friendly welcome for all new Doubles curlers that join in. Look forward to seeing you on the ice.

Mixed Bag

By Keith Mitchell, Mixed Convenor

First let me welcome back all our mixed curlers for what we hope is a fantastic year of curling. I think we are all thankful that our great sport is back in this challenging environment, albeit with a few changes. I want to thank everyone for doing their part to follow the COVID protocols. Our goals are to be safe and have fun, and the best way to do that is to follow the protocols.

Our Friday mixed has seen a fairly significant drop in numbers this year, which has allowed us to go to two draws and eliminate the ever popular 9:20 pm draw. Unfortunately, we have had to eliminate the Friday recreational division and move the remaining teams into B flight. Our mixed Club division is still very popular, but there is room for more teams for anyone interested in a fun and relaxed league. Our next draw starts November 27 and you can register online.

Sunday recreational league is once again very popular with 13 teams entered. We have a few new teams, along with many of our returning members. This is a very relaxed league and a great way to spend a few hours on a Sunday afternoon.

Once again this year, we have a committee comprised of the following members:

Mixed Convenor – Keith Mitchell

Friday Flight – Benny Gordon

Friday Club -Linda Lott

Sunday Rec – Val Malmsten

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your representative.

We will be running the **3rd Annual Turkey Spiel** again this year on Saturday, December 12 and we hope to have a full spiel again. It is a fun afternoon with lots of turkeys to be given away. We also have a new sponsor this year, **David and Sons Fine Condiments**, a local manufacturer of mustards and BBQ sauces. Be sure to register online.

Good Curling, everyone!!



New teams welcome

Day Ladies Leagues

DL Club

Roantree Trophy awarded

By Sylvia Myers Vice Chair DL Section

Day Ladies had a good turnout for the start of our season. Hopefully more will join us in our third draw. We started our Tuesday Draw #1 on October 13 with nine teams, utilizing four sheets of ice and our Thursday draw with only five teams using three sheets of ice. With the new style of play, the ladies handled it very well. I would like to welcome seven new ladies to our Day Ladies Club: Andrea Clark, Nancy Gollogly, Marlene Joslin, Carolyn Berns. Carol Wallace, Jordon Nesbitt and Pam Power.

We have been enjoying superb ice conditions, thanks to our new Ice Technician, Jeff Gray.

As Vice Chair I am responsible for assigning lockers; we rented out 64. Thank you, ladies who emailed me requesting a locker. I was able to assign and distance everyone. I am having trouble locating occupants of lockers 12, 19,32,53,104, N and P. If you are the owner of these lockers, PLEASE come and get your stuff.

We have now finished our first draw and were pleased to welcome Joan Roantree to the club to award her namesake trophy.

Draw #1 Tuesday against Thursday, The Joan Roantree Trophy winners: Lin Jenkins' Thursday team, vice Deb Kennedy, second: Pam Power, Lead Candace McConomy.

Runners up: Lin Jenkins' Tuesday team, Joan Doucet Skipped, vice Marilyn Wilson, second Tensia Cannon, lead Marlene Joslin.

Congratulations, teams.

DL Flight

Tight race for top spot

By Kathy Jackson, 2020-2012 DLF Convenor

This season, DLF is being run with a fall schedule and a winter schedule. This was done to maximize the opportunities to curl in the flight league. We remain hopeful that some curlers and teams that preferred to sit out for the fall will be interested in joining us for the winter.

The fall schedule has attracted 12 teams, primarily comprised of returning curlers from last year although a few new faces are now curling on Wednesday morning. Thus far, the league has been running smoothly with all teams collecting at least one win and only one team with no losses. As we head into the fifth week of the schedule, Donna Jeffery's team sits atop of the standings with 11 points and three teams are right behind with 10 points each (Miller, O'Sullivan and Wilkin.)

If anyone is interested in sparing in DLF, please add your name to the spare list and on the RKCC web site.

Also, if anyone is interested in getting involved in the organizational aspect of the club, I am still seeking an Assistant Flight Convenor.

Evening Ladies Reports

Gail Irving, Evening Ladies Chair

The Evening Ladies Section has had a good start, despite COVID-19! Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to implement our new play guidelines and to all the Evening Ladies who have returned to play! Thank you also for abiding by our new rules of play.

Unfortunately the Opening Potluck, EL Bonspiel, and Christmas Dinner have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

“Thank you to the current EL Executive: April Welsh (Past Chair), Carol Fitzpatrick and Karen Matheson (EL Flight), Liz Baer and Andrea Berry (EL Club), and Deb Wilkin and Linda Lott (CurlION)”

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Vice Chair,
- Secretary, and
- Social Committee (Chair + 2).
-

The EL Curling Sub-Committee is responsible for the leadership and governance of the EL Section as well as the operational guidance provided in the Curler’s Handbook. The EL Executive positions are held for two years. The duties of each executive position are outlined in the RKCC EL Section By-Laws.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

We need you - please consider volunteering.

EL Flight Report

Carol Fitzpatrick and Karen Matheson, Co-convenors

The Evening Ladies Flight is off to a great start this year despite the challenges of COVID-19. It is wonderful to see so many teams back. We also welcome a new team joining us from Garrison Curling Club this year.

We are very fortunate to have 17 teams in two divisions and all seem to be managing the various rules necessary to keep us all safe. We do have three byes each week, which allows for spares for teams each week, if necessary. Following the first nine weeks of play there will be some movement of teams up and down.

Good luck to all as we battle for the top spots. Karen and I wish to thank everyone for their support as we learn our new roles. STAY SAFE AND CURL ON.

EL Club

Liz Baer and Andrea Berry, Co-convenors

We are pleased to have eight teams for both Draw 1 and Draw 2 this fall. We welcomed four new members: Karen Wolfe, Taylor Dyon, Nancy Gollogly and Stephanie Lafond.

Our members have completed Draw 1 and the winning teams are:

First Event Champions: Jan Ray, Skip; Renee LeClair, Vice; Andrea Berry, Second; and Patty Gollogly, Lead.

First Event Runners-Up: Mary Buchanan, Skip; Karen Matheson, Vice; Liz Borges, Second; and Karen Francis, Lead.

Second Event Winners: Teresa Gibson, Skip; Tensia Cannon, Vice; Linda Shanks, Second; and Mary Andrews, Lead.

Third Event Winners: Mary Skeggs, Skip; Carol Fitzpatrick (for Liz Baer), Vice; Jennifer Robertson, Second; and Jane Ward, Lead.

Jewel Cooney 1932-2020

The family is mourning the loss of Jewel Cooney who passed away from complications due to dementia, at Providence Manor, Saturday, October 31, 2020.

Jewel was a passionate curler and was a gentleman both on and off the ice. Even though he did not curl in the competitive levels of local/provincial curling, he did participate in many bonspiels within Kingston Curling Club and neighbouring clubs. Prior to joining Kingston Curling Club in 1964, Jewel curled in the 'Alcan League' in Gananoque.

In his 18 years of membership, Jewel was a tireless volunteer, Board of Management member (House 1977-78), and President (1982-1983). While he was on the Board, he helped with the renovation of the Clergy St KCC lounge in 1977 alongside Fred Leduc and Grant Paterson. That renovation found the fireplace hidden behind the false wall at the top of the main stairs and the back stairs to the kitchen!

Jewel was President when Rod Leeder replaced Ace McKoen as icemaker upon his retirement. As he said in his last Presidential Sweep message, March 1983; "It has been a distinct privilege and pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to serve as President of K.C.C. Unfortunately, I personally gained much more than I was able to contribute." He was the ultimate team player.

Jewel and his wife Bettie worked at numerous curling and social events that KCC hosted during the 1970's and 1980's until their relocation to Ajax, Ontario in fall 1985.

I'm sure there are still some present members who will remember Jewel's meticulous planning of events and Bettie's famous apple pies and home-made muffins for bonspiels ranging from the 'Eager Beaver' to the Empire Life mixed spiel. As a couple, they received one of the first "Volunteer Appreciation" certificates from KCC when they moved to Ajax. Jewel continued his curling career at the Annandale Curling Club in Pickering, participating in Men's, Senior Men's, and Stick curling leagues. He finally retired from the game in 2017. Even the move to Ajax did not stop him from being in the Famous Fisherman's bonspiel! He was a consistent team member in the Fisherman's under skips Bob Leishman and Grant Paterson from 1974 to 1991. He had his 'fish' in a special box in his dresser and was thrilled to receive the 60th anniversary hat for a Father's Day gift.

Jewel and Bettie enjoyed many years of attending Ontario Tankards, Scotties, Briers and Worlds whenever they were able. They attended the Closing Gala in March 2006 of the Clergy Street RKCC and he was one of many Past Presidents who had his 'table' for the Gala dinner. Jewel also played in one of the first Stick bonspiels at the present RKCC, the only time I curled with him. For the past couple of years Jewel enjoyed watching as much curling on TV that he and Bettie could. He never missed a shot (but grumbled when the players did) and consistently corrected the commentators on their analysis and play by play! He was always an 'Ontario' fan. He will be remembered and missed by all who knew him...on and off the ice.



Bonspiel Chair stepping down, will you step up? **Turkey Spiel open for registration, other bonspiels under consideration**

By April Welsh, Bonspiel Chair

Last year's in-house and invitational bonspiels were a great success. Many thanks to the convenors and their committees! The last three invitational spiels (Grandmothers and Great Aunts, Fisherman's, Super Seniors) were cancelled due to the early closing of the club. All three spiels were full. Thank you to the committees for all their preparations and then handling the cancellation details.

All invitational spiels and most in-house spiels for the autumn have been cancelled for safety reasons. Considering that RKCC is one of the few clubs in the area open this fall, this decision was readily accepted by the convenors and curlers.

The "RKCC Turkey" spiel will go ahead on December 12, obeying the COVID-19 protocols that we have been using. The flyer is on the web, and the event registration for it is up. Please sign up and enjoy a few hours of fun festive curling. Keith Mitchell is convening.

Spiels for 2020-21 are still being considered but we have no details at this time.

As we all know, RKCC spiels are famous for the fabulous food served. There are now many logistical issues surrounding food service that will have to be worked out. Traffic flow for multi-draw events will also have to be considered.

Stay tuned...

After serving six years as Bonspiel Chair I am looking for someone to take over. The position acts primarily as a liaison between the office and the convenors. I have been creating a resource file and would be happy to assist in any way.



Paws-itively praiseworthy

Kingston 4 Paws is a very worthwhile organization that trains service dogs for people with physical and emotional challenges, from children with autism to veterans with PTSD. They typically train on Wednesday evenings and were invited to bring their canine trainees to RKCC to help them learn to cope with noise and distractions. They do seem very intent on the Evening Ladies Club playoffs.

Photo by Steve Hulton



Giving Thanks

Tables full of gift certificates, waiting to be delivered during April's Giving Thanks campaign spearheaded by RKCC member Denis Faubert.

During these difficult times, we have been witness to many selfless acts of courage, sacrifice, generosity, kindness and compassion.

Inspired by this, in late April, having conferred with like-minded people, a plan was developed to collectively show our club's support to front-line workers. These individuals to this day, continue to provide care, despite feeling some trepidation at the very real possibility of becoming infected with Covid-19 and also putting their loved ones at risk.

After some discussion and being cognizant of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we decided to provide \$25 gift cards from local restaurants for each employee at a local facility. This proved to be a win-win situation as beleaguered restaurateurs (three of whom were club sponsors) were thankful for the additional income and the provision of this small measure of gratitude to the staff at the Trillium Retirement & Care Community was very much appreciated. There was never any doubt that we would receive strong support from RKCC members and they did not fail to live up to our expectations. Collectively, we were able to raise over \$5,250 which enabled us to purchase 210 gift cards, ensuring all personnel received a token of our appreciation.

This event was one of many televised on CKWS, showing community support during the pandemic.

Needless to say, none of this could have happened without the overwhelming generosity of our club curlers. As one member emailed: "This was a proud day for RKCC".

Special thanks to Deb Wilkin, Brian Ward, and Bruce Jeffery for assisting in this initiative.

With kindest regards to all, Denis Faubert

RKCC Youth Curling and Coaching

By Kimberly Barker

The role of a coach: We can define it as a carriage drawn by a horse, a bus equipped for comfort, a rail car or the person who instructs athletes or sports teams. So where in the history of language development did we jump from transportation into people management?

At Royal Kingston CC, it is the title of becoming a dynasty in the world of sport development. Here we begin with the physics of pebbled ice and the mathematical dimensioning of an ice surface to test our skills of mental and muscle memory to evaluate the challenge of obtaining a rock to end up closest to the center of a divisional circle.

We have children as young as five years old who can send a 44-pound rock down a sheet of ice 120 feet to some degree of accuracy. The importance of being a coach this year, during the pandemic of 2020, is that we need to be with those people who want to participate in becoming the next generation of dynasty seekers. The participants need to learn how to become team members dedicated to the destiny of an accomplishment which takes them to the Brier, the Scotties, club champions, OCA and provincial championships, and further upwards into traveled countries such as the World Curling Championships and Olympic goals.

Our job as coaches, along with the destiny of our student participation, is to provide that commitment of friendship, team-building, winning attitude and the presence of family and friends to share in their goals. We are also welcoming some curlers who are travelling from clubs which have chosen not to open this year.

Thus, you might see that by comparing the various connotations and denotations of words such as coach, we can evolve into considering how teams are similar and how they are different. Just as air travel differs from rail travel, we are dedicated to the practices of consistent coaching. This year we have distinguished the competitive goals of our Youth registrations to ignite the coaching spirit for their perspective sheets of ice. In doing so we have asked Michael Berry to coach the U15 and U18 boys and to cover the needs for these teams' expectations.

As the purpose of team-building is a priority for our returning athletes, we have asked Christy Gilmour to work on the duties of each and every team member and for her to build teams with lasting skills for the youth to take with them for life skills purposes.

On another sheet we have Morgan McGarvey coaching by layers of experienced curlers teaching younger curlers the mastery of the sport commonly known as 'chess on ice'. She works on strategy and the accomplishment of playing to win.

Dale Marecak is working this year with his team of returning curlers from last year. The focus is long-term relationship building. These players learn more about the sport by playing for fun, yet there is an element of challenging the participants to become more technical and to use curling terminology and communication skills.

Finally, we have two sheets of ice for our newest members who have never curled before. The difference between the two sheets is strictly age and size of the participants. Thankfully, we have Kibo Mulima, Ryan Matthies, Bryan McMillin and me, Kimberly Barker, to pattern out new curlers, long-term athletic development and to structure every individual curler by having fun in learning a sport by creating new friendships.

Continued on page 14.

Youth Curling and Coaching, continued from page 13.

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Now that the pandemic is a new concern this year, we have initiated a volunteer committee to ensure that safety protocols are followed. Their job is to ensure a staggered entry onto the ice shed. They provide COVID-19 contact tracing, which is helping our club to ensure its safety protocols with KFL&A Public Health and provide our manager with the hard copy of this tracing every week. These volunteers sanitize and ensure that breaks are staggered and that all on-ice protocols of social distancing and mask-wearing are adhered to. They also are involved in preparing the necessary administration of Concussion Awareness and Participation Agreements for our club's ice shed use. The parents of all our curlers are helping this league stay safe, however, the ones who have stepped into the roles of communication, weekly entry, sanitization, staggered breaks, and registration are Kari Fraser, Jeremie Bedard, Lisa DaCosta, Jen DeGroot, Jen O'Donnell, Anastasia Lintner, Heather Giffin and Ainsley Splinter. All our coaches are incredibly grateful for your role in our Youth League this year. Thank you!

Although not visible to any of the above mentioned is the Return to Play Committee and our club President, Deb Wilkin. Without this committee we would be like a lost ship on the ocean. Your efforts for our entry and the safety awareness, required both legally and governmentally, have not gone unnoticed. We appreciate the result of getting back to our sport and to the continuation of our Little Rock Program here at RKCC.



Happier days. Little Rocks and volunteers with Russ Howard at a clinic in September 2019.

Photo by Kimberly Barker

Social Media Update/Highlights

By Celia Russell

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram top post

On Nov. 13, RKCC's three social media platforms scored stratospheric engagement points, thanks to the winning combination of canines and curling. Many thanks to club manager Steve Hulton for arranging the visit and supplying the photos.

On Facebook, the post of the Kingston 4 Paws Service Dogs spiked a record 31,358 people reached (viewed the post) and 1,783 engagements (any action someone takes, such as likes, comments, and shares). In comparison, most RKCC Facebook posts reach between 200-400 people and average 40 engagements.

On Twitter, the post was equally popular with 8,469 impressions, 61 likes and 10 retweets. The second-most popular tweet, See you on the ice/come curl with us (Nov. 2), earned 405 impressions and eight likes. RKCC's top follower is the Schenectady Curling Club. Perhaps a cross-border bonspiel is in order, post-pandemic?

On Instagram, the canines and curling post received 22 likes. The second most popular post (Sept. 30) with 16 likes featured Donna and Wayne Smith who donated a cheque to Canada Curling Stone for the club's new ice scraper nicknamed "Woody," in memory of Donna's father, Don Wood.

Follower updates:

Facebook: As of Nov. 22, 2020, the RKCC Facebook page has 489 followers, an increase of 70 since June. In Facebook continues to be the most popular social media platform for members and curling fans in general.

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalKingstonCurlingClub> (can be viewed without a Facebook account)

Instagram: RKCC's Instagram account debuted on Sept. 9, 2020. To date, it has attracted 108 followers, including the World Curling Tour. In addition to local fans, followers include the Last Chance Curling Club in Helena, Montana and a competitive teenaged curler in Oslo, Norway. Many followers appear to be younger curlers and curling fans, who prefer Instagram over Facebook and Twitter to post photos and news of competitions, team changes, etc.

<https://www.instagram.com/royalkingstoncurlingclub/> (account required to view posts)

Twitter: The RKCC Twitter account now has 132 followers, an increase of 33 since June.

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalKingstonCurlingClub> (can be viewed without an account)

Submissions are welcome – please get permission from your photo subjects beforehand – dogs excepted!



RTP Committee reminds members to practise ‘safe six’ – wear protection and maintain six feet physical distancing

The Return to Play Committee congratulates all of our members on ensuring a safe return to curling and expresses deep gratitude to staff for going above and beyond to meet all of the safety protocols. We welcome your feedback and take seriously all of the concerns that have been raised so far. Please contact your league convenors with specific concerns to be addressed in your respective leagues. Here are some of the concerns that have been raised:

1. Not keeping a distance of six feet from each other.

We realize that there will be occasions when you pass within six feet of someone, either on the ice or off. This brief passing is acceptable, especially as you will be wearing masks when off the ice. However, we have seen groups congregating around the bulletin board where schedules are posted, groups of three huddling beneath the monitors at the end of the ice, non-sweepers standing side-by-side on the ice, vices and skips conferring in close quarters, groups of more than four at a table. None of this is acceptable.

On the ice, people seem to be working out how to keep a safe distance, but there are sometimes too many people behind the hack on the end boards. Remember to go straight to your sheet once you have put your curling shoes on and assume a position on the ice. And please – if you’re waiting to use the boot brush, stay six feet away from the person in front of you.

2. Not wearing masks when you should.

Masks are mandatory off the ice. This includes the lounge, where masks may only be removed when *actively* drinking – not while waiting for your drinks to arrive, or after you have finished and are chatting with your tablemates.

Masks are not mandatory on the ice, but are highly recommended. Also highly recommended are proper-fitting masks, ideally of double or triple thickness, as opposed to single layer buffs or bandanas.

Unfortunately, the Board may find itself having to consider consequences for members not respecting the rules. The Participant Agreement we all signed outlines some of these consequences.






Doubles League does it best!

Iain Robb, left, and Steve Orme and Laura Brown, right, demonstrate safe play during Wednesday night Doubles League.

Photos by Peter Coughlin

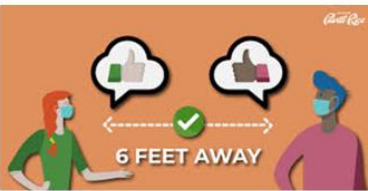



Please keep the club safe



Wear a mask

Please keep the club open



Stay 6 feet apart

Please think of others



Clean your hands

RKCC Turkey Spiel

Sponsored by *David & Sons Fine Condiments*



Saturday December 12, 2020

Two 6-End Games - first game 12:30 PM

Turkeys to the winners, a turkey raffle, and
corner-to-corner draw for more turkeys!

Light Lunch Provided between games

Giveaways and tastings of David's delicious, locally-made condiments.
Visit www.DFCBBQ.com to learn more!!

Open to ALL RKCC members.

48 curler limit – sign up as individuals.

Teams to be determined – skins spiel format - **COVID protocols apply**
Food donations will be collected for South Frontenac Community Services

Cost \$22.12 + GST/person

Contact: keithmitchell1959@gmail.com

Register on RKCC Web site under EVENTS - please pay at the bar