



# The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 24, Issue 2

September 2022

## President's Report

# Welcome back!

By Murray Matheson, Board President

Welcome back to the Royal Kingston Curling Club for another season of great curling, good friends and many laughs. And before you golfers complain, summer is officially over, it's time to curl! Just a reminder, the deadline for first payment of membership fees is September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure you're paid up so you can curl in the first week.

Your Board and management have been hard at work in the off season and there are many improvements planned for the new season. We welcomed Deb Hill as our new Club Manager in late April and she has been having a significant impact all summer. Please introduce yourself to Deb and welcome her to the team. All of our staff are returning and they are looking forward to seeing the members and serving you.

### Here's some of the off-ice improvements.

- We will be starting some evening **food service** in October, trying to enhance the overall experience for our members. Please watch for the details and give it a try.
- There are enhancements to our **wine** offerings I think you'll like. Another great change, you can buy wine by the bottle AND if you don't finish it, we will re-cork the bottle and you can take it home.

- We're pursuing promotional items from our **beer** suppliers to add to the fun. We already have Eppic Ale in stock.



It's a canned beer from Radical Road Brewing, brewed in partnership with Team Epping, and we'll have a draw for those who buy an Eppic Ale.

- Another improvement I think you'll notice, we've been working hard on our cleanliness throughout the club and eliminating clutter.
- We are also receptive to new ideas, so don't hesitate to discuss with Deb Hill or a Board Member.

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Club president Murray Matheson is looking forward to a fun and healthy season at RKCC.

## President, continued from page 1.

I was in the club last week when Jeff and his team had the new ice almost ready (see photo below left). It is beautiful, pristine and we would like to keep it that way. There are definitely ways you can assist in **keeping our ice clean** and eliminating picks while we're playing.

- **New grippers.** Jeff says most of the "debris" on the ice comes from the inside of old grippers. For once-a-week curlers, you need at least a new gripper every year. If you curl more, invest in those grippers 2-3 times a year, and wash them regularly.
- Use the **boot cleaners and sticky pads** on entering the ice shed.
- **Pickup loose debris** if you see some on the ice or the carpet.
- **Don't wear fleece**, it definitely sheds fibres .

Your Curling Committee and League Convenors are making all the last-minute arrangements to be ready for you. Bonspiels are back and we have a couple new ones scheduled early in the season. Team Epping will be visiting the club this season, watch for details on that and get involved. Another way to get involved is to volunteer at the club. Just talk with a Board Member or your League Convenor, they can help you.

This year, please respect everyone's personal space and their choices. We still recommend the wearing of masks, staying up to date with vaccine boosters and maintaining social distancing. Let's have a fun and healthy season.



Take some advice from John Morris (above) and help keep our ice free from fibers, hand prints and knee marks. According to the Scottish Curling-Ice Group, "a thumb or a finger only needs to be in contact with the ice for a few seconds to melt it, and the water will freeze again into a lump that had not been there before. These lumps WILL affect a curling stone and MUST be avoided. [These lumps] can destroy a game by affecting just one important stone."

If you must rest your knee on the ice during delivery, please use an inexpensive knee pad, available from our pro shop.

# Meet our new manager

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor

What makes a good curling club manager?

The same qualities that make any good manager.

Good with people. Cheerful under pressure. Able to multitask – in fact, *likes* to multitask. Willing to learn, open to new ideas. Creative. Helpful. Patient. Takes initiative. Follows up. Follows through. Inspires confidence in dealings with clients, suppliers, members and the board. Professional. Personable.

That just begins to describe new RKCC manager Debra (Deb) Hill. Deb started her new job with RKCC in April, as the curling season was winding down, first with the help of retiring manager Steve Hulton and then by full immersion in the job.

But although it is her first time managing a curling club, it's not her first time managing a club. Deb comes to us with a decade's experience in various management roles at The University Club at Queen's, a private social club for faculty and staff and a venue for weddings, conferences, meetings and private dining.

When the pandemic hit, The University Club shut its doors for an indefinite period and, when it finally re-opened, it was on an extremely limited basis. It wasn't enough for Deb, who thrives on being busy and on rising to the daily challenges that are part of a chaotic full-time job in the hospitality industry.

Walking into RKCC for the first time, she recalls, "it just felt right."

"I love it here. It's like being in a hub: things are coming at me from every direction, but it's not fazing me a bit. I like multitasking. I have lots of energy and ideas, and I'm very social."

In addition to her experience managing a staff of over 25 in the hospitality industry, Deb has a background of entrepreneurship and of creating jobs that she loves.

When she moved to Kingston in 1989 with her husband, Sherman, she started a home daycare business so that she could stay home with her two children. "I just wanted to be a mum," she says. "I ran a big successful daycare while they were growing up. It keeps you happy and positive."

After that, she and Sherman opened an indoor play centre for children with a drop-in gymnastics program. Deb got her coaching certification to teach gymnastics, along with Linda Whitfield, mother of Olympian Simon Whitfield.

When Cosmic Adventures took over their space in the plaza, Deb managed it before she and her husband took it over and renamed it Playtrium. In 2007 they sold the business. Sherman, an architectural designer, started his own business, and Deb started as assistant manager at The University Club, eventually becoming manager.



**Deb brings a wealth of experience and talent to her position as manager of RKCC and we are thrilled to welcome her.**

Continued on page 4.

### New manager, continued from page 3

Although summer is a relatively slow time at the curling club, Deb has been busy. She has re-organized the office/pro shop and generally organized and tidied up, including giving all the bulletin boards a fresh coat of paint. She has spent hours becoming familiar with Curling Club Manager software, established contracts for suppliers and rentals, created staff employment contracts and employee files, updated all WSIB standards and posters, and labelled everything in conformity with food safety standards. She has successfully applied for a business licence from the City of Kingston and an extension to the club's liquor licence.

A self-described "numbers girl", she has brought all the billing up to and spent a lot of time with club bookkeeper, Brenda Patterson, hired a couple of part-time summer staff.

She has managed several rentals over the summer and is putting together a wedding package for future rentals. She has ordered signage for the volleyball courts to prohibit after-hours use and had locks installed on the recycling and garbage bins to prevent unauthorized use.

"I feel like I've been here longer than four months!", she laughs.

Now that September is here, Deb says she is looking forward to learning more about the behind-the-scenes processes and seeing how the curling season unfolds.

"I can't wait to see more people around here and have more things to do. I'm looking forward to working with the staff and seeing them on a daily basis, and I'm looking forward to seeing curling!"

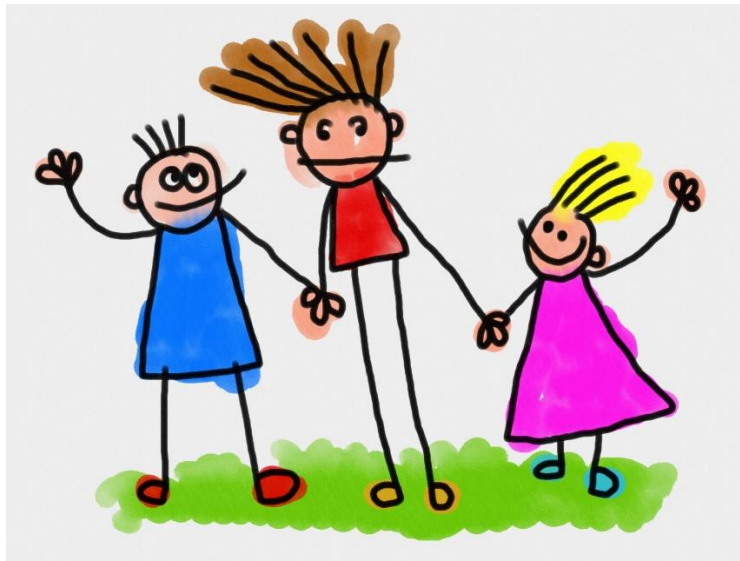


The poster features a purple-to-blue gradient background. In the top left corner is the Royal Kingston Curling Club logo, which includes a shield with a curling stone and the text "ROYAL KINGSTON CURLING CLUB" and "FOUNDED 1820". Below the logo is a large white circle containing the text "meet & greet" in a black, cursive font, surrounded by colorful dots. At the bottom of the circle are four curling stones (two red, two yellow) on a blue circular base. To the right of the circle, the text "RKCC Ladies Opening Meet & Greet" is written in a white, cursive font. Below this, the date and time "Thursday, October 6, 2022 4:30pm - 6:30pm" and the location "RKCC Lounge" are listed. Further down, the text "Come out and say hello to old and new friends." is written in a white, cursive font. Below that, the text "Bring your favourite hot/cold appetizer or bite-size dessert." is written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, the text "We look forward to meeting our new members and welcoming you to the club! You are not required to bring any food!" is written in a white, cursive font. Finally, the text "RSVP not required" and "Questions to: [liz.baer@kingston.net](mailto:liz.baer@kingston.net)" is written in a white, cursive font.

# Bring 2 Friends Bonspiel

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Cost \$40.00 per team of 2 members + 2 new curlers = 1 team\*



Members, please bring a dish for the potluck lunch

## Format

9:00 -10:00	Instruction for new curlers
10:30 – 11:45	Four-end game
11:45-1:00	Potluck Lunch
1:00- 2:15	Four-end game
2:15-3:00	Dessert and prizes

**Sign up on the RKCC website by September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**\*You may sign up as an individual for \$10.00 and we will put you on a team.**

*Pay by e-transfer or by cash at the club*

**Questions? Email [debemerton5@gmail.com](mailto:debemerton5@gmail.com)**

# ***‘Being nice isn’t enough’***

**By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor**

On September 17, I attended the CurlION fall symposium and annual meeting in Cobourg. The theme of the day-long event was “To inspire and energize”, but it might well have been “to educate and motivate”. With a packed agenda including a keynote speech on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), a panel discussion on the future of curling, presentations on CurlION’s strategic and business plans and on the business of curling by Curling Canada, there was a lot to absorb.

If I had to sum it up in a sentence, it would be: Curling is changing and we (as a curling community and as a club) have to change with it – not because we *will* be left behind if we don’t, but because it is the right thing to do.

## ***EDI: We have to start talking about it***

The keynote speaker was Erin Flowers, president of Goldline and founder of United We Curl, an organization devoted to making curling more inclusive. She spoke about her own story of personal transformation and of how she came to create United We Curl ([unitedwecurl.com](http://unitedwecurl.com)).

She emphasized that we must make curling a truly welcoming and safe space for everyone and to do this, we must start talking about diversity and inclusion. And it’s not just racialized and marginalized people. One attendee told of how he doesn’t like being addressed as “big guy”. Another told of how he almost quit curling after a month because of racial slurs against Italians, and of how it only took one negative voice at his club to drive someone away.

“There isn’t anybody who walks in your club who shouldn’t be a curler,” he said. “We all have the power to change what our game looks like.

“Everybody has to believe it and show it.”

“We love the idea of curling having a good reputation where we’ll all so nice,” said Erin. “But being nice isn’t enough. With a lack of diversity comes a lack of safety. We must live up to curling’s reputation and make it truly welcoming and a safe space for everyone.

## ***How do we start?***

Many of the questions that followed the keynote address were a variation of “how do we start”?

The answer seemed to be that we start by looking within, at our own attitudes, and then by looking outwards, at our board of directors, our people in authority, at contacts in the community. We have to talk about it and educate ourselves about issues surround EDI and accessibility for all.

The Guelph Curling Club was frequently held up as an example of how to proceed. The board has formed an EDI Committee led by Gerry Sundwall. Gerry, who is also on the board of directors of CurlION and is the chair of the Ontario Curling Council, joked that he was a “pale, male, stale curler” but that his club’s board of directors is young and energetic and committed to EDI. The EDI Committee he chairs is working with the University of Waterloo and its EDI program to build an EDI strategy. “This is a long, slow process,” he said, “but we are committed to nudging our members along.”

The Guelph club is going to ask its members this year to stop the tradition of having to buy drinks for the losing team. Several people at the symposium identified this as a barrier to curling for some people, either because they aren’t comfortable buying alcohol, or they simply don’t want to spend their money on drinks.

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## Continued from page 6

Kaamraan Islam, a member of the panel, agreed. "The drinking culture is non-inclusive and needs to go," he said.

Someone else asked, "What about the generation that no longer thinks in terms of male and female?"

"Most clubs have open leagues," replied Ben Kong, another member of the panel.

Bobby Ray, just days into his new appointment as Curling Canada's Manager of Club Development, had an interesting presentation on the Business of Curling. He spoke about a "curling funnel", and how clubs can help people progress from "discover" curling to "compete".

The former manager of the North Bay Granite Club (North Bay Curling as it's promoted on its website), Bobby mentioned that the club operates in three trimesters, so members sign up for fall, winter and spring.

"But we like to lock people in for a full season," someone commented. "We're afraid that if we don't, we might lose money."

"It puts pressure on the curling club to be excellent," Bobby replied.

"Yes, we're giving people an opportunity to leave, but we're also giving people an opportunity to come."

Bobby said that the next generation of curlers wants flexibility, is cashless, is community-minded (we need to give to the community as much as we ask for), is willing to upset people to advance EDI and has a business mindset (not for profit doesn't mean we shouldn't make a profit. We *should* make a profit and invest it in making our club a nice place to be.)

On this last point he showed a slide of a typical club room with fireplace and old trophies. "I like to visit a museum," he said, "but I don't want to hang out here everyday."

The meeting ended with a presentation of awards, including the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Individual Award to Sabena Islam of the Catarauqui Golf and Curling Club for creating a program for Black, Indigenous and Racialized Youth with a grant from Curling Canada and a group award to Sabena, sons Bilal and Kaamraan Islam, Jett Gazeley, Kenna Bartlett, Calissa Daly, Emily Parkinson and Mark Strachan.

# Curling is a place for everyone

We believe in the Curling Canada credo that "curling is a place for everyone". *An individual's journey into curling begins with community clubs. Therefore, it's crucial that clubs are able to create environments where people feel welcome and enjoy their experience. This will help foster a new wave of diverse members. It is important that they feel safe and free of any discrimination or maltreatment. Taking steps to encourage the involvement of people of all ages, from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and races in curling provides growth opportunities, as well as new perspectives and ideas for all involved.* (Curling Canada)

Do you want to help advance equity, diversity, and inclusion at RKCC? We're hoping to form a working group to look at ways to make RKCC more accessible to all. If you are interested and/or have experience, we would love to have your assistance. Please contact Martha Tanner at [communications@royalkingston.com](mailto:communications@royalkingston.com) or Michael Flowers at [rkcc.membership@gmail.com](mailto:rkcc.membership@gmail.com).

# Welcome to the Stick Leagues!

By Kathy Jackson, Convenor 2022-23 Stick Leagues

Fall has arrived and another curling season is about to commence. Are you ready? More importantly, are you registered? New and returning members are always welcome in the Stick Leagues.

The two-person and four-person stick leagues will remain in their customary time slots of Wednesdays and Thursdays, respectively. Curling will commence in the first week of October with a full slate of games. To date, registration numbers for the two-person stick league are consistent with past years but there is room for additional teams. The four-person stick league will see a little growth as we welcome two new teams.

So, as you reluctantly start thinking about putting away your golf clubs or making arrangements to close the cottage, just think ... curling is here to save the day! Hope to see you on the ice in the stick leagues this season.



## RKCC to host 2-person stick provincials

Following the success of the U18 provincial championships at RKCC last year, the Ontario Curling Association (CurlON) has asked RKCC to host the 2023 Two-Person Provincial Stick Championship February 10 – 12, 2023.

All participants must use the stick delivery system and be over the age of 18 as at December 31, 2022. Teams may be formed of any CurlON member athlete (not necessarily from same club) and of any gender combination. Registration closes January 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

The Ontario Two Person Stick Championship Team will receive the following awards:

- CurlON: Championship banner, keeper crest box frames, team uniforms, pins
- Prize Pool: \$ 1,000

This is a direct-entry provincial championship, with no pre-qualifying events. The format will be round robin (Pool Play), with a semi-final and final playoff.

For more information, visit:

<https://on.curling.io/en/events/12915-2023-two-person-stick-provincial-championship-open>





Keith Mitchell, centre, oversees the Welcome Back BBQ at the club September 16. Doing all the work are Jamie Duffe, left, and Murray "Boomer" McDowall.

## **‘Straight Shooter’ or ‘Wayward Whacker’, RKCC Golf Tour was a hit for all involved**

**By Keith Mitchell**

The second annual RKCC Summer Golf Tour came to a close with our last stop at Garrison Golf Club on Friday, September 9, followed a week later by our Welcome Back BBQ with over 100 people in attendance.

This year’s tour was scheduled for five stops including Camden Braes, Amherstview, Rivendell, Smuggler’s Glen and Garrison. Fortunately, we did not get snowed out on our first stop like last year but unfortunately, we got flooded out. Can’t seem to catch a break in May! For the four remaining stops we were blessed with sunny and warm days.

This year there were a variety of prizes to be won, with prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, closest to the pond (Rivendell), and a putting contest (turns out Diane Fera can REALLY putt). We also gave out the Gobi Desert Award at two of the stops for most bunkers hit (six in one round was the “best”) and two awards – one to the Straight Shooters (i.e., didn’t lose a ball for the entire round) and one to one of the Wayward Whackers (for those that lost one OR MORE balls). Not naming any names here, but let’s just say there were LOTS of golfers in the second category and not so many in the first category. When it came to the lowest scores, sadly the score cards seemed to spontaneously combust before I could record any numbers so (thankfully) there is no physical record of any scores.

I think it is safe to say everyone enjoyed getting out and staying in contact with our curling friends over the summer and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all the golfers who came out over the summer and I hope to see everyone out again next year.

My thanks go out to the members of the Golf Tour Committee: Tom Bryant, Pam Power and Tom Sephton. Also, a big thank you to Deb Hill, who handled all the office work, and Carole Rivington for getting the events posted on the website.

RKCC INVITES YOU TO

**GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN**

POINTS BONSPIEL

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

**CASH PRIZES**

ROYALKINGSTON.COM\EVENTS  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 22, 2022

\*PAYMENT DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2022  
E-TRANSFER: RKCC.PAYMENTS@GMAIL.COM  
OR BY CHEQUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KAREN:  
petersk2@icloud.com

LET'S CAPTURE THE FUN OF "THE GOOD OLD DAYS".  
COME DRESSED READY TO PERFORM AS YOUR FAVOURITE GIRL GROUP.

## Get a grip on safety

This year we encourage all returning curlers *to purchase new grippers at the start of the season.*

Why should 'you' get a new gripper?

- **New grippers IMPROVE on-ice safety!** Worn grippers will reduce a snug fit on your shoe and become less 'grippy' as they degrade over time.
- **New grippers IMPROVE the game!** No one likes it when your rock gets a 'pick'. When grippers degrade over time they leave small black beads of rubber on the ice which are hard to sweep away.

RKCC has a large supply of *tournament grippers* which are compatible with most curling shoes. **The cost of a new gripper will be \$18**, payable at the Pro Shop.

Help support your club by staying safe and helping us make the best ice for members and guests alike.

## Full complement of bonspiels in 22-23

By Susan Hara, Bonspiel Chair

RKCC will host 17 bonspiels in 2022-23, beginning with 'Bring 2 Friends' happening in early October and ending with The Fisherman's taking place in late March 2023. There is a nice balance of in-house and invitational bonspiels, plus there is a special spiel happening in January 2023 when a group of male Scottish curlers come to town.

There are eight in-house spiels (three ladies, three men's and two mixed) and nine invitational spiels (two ladies, four men's, one mixed, and two open). A complete list of bonspiels, along with all the relevant information, can be found on the RKCC website under EVENTS/BONSPIELS.

Convenors have been hard at work organizing these events and members are encouraged to sign up early and often!

# Kingston Gets Active with RKCC

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor

RKCC has formed a new partnership with Kingston Gets Active (KGA) to offer Kingston students the opportunity to try curling for free.

The partnership is a direct result of the Curling Club Revitalization Project 2022 undertaken by the Queen's University PhD-Community Initiative program. Working together with RKCC, a team of five PhD students and their mentor looked at how the club could better serve its members and the community as a whole. The PhD team identified a lack of family and youth programming, both within the club and the wider community, and suggested ways that RKCC could partner with local organizations offering youth recreational programming to address those gaps. Kingston Gets Active was one of five organizations interviewed by the PhD team; the others were Queen's Athletic and Recreation Centre, Kingston Sport and Social Club, Youth Diversion, and the Boys and Girls Club. The full report, released in April 2022, is available to RKCC members on the website under 'Documents'. Kingston Gets Active was in the process of bringing back the ActivPass for Grade 5 and 9 students after the pandemic and was thrilled when RKCC offered to participate. The ActivPass offers students in Grades 5 and 9 in Kingston and surrounding communities free access to participating recreation centres for public swims, skates or open gym access.

In an email to Deb Wilkin, then president of RKCC and the lead on the RKCC team working with Queen's, Ashley Johnson, KGC co-coordinator, wrote, "We are seeking additional opportunities for grade 5 and 9 ActivPass users outside of the swim, skating and gym options.

"Having access to some opportunities with Royal Kingston Curling would be a great benefit to all the ActivPass users."

ActivPass users will be invited to try curling at RKCC on the third Sunday of each month from October to March.

In addition to barriers to youth programming in Kingston, the Queen's PhD team also identified transportation, timing of events, logistics, social stigma, and lack of equity, diversity, and indigeneity as other limiting barriers. Based on its research findings, the team suggested six recommendations, enumerated below, "that the RKCC can run with as the club looks forward to its next 200 years of successful operations":

1. Create youth and family programming
2. Build a youth-competitive stream and offer coaching clinics
3. Become a community leader
4. Establish community partnerships
5. Develop awareness through social media revamp
6. Foster equity, inclusion, diversity and indigeneity

Working closely with the Queen's team were RKCC members Deb Wilkin, John Giles, Michael Flowers, Jim Barton, John Ryce, and Shirley Kwakkenbos. The project was presented to the RKCC board of directors at its April 27, 2022 meeting and fully endorsed by the board. The board has already begun working on these recommendations, which will form the underpinning for many exciting initiatives to come.



## *Ghoulish Hallowe'en DANCE!*

*The Porch Pilots*

*October 29th 2022*

*7—12pm*

*The RKCC lounge*

*TICKETS: \$15:00*

*Available at the Royal Kingston Curling Club bar*

*OR from a Social Committee member*

*(Kathleen Poole, Sylvia Myers, Deb Emerton*

*Renee Leclair & Linda Lott)*



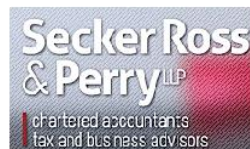
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