



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 25, Issue 5

March 2024



2024 Maloney + Elliott Group Senior Men's & Women's Championship

RKCC welcomes curling elite

RKCC - Royal Kingston's own championship team of Noel Herron, Steve Lodge, Jason Boyce, and Chris Barkley will lead a stellar field into competition on home ice at the 2024 Maloney + Elliott Group Men's and Women's Senior Provincial Curling Championships, March 13-17 at RKCC.

Eight men's and eight women's teams will vie for the right to represent Ontario at the 2024 Everest Canadian Senior Curling Championships in Moncton, N.B., December 2-7.

Fighting to defend their titles are four-time Ontario senior champion and 2023 Canadian and world senior champion Howard Rajala from Ottawa's Rideau Curling Club and 2023 Canadian champion Susan Froud from the Alliston Curling Club. The elite roster of skips also includes silver Olympic medallist and 2004 Brier participant Mike Harris from the Brant Curling Club in Brantford, three-time Brier contender Michael Fournier from the High Park Curling Club in Toronto, three-time Brier participant Adam Spencer representing the Guelph Curling Club and three-peat Ontario Senior Curling champion Brian Lewis from the Rideau Curling Club.

Continued on page 2.

Kingston Curlers Provincials-bound!

Athletes from Royal Kingston Curling Club are off to provincial championships this month. Tony Bush (above left) and skip Jim Rayner (right) have entered the Two-Person Stick Open Provincial Championship, to be held March 8-10 in Bobcaygeon.

Jim and Tony are sponsored by Caitlin Cerre-Lee and Scott McAllister, owners of C.S. Physiotherapy & Wellness Centre, who approached Jim about sponsoring the team and even came to cheer them on when RKCC hosted the 2023 provincials.

Follow their progress in real time at:

<https://curl-on.ca/scoreboard/#!/competitions/8669>

The team of Mike Schneider, Lorne Carmichael Tom Bryant, John Latimer and Barry Malmsten will represent RKCC at the 2024 Grandmaster Provincial Championship, March 14-16 in Thornhill.

2024 Maloney + Elliott Group Senior Men's & Women's Championship



maloney + elliott
group

BMO Nesbitt Burns

Continued from the front.

Rounding out the men's field are Jim Wilson from the Oakville Curling Club, coach of Team Epping, and Gary Grant from the Lindsay Curling Club.

The women's field includes five-time Ontario and one-time Saskatchewan champion Sherry Middaugh from the Thornhill Curling Club, Jo-Ann Rizzo from the Mississauga Golf & Country Club, whose multiple appearances at the Canadian women's curling championships include her 2024 run with Team Kerry Galusha from the Northwest Territories, 1990 Scott Tournament of Hearts winner Alison Goring representing the Gravenhurst Curling Club, Cheryl McPherson, 1990 Canadian women's champion and World bronze medalist on team Alison Goring, 2019 Ontario Curling Club champion Laurie Shields from the York Curling Club, multiple Scotties participant Cathy Auld from the Thornhill Curling Club and Jennifer Harvey from the Cornwall Curling Centre.

The senior championships are open to athletes aged 50 and over. The eight-team round robin gets underway on Wednesday, March 13, with the first games at 2:30 p.m. and the opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. at the Royal Kingston Curling Club. The competition will conclude on Sunday, March 17.

The Royal Kingston Curling Club, 130 Days Road, welcomes everyone to come out and enjoy this elite level of curling. All draws are open and admission is free.



In their Ontario provincial curling club champions jackets, from left, skip Noel Herron, Steve Lodge, Jason Boyce, Chris Barkley.

Photo courtesy: Curling Canada/Connie Laliberte

RKCC's Team Herron takes on Team Lewis from Lindsay in the opening draw on March 13 at 2:30. At 8 p.m., after the opening ceremony, Herron will take on Olympic medallist and 2004 Brier contender Mike Harris from the Brant Curling Club. Check out the full draw schedule on our website.



Left, Teresa Gibson, convenor of the Empire Life Mixed Open Bonspiel, with Chris Dreifelds and Jo-Anne Brady from Pathways to Education Kingston. The bonspiel raised \$5,000 for the community-based program designed to increase high school graduation rates in designated neighbourhoods. Since coming to Kingston in 2010, Pathways has raised the high school graduation rates from half of the provincial average to on or above through tutoring, mentoring, financial support and advocacy. It has also more than doubled the retention rates for post-secondary students from the same program. “From day one, Empire Life was a big sponsor, and is a big reason we are here in Kingston,” said Dreifelds.

Bonspiel supports program championed by Empire Life

By Teresa Gibson, Convenor

Congratulations to Team Lott who defeated Team Graham from Brighton in the main event final of the 65th Empire Life Mixed Open Bonspiel. Linda Lott wasn't able to attend at the last minute, so Suzanne Herron filled in as skip and played with other team members: Keith Mitchell, Ross Fabbro, and Karen Peters. Other event winners were: 2nd Jeffery; 3rd Flowers; 4th Doucet; 5th Horton; 6th Townsend. Thank you to bonspiel participants and club members who contributed generously to the Pathways silent auction. Through the auction and some private donations we were able to donate \$5,000 to Pathways to Education!!

Thanks to the teams who came out which included some extended family teams and a few teams from outside our club. Thanks as well to those who filled in after some begging from me - you know who you are - and I appreciate you helping to fill those final spots. This bonspiel is one of the few bonspiels open to all members and non-members - young and old and any gender. Having it as a mixed open means the gender distribution can be 1 and 3 or 2 and 2 in any order which allows flexibility in the team set-up. The 24-team bonspiel was full and had a modified playdown schedule. This modified playdown (Gibson format) allows 24 teams to play down based primarily on win/loss rather than points. It also allows all teams to have a minimum of four games so all teams still have a chance to make the finals going into their Saturday afternoon games.

See Empire Life on page 4.

Empire Life, continued from page 3.

A playdown bonspiel has a slightly different feel compared to a point spiel and I find there is still quite a bit of excitement going into Saturday afternoon and then the final games. The 6-end games work well for this format. As the bonspiel progresses it tends to match teams with similar skill levels. I hope we can continue with this format in future years.

I extend a huge thank you to the planning committee who also volunteered in various capacities throughout the bonspiel. This included myself, Michael Bird, Bruce Jeffery, Dave Londry, Michelle Paquin and Samantha Tomsett. Without these individuals there would be no bonspiel. I would also like to thank Susan Hara who along with her crew organized the delicious Friday dinner. Ramekins did a great job again with lunch and dinner. Thanks as well goes to our helpful manager Rhonda, our friendly efficient bar staff and our amazing ice crew. The ice was fast and consistent and scrapes were done at warp speed to keep things running on time. With such excellent professional staff it really makes convening a bonspiel much easier. Thank you as well to other volunteers who offered their much needed help: Edward Gibson, Michael Flowers, Donna Jeffery, Lorne Carmichael, Carole Rivington, Gill Turnbull, Joanne Mannion, Stephanie Jutsun-Pereira, David Leeson, Marilyn Wilson, March Skeggs, Helen Robinson, Tamara Van Grunsven, Caitlin Gibson, Ray Pothier, Paul Gillespie, Gord Greer and Rhonda Bird.

Finally, if you enjoyed the bonspiel or hope to play in it next year please consider volunteering in some small way or at the very least try to get your registration in early. I am looking for someone to take over as convenor or at least act as co-convenor next year. We have a formula that works well and had a good number of volunteers this year. I would still like to be involved and help out next year but would like to step back from being the main convenor.



Teresa Gibson delivers a rock during the Empire Life bonspiel, attended by sweepers KC Bell and Edward Gibson.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

GAME NIGHT

Euchre **DOMINOES**

SAT. APRIL 13, 2024 – 7 TO 9:30 PM

Enjoy an evening of free fun including dessert.

Register for this event on the RKCC website. For more information: cathygrant001@gmail.com



Photo left: the first-place winners were, from left: Susan Irwin, Lindsey Foster, Carolyn Bernes, and Sylvia Myers.



Day Ladies celebrate Flag Day!

By Cathy Fobert

The Day Ladies held their annual February funspiel on Thursday, February 15th. Our theme was "Flag Day", as February 15th is National Flag Day of Canada. We chose to commemorate the day by celebrating not only Canada's flag and colours but also any other flag of choice. We served a delicious lunch at 1 p.m. followed by six ends of fun curling, plus dessert and prizes afterwards.

First and second prizes were given to the winners for the curling game and the lovely rose plants on the table were won by one person at each table.

Most everyone was dressed in their red and white colours to support Canada's flag. Some flags and colours from other countries were also proudly displayed. A great day was had by all! Thank you to all the volunteers, your help was very much appreciated!



The 2nd place winners, from left: Linda Shanks, Pauline Ryan, Candace McConomy and Josée Dumas-Hurt.



Improve your Curling with Pilates!

**For RKCC
Members Only**

Intro to Pilates for Curlers

Improve your flexibility, balance, and strength with exercises designed to enhance your curling performance.

Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 pm (at RKCC)

4-week session

March 19 - April 9

\$88 + HST

Register now at www.momentumpilates.ca (Book Now/Events)



The boys team from Frontenac Secondary School won gold at the 2023 Eastern Ontario championships, and made it to the quarter-finals at OFSAA. They hope to do even better at this year's OFSAA championship in Kingston. From left are coach Sabena Butt Islam, Alex Bulch, Ryan Kreick, Andrew DaCosta, skip Luke DeGroote and staff advisor Sarah Depew.

Kingston clubs host Ontario high school curling championships March 19 - 23

Frontenac Secondary School is hosting the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) curling championships March 19 – 23 in Kingston. Eighteen boys and 18 girls teams from across Ontario will compete for the title, including teams from the host school. Most of the games, including the finals, will be played at the Cataraqui Golf & Country Club, but games will also be played at Royal Kingston (Wednesday, March 20 at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Friday, March 22 at 8:30 a.m.), Gananoque and Napanee curling clubs. You can find the full schedule at <https://juniorslamseries.com/live-scores/>. Volunteers from all four clubs have been working hard behind the scenes for months to ensure that the experience is the best possible, for the athletes, coaches, and spectators.

In an interview with Jessica Foley of *Kingstonist News*, Sabena Butt Islam said that the Frontenac boys team wanted to “give back and host” after earning a spot at the 2023 OFSAA championships in North Bay and having a “wonderful experience”. “It is often difficult for OFSAA to find host locations and schools for their championship. Frontenac has a history of stepping up to provide these opportunities for student athletes,” she said.

Sabena, who coached the Frontenac boys team to a quarter-final finish in North Bay, noted that the boys hoped to do even better on home ice in Kingston.

The opening ceremony will take place at Cataraqui Golf & Country Club on Tuesday, March 19 from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m., followed by a dinner for athletes and team personnel only. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Richard Norman, Director of Community Futures and Innovation at Curling Canada and Director at Large for UnitedWeCurl, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating inclusive spaces in curling.

Spring Fling DANCE STEVE CHEESMAN & the HEETERS



Where: Royal Kingston Curling Club
(RKCC) at 130 Days Road

When: Saturday March 23, 2024
Time: 8-12 pm

Tickets: \$20 CASH ONLY tickets
(NOT at BAR)

Social committee ONLY Tickets available at RKCC in person from Social Committee members:

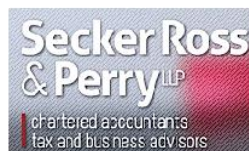
Deb Emerton
Renee LeClair
Linda Lott
Kathleen Poole
Sylvia Myers
Francine
Korzynski
Janet McCreath
Odette Haas

- 1) **March 3-8 @ 4-730**
- 2) **March 10-12 @4-730pm**

Info Contact: poolekath@gmail.com



Please support our sponsors!



Michael
Braun





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