



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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Left, skip Jo-Anne Rizzo, Janet Murphy, Lori Eddy, Mary Chilvers celebrate their win. Above, with team Rajala.

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

Stars 'eclipsed' by the ice

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

Congratulations to the RKCC team that hosted a brilliant Ontario senior men's and women's championship March 13 – 17. The core group consisted of Murray Matheson, Joanne Miller, Jan Ray and Deb Wilkin, who honed their organizational skills with the 2022 U18s and 2023 2-person stick championships (and Jo, Jan and Deb on the 200th anniversary celebrations before that), with new team members Kathy Jackson and Tom Sephton and RKCC manager Rhonda Jarvis. They, in turn, recruited a small army of over 60 volunteers, including timers (trained by Keith Mitchell and Shawn Kelly), pipers, flag bearers, assistant ice cleaners and many others.

The star-studded field of elite curlers, including Olympic silver medallist Mike Harris, world seniors champion Howard Rajala, three-time Brier contenders Mike Fournier and Adam Spencer, three-time Ontario Senior champion Brian Wilson, five-time Ontario champion Sherry Middaugh, multiple Scotties participants Jo-Ann Rizzo and Cathy Auld, and world bronze medallists Alison Goring and Cheryl McPherson, drew crowds of 150-300 people for each draw of the five-day event.

But the real stars of the event had to be head ice technician Jeff Gray, ice technicians Paul Moorby and Mada Bender and a number of volunteers, who prepared consistently excellent playing conditions.

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'Stars', continued from the front.

Here's what Lori Eddy and Mary Chilvers, from the championship-winning Team Rizzo, said about the ice in their podcast 2 Girls and a Game.

"It was very, very fast. It was beautiful ice, very consistent and had great curl to it," said Mary.

"I don't know if people would believe how fast the ice was," said Lori. "It was the fastest ice I have ever played on in my life!"

"Yeah, it was fast; it was like 16 seconds hog to hog."

"Even 16.5 would get you there . . . Some of the splits we were seeing . . . from back line to hog, Jo-Ann Rizzo threw a guard and it was a 4.78 and her board weight shots were a 4 split . . . It's one thing to say it was fast, but it was really fast!"

"It was beautiful."

Mary and Lori, who play lead and second respectively for Joanne Rizzo's Mississauga Golf & Country Club team, along with vice Janet Murphy, described the week as a "complete grind", given the calibre of the teams in both the men's and women's divisions.

The team lost to Alison Goring and Sherry Middaugh in the round robin and handed Middaugh her first loss in the final, winning 10-2 in six ends.

"This is one of the best provincials I have ever been to," said Jo-Ann Rizzo. She commended the volunteers for all the work they had done to make the event such an enjoyable one for the curlers and thanked CurlON and RKCC's "fantastic" organizing committee.

In the men's division, Howard Rajala from the Rideau Curling Club and teammates Rich Moffatt, Chris Fulton and Paul Madden successfully defended their title with an 8-2 win over Mike Fournier from the High Park Club.

Skip Howard Rajala expressed thanks on behalf of his team and had special praise for the ice. "It was fantastic ice," he said. "When it curls, it's so much fun!"

Teams Rizzo and Rajala will compete at the 2024 Everest Canadian Senior Curling Championships in Moncton, N.B., December 2-7.

Kudos to everyone who participated, both on the ice and behind the scenes. It's not every club that can host a CurlON event – in fact, Matt Allen, Executive Director of CurlON, said that only about 30 per cent of all curling clubs in Ontario have the quality of ice required for qualifying events and provincials. RKCC not only has some of the best ice, but has a skilled and proven team of volunteers, and a supportive membership. Those who came out to watch the games were treated to unprecedented shot-making and exemplary game play and sportsmanship.

It's an honour to host such prestigious events, and it's also a bonus source of revenue for the club, as CurlON pays a fee for the use of the facility as well as an event bursary per player/coach. This year's senior provincials, for example, netted about \$13,000 for the club and we can expect to make close to that when we host the U21 men's and women's provincial championships in February 2025.

CurlON hosts over 20 provincial and high-level events each year in cooperation with member clubs. These events showcase curlers from youth to club to elite, playing for a provincial banner and/or to advance to a national championship. In total these hosting opportunities generate more than \$3-million in economic impact for local communities, while leaving a legacy to the host clubs both financially (over \$200,000 annually) and socially (volunteering, club pride, club awareness). In addition, many of the events are live-streamed, creating opportunities for sponsorship exposure and revenue.

More photos on page 3.



Clockwise from top left: Fran Cooney delivers the ceremonial first stone, with sweepers Gord Greer and Kathleen Poole. • Holding the broom, Gene Miller raises his hand as the rock touches the button. • Sherri Agnew from Tim Horton's and Murray Matheson toast piper Denis Faubert. • Sherri Middaugh directing her sweepers. • Michael McCutcheon calls line for skip Mike Fournier. • Noel Herron delivers. • Steve Lodge and Jason Boyce on the sidelines.





From left Luke De Groote, Andrew DaCosta, Ryan Kreick, Logan Bedard and Alex Bulch with coaches Sarah DePew and Sabena Islam.

Frontenac takes OFSAA championship

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

Congratulations to the Frontenac High School boys curling team which won the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) curling championship March 23 in Kingston. Eighteen boys teams and 18 girls team competed at all four local curling clubs, with the opening ceremony and finals held at host Cataraqui Golf and Country Club.

The Frontenac boys team of Luke De Groote, Andrew DaCosta, Ryan Kreick, Logan Bedard and Alex Bulch, coached by Sabena Islam, had a 4-1 record in pool play and got stronger as the competition went on. In the final they handed Port Perry High School its only loss of the championship, winning 7-2 in seven ends.

Up until the final, Port Perry had dominated the event, but Kingston Secondary School came close to eliminating them in the semi-final, losing 7-6 in extra ends. Representing KSS were Athanasios (Saki) Braun, Zan Ladinik, Koen Blasko, Owen Marshall, and Adam Robinson, with coaches Sarah Kreick and Cassandra Buckley.

The Frontenac girls team of Laura Johnson, Leia Surette, Lexi Wowk, Hannah Perez and Ella Rowsome finished fourth in their pool with a 3-2 record, while the Kingston Secondary School girls team of Alex Splinter, Stella Groen, Peyton Monk, Adelaide Ormsbee and Opal Phillips finished with a 2-3 record. Frontenac Secondary School offered to host the 2024 OFSAA curling championship after its boys team competed at the 2023 event in North Bay. Under the leadership of coach Sabena Islam, the team's staff advisor Sarah Depew and co-convenor Rachelle Wilson a host committee was formed with volunteers from Cataraqui, RKCC, Gananoque and Napanee curling clubs.

More photos on page 5. Keynote speaker on page 6.



Frontenac SS, L-R: Hannah Perez, Ella Rowsome, Laura Johnson, Leia Surette, and Lexi Wowk

OFSAA, continued

The opening ceremony was held at Cataraqi, followed by a banquet for teams and coaches at St. Lawrence College. Brian Poste, a sport coordinator for OFSAA, congratulated the top curlers in the province and wished them well in the games to follow.

It is a tradition to present ‘The Leadership in School Sport Award’ at each OFSAA Championship. The award recognizes a teacher-coach who has made a significant contribution to the educational athletic program and exemplifies the values of fair play and good sportsmanship while promoting enjoyment, personal growth and educational achievement through school sport.

This year’s recipients were Mark Dunham, from Napanee District Secondary School and Sara Depew from Frontenac Secondary School.

In presenting the award to their coach, the Napanee girls team thanked Mr. Dunham for dedicating over 30 years to coach curling in the community and for instilling in them the skills and values of sportsmanship, dedication and teamwork.

Andrew DaCosta and Laura Johnson presented the leadership award to their teacher-coach Sarah Depew.



Kingston SS, L-R: Opal Phillips, Peyton Monk, Adelaide Ormsbee, Alex Splinter, Stella Groen



Kingston SS, L-R: Koen Blasko, Adam Robinson, Zan Ladnik, Saki Braun, Owen Marshall

“Two years ago Frontenac did not have a curling program,” Andrew said. “We could not find a coach. I had Miss Depew for Grade 9 geography and I loved everything about that class, so I decided to ask her.”

Fortunately, Miss Depew agreed and has been a key part of Frontenac’s immediate and growing success on the ice.

“She travelled with us to North Bay for the 2023 OFSAA championship and is now convening it,” said Andrew. “She really does go above and beyond.”

Keynote speaker urges curlers to make others feel welcome

One of the highlights of the 2024 OFSAA championship was the keynote address by 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.

Dr. Norman has the unique distinction of holding what he calls a “PhD in curling”. His 2020 thesis for his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo is titled “Troubling Dominance in Sport: Deconstructing Curling Culture(s) Through Narrative Inquiry”.

That was completed after doing his Masters thesis on Tennis Canada in 2013. In between those two milestones, he was invited to a bonspiel by Erin Flowers of Goldline Curling. “I didn’t know what a bonspiel was,” he admits. “But I was the only black person there. Why?” Answering that question led to his “PhD in curling” and to his entry into the sport. “The reason I stay is because of people like you all here,” he told the student athletes. “It’s such an amazing and friendly sport, but still there are restrictions. Not everybody can come in and feel welcome.”

Unfortunately, even for someone as immersed in diversity issues and challenges in sport as Dr. Norman, there are no easy answers. In fact, Dr. Norman admitted that he was “even more confused now” than when he did his PhD. The sports world is increasingly complex and every sport has its challenges, every curling club has its challenges. Even diversity, equity and inclusion are very different and can sometimes be in conflict, he said.



Moderator Sabena Islam and Dr. Richard Norman

So where to begin? With intention. “Think about the intention of what you are doing and how you want to approach things,” he advised the young curlers. “What is the most important value and what are you trying to do? What do [you] love about this sport and why would [you] want to share this? Why is it important?”

“How can we use our values and our privileges to do something for someone else who doesn’t have the same privileges?”

Dr. Norman encouraged everyone to take a step outside their comfort zone to make others feel welcome.

“When you go back to your clubs, think about what your intention is in welcoming others to this sport. What do you want to advocate for?”

“Our role in EDI is to make everyone feel welcome . . . not targeting one group in particular, but making the space and the experience welcoming for everyone. It’s not about ME, it’s about everyone else. How can I make sure they have a great experience like I did coming into this sport?”

“Any avenue you choose, as long as you have value and purpose, you’ll be able to make it a welcoming space.”

“You can’t do it on your own,” he continued.

“Share the burden and have some fun with it. Advocacy is not for everybody, but that doesn’t mean that everybody doesn’t have a role.”

Play-off action underway in Stick Leagues

By Kathy Jackson, Chair & Convenor 2023-2024

The Stick section at RKCC remains healthy and vibrant with over 50 curlers in each of the two-person and four-person stick leagues. Parity is evident in both leagues as was demonstrated clearly by very close point totals in the standings.

In the **two-person stick league**, the 'A' division started play-offs last week. In several closely contested matches, the results were as follows:

- Howard Herron and Bill Racz took down the top-seeded team of Mike Schneider and Dave Burke;
- Bruce and Donna Jeffery upset the second place team of Rick Thorburn and Tony Bush;
- Doug Pfeiffer and Bob Moore defeated Bill Worthy and Barry Elvidge;
- and Bill Coulter and Martin Secker defeated Ron Cameron and Helliard in a game that required an extra end.

The 'B' division play-offs will commence this week at 11:30 on Wednesday April 10 with the top two teams from each of the 'B' divisions. These games will feature Collin Brown and Larry Paradis against Ernie Carter and Vic Matthews as well as Ray Pothier and Dave Londry against Bill Vince and William Spencer.

The finals for both divisions will take place on Wednesday April 17 at 11:30am. I encourage everyone to come out and support your fellow stick curlers. New this year, will be the presentation of a plaque to the winners of the 'B' division, thanks to the generosity of the Bauder family.

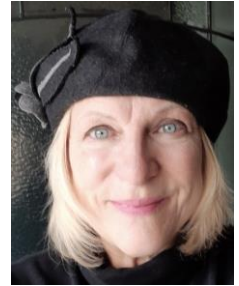
In the **four-person stick league**, play-offs get underway on Thursday April 11 at 11:15. As defending champs, the Townsend team is eager to repeat their winning performance of last year. The other teams hope to have something to say about that! The match-ups are as follows:

- Doug Pfeiffer vs. Mary Skeggs
- Jan Ray vs. Mike Schneider
- Vic Matthews vs. Linda Lott
- Gene Miller vs. David Townsend

Lastly, all stick league members are invited to a season-ending **pizza lunch** which will take place on Wednesday April 17. Come out and watch the two-person stick finals at 11:30am and stick around (*no pun intended!*) for the presentations over a pizza lunch.

Letter from a stick team player

As a senior participating in the ‘Learn to Curl’ program, I asked myself . . . “How will I fit in?” It was unclear at first and I felt uncomfortably discombobulated and directionally disadvantaged as though travelling to a foreign country and not knowing how to communicate. Some of the frontline instructors (at the time) – the Puppet Masters – Denis Faubert, Martha Tanner, Judy Russell and Peter Waugh repetitively began to pull up on the strings attached to a diverse group of neophytes to which I belonged. Expertly, they shaped our movements and taught the language. Hack. T-line. Shot rock. Guard. Draw. Take-out. Foundational words that began to make sense through hands-on application. Ideology of sportsmanship, sport etiquette



and team play were introduced. Hmm . . . team play . . . I would become a stick team player. Groomed with every sweep of the broom. This is how I would fit in.

Trying a new sport for the first time, at whatever age, takes an individual out of their comfort zone. With angst coupled with excitement, I joined the Royal Kingston Curling Club two years ago. Without a doubt, this was one of the best decisions I have made. Despite the varied differences of skill level that exist between club members, there has been camaraderie, humour and a willingness to share ‘the secrets of the elders’. It is a wonderful feeling to be welcomed and showered with assurances that even though I am an older “newbie”, I too belong.

This path taken, thus far, has been abundantly rewarding and I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank two members, Jim Rayner and Claire duBac Rayner, who have fast-tracked my learning curve. A scheduling conflict for Claire in the 2-Person Stick League placed me in a position to spare for the Rayner/Rayner team this past season. My position guaranteed weekly game time and an opportunity for me to be coached by Jim (2024 silver medalist in the 2-person stick provincial championship). I have greatly appreciated Jim’s curling acumen, his teaching abilities and sharp observations while on the ice and post-game insights via email. For example:

“Just wanted to let you know how well you played today. You have a pretty nice delivery and release and for the most part you are on the broom as a target line.”

And

“So today would be a good example of not much going right.” [So, Coach, tell me how you really feel (LOL).] “Sometimes, one or another can keep the game alive but today we were both a bit off our game ... don’t worry about your line and speed shots. They will fall into place as you gather a feel for the ice thickness... just remember, we do not make all our called shots and all of our games are not up to our personal standards and we will have an off day every now and then . . . don’t let it get you down.”

Moving forward, I find myself referencing the coach’s corner in my mind, thinking, “What did Coach Rayner say?”

“Step in and out of the hack with confidence. Remember – body alignment: rock-leg-stick-shoulder. Eyes focused on the Skip’s broom upon rock release. Chances are you will be on your game.”

Thank you to everyone that I have had the pleasure of meeting, along with your words of wisdom, encouragement and support. I look forward, with enthusiasm, to the next curling season. Have a wonderful summer.

- Susan Radford

Thanks for your support!

To: The President, RKCC Board of Directors and Members of the Royal Kingston Curling Club

From: Tony Bush & Jim Rayner

We wish to thank each of you and all Club members for your support in our efforts to capture the Two Person Stick Curling Provincial Championship this past March 2024.

The financial backing by the club and moral support offered by many of the club members went a long way in buoying our efforts to bring home the gold. We almost had the banner and the honour of bringing the big prize home and we have thrown down the gauntlet to this year's winners. We look forward to sitting at the top of the mountain next year and will give it our best.

Also, our sincere congratulations to each of our Club members who qualified and played in Provincial curling events this year.



Jim Rayner, left, and Tony Bush won silver at the 2024 Two Person Stick Provincial Championship in Bobcaygeon March 10.

Sign up for RKCC Summer Golf Tour before April 20

With the start of warmer weather our minds slowly shift to the other great Scottish sport of **GOLF!!** The **RKCC Summer Golf Tour** is back again for 2024. We have some old favorites and a new destination in store for you this year. We will be visiting:

- Amherstview Golf Club (May)
- Garrison Golf Club (June)
- Bay of Quinte Golf and Country Club (July)
- Smugglers Glen Golf Course (August)
- Barcovan Golf Club (September)

The tour is open to all members of RKCC and your friends. Sign up with your regular foursome, as a pair or as a single. To register for the tour go to the RKCC website and register under Events (May). The \$15 registration fee includes the Welcome Back BBQ in September. You can attend as many stops as you want. The cost is \$10 per stop, plus the course fee.

This is a great way to stay in touch with your curling friends throughout the summer so be sure to get yourself registered. Registration closes April 20. We look forward to seeing you on the links.

Summer Golf Tour Committee:

Keith Mitchell, Heather Emslie, Tom Sephton, Karen Peters

CFB Kingston Knights curling team finds a new home



From left: Coach Morgan McGarvey, Pte Brett Ealey-Borsa, Capt Mike Arnott, WO Colin McLay, CPO2 Richard Winsor, Capt Elisa Holland.

Photo provided.

By Capt Elisa Holland, MMM, CD

After the close of the Garrison Curling Club on CFB Kingston, the Knights curling team had no home club or league to play in. Thanks to the Royal Kingston Curling Club, a new partnership with CFB Kingston was formed; this allowed the opportunity to play in the Tuesday Evenings Men's Flight league. This level of curling was critical for our new team to develop. Due to the nature of the military, we only had two original members from previous years. Additionally, the team was able to have practices on Sunday mornings and the possibility of participating in bonspiels. With all the ice time the team was allotted, members of the team improved tremendously over the season.

Every team that we played over the season was supportive and understanding as to why we had requested to play in this league. We were the only base team in Ontario that had a female on the team, so we were very thankful to be given the opportunity to play in a men's-only league.

This year at Regionals, we did not make playoffs, however, we gained a lot of experience and a couple of us will be joining the club as members next year to get even more ice time! Fortunately, most of the team will be returning next season, so looking forward to improving on our record at next year's regionals. Despite the results at regionals, the team is as motivated as ever to compete at the highest possible level. At the end of March the team competed in a final bonspiel and finished with a perfect 5-0 record, winning the whole thing!

We were pleased to present a small plaque to the club and league back in February, which can be seen displayed in the centre trophy window. Thank you again for the community support and look forward to next season.

CFB Kingston Knights Curling Team



Grandmothers and Great Aunts Bonspiel

By Karen Matheson

The 49th annual Grandmothers and Great Aunts bonspiel on March 27 with the theme of “Bring back your childhood”, had 16 teams attend. The curlers went through a time machine to take them back to their childhood with toys and games, along with the youthful competition of curling.

The ladies had some excellent games and fun was had by everyone. The overall winner of the Grandmothers and Great Aunts from Draw B was Donna Jeffery’s team of Joanne Manion, Mary Skeggs and Sheila McHenry. Draw A’s winner was Barb Naylor’s team of Marnie McCall, Martha Kennedy and Carol Beaudin Hayes from the Cataraqi Golf and Curling Club.

There were great costumes that evoked our childhood from Disney characters and storybook characters, to beloved TV characters. The bonspiel could not have happened without the many wonderful volunteers and the support of the Day Women’s Club.



Top left: Birthday girls Kathy Jackson, Deb Kennedy, Linda and Candace McConomy. Above: the Friendly Giant (Sharen McDowell). Below; the Flintstones.





Three of the 101 Dalmatians, plus Cruella Deville.



Draw B winners, from left, Sheila McHenry, Mary Skeggs, Joanne Manion, skip Donna Jeffery.



Draw A winners from Cataraqui.



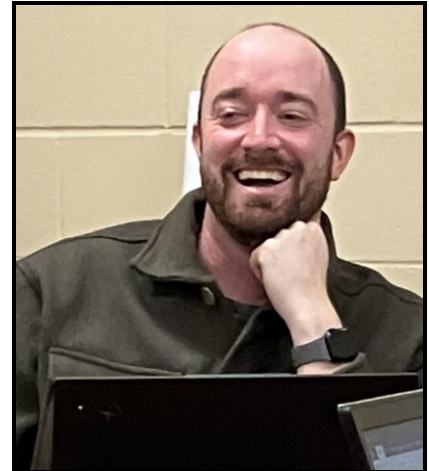
The Three Little Pigs and the huffing and puffing Wolf from Cataraqui Golf & Country Club.

CurlION ED visits RKCC

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

When Matt Allen applied for the job of CurlION Executive Director, he promised that if he were hired, he would lead the organization from the bottom up and lend a close ear to stakeholders and member clubs. It wasn't a false promise.

Just six months into his new role, Matt has met with the board of 70 curling clubs and had virtual meetings with some 200 individual stakeholders.



Royal Kingston, where he met with board members on March 15, was the last on his around-the-province tour and a homecoming for Matt who grew up in Kingston and whose father lives here still. "There is a lot of positive energy for curling in Ontario," he told the board. "We want to build better trust and collaboration with our member clubs. How can we be better for you?"

Matt explained that he has been an official, a coach, a committee member and board member, and what has always frustrated him is when the provincial or national sport association makes decisions that are best for the people in the board room and not for the people out participating in sport. Thus his commitment to listening to member clubs and improving communication. One of his first moves was to create the position of Member Services Coordinator to support member clubs. He has also heard loud and clear from member clubs about how difficult it is to navigate the CurlION website, and hopes to launch a new website in September.

Keith Mitchell told Matt that he would like to hear from other clubs about their successes and what they've tried, for example, regarding programs in the off-curling season.

"That's one of the top three things I've heard," replied Matt. "There is a strong desire for clubs to share and learn from each other." The new website, he continued, would provide the opportunity for the board to log in to participate in open forums and information-sharing.

"The second part is education." CurlION, he explained is looking at how to help clubs with policy templates, operational procedures, diversity programs and initiatives, bonspiels – even creative ways to start the season.

Thirdly, he continued, CurlION needs to do a "way better" job of collecting data in the province. For example, he offered, "We have no idea of the number of curlers in Ontario. We have no idea of the number of six-sheet clubs. How many clubs have pickleball in the summer? We want to have as much information about our member clubs as possible.

"We have heard so many different success stories and we can learn from different industries too."

Asked if he had heard any talk about making helmets mandatory, Matt replied that the legal counsel of Curling Canada has said we do not have the ability to mandate safety requirements for adults in a recreational sport.

"Other clubs are struggling with this issue too," he said. "I know of one club that is trying to mandate helmets and the membership has completely backlashed on the board."

See CurlION on page 14

CurlION continued from page 13.

Matt's wide-ranging discussion with board members also touched on insurance, waivers, skills development, training for ice technicians, hosting qualifying events and provincial championships, and the competitive stream for junior curlers.

He concluded by reminding the board that communication is a two-way street and encouraging it to reach out when experiencing challenges.

"We're here for you," he said. "We can tap into Curling Canada and even other provincial associations that may have similar challenges. Don't keep them in this board room. We're here to help you."

Open Doubles – Cool Fun Facts

By Peter Coughlin, Doubles Convenor

As we go to press for this update, our Open Doubles league has had an awesome 2023-24 season with some very fine curling, good sportsmanship and way too much fun.

We welcomed six new teams this season, including two teams of high school curlers.

We are proud of the two league teams that participated in provincial competition for Mixed Doubles (Melissa Wong/Corey St-Laurent and Anthony Hale/Denise Mulville) while Doubles curlers Logan Bedard, Luke De Groote and Andrew DaCosta are gold medal OFSAA champions and league curler Laura Johnson was a solid team member for her high school OFSAA competition.

The Doubles playoffs kick off on Wednesday, April 10, with a social-mixer to celebrate the wrap-up of our four-draw season and to have a chance to say hello to all league players before the season finishes.

Curlers often start to muse about their plans for next season and we are ready to welcome new Doubles teams. Graduates of the Adult Learn to Curl program are certainly welcome.

You might be uncertain about the modified free guard zone or the two pre-positioned rocks at the start of each end, but Doubles curlers are

encouraging and ready to offer friendly reminders about the finer points of Doubles play.

Our league is organized into three flights, so that new teams are matched with teams closer to their curling skill and Doubles experience.

Many will tell you that Doubles curling is an excellent way to improve your draw weight and work collaboratively on game strategy.

Several teams are also moving to a three-person roster, so that if one curler is tied up with work schedules or vacation time, the remaining two team curlers are ready to go.

League play is fast paced, is only six ends and there are five rocks thrown per team. Games are either 7:45 or 9:15 pm on Wednesdays.

The autumn Open Doubles Invitational Bonspiel is ready to go for Saturday, November 30, 2024 and this could be a smart way to try out Doubles and maybe jump into league play.

Finally, come on out to see some fine Doubles curling on Championship Saturday, April 20. Will 2023 Riverhead Champions Melissa Wong, Corey St-Laurent and Briana Dubue be there to defend their title or will there be new Doubles champions for 2024?

See you at the club.

Day Women's Club 2023-2024 Season Recap



Above: Draw 4 winners Marilyn Wilson (for Josee Dumas-Hurt), Francine Korczynski, Diane Carty and Lindsey Foster.

Photo left: Draw 3 winners Pat Wideman, Bev Ayling, Deb Emerton (for Carolyn Bernes) and Renee LeClair.

By Mary Kelly, Day Women's Club Convenor

We've had another fun year of club curling! Our 2023-2024 Draw Winners included:

Draw 1: Melanie McEwen, Deb Kennedy, Trish Beckett, Brenda Merkle

Draw 2: Melanie McEwen, Francine Korczynski, Cathy Fobert, Angie Greer

Draw 3: Renee Leclair, Carolyn Bernes, Bev Ayling, Pat Wideman

Draw 4: Josee Dumas-Hurt, Francine Korczynski, Diane Carty, Lindsey Foster

During the final week of playoffs, our Fall Winner team (Melanie McEwen, Deb Kennedy, Trish Beckett, Brenda Merkle) will play our Winter Winner team (TBD) to become the 2023-2024 Day Women's Club Champions. The winning team will play the Evening Women's Club Champions for the Carrie Cole Championship.

As we draw to the close of another successful year at RKCC I wish you all a safe and fun-filled summer, and look forward to seeing you in the fall! The 2024-2025 Day Women's Club season will be in the expert hands of France Kelly (Convenor) and Candace McConomy (Assistant Convenor).

Women's leagues retire the antiquated label

Who are you calling a 'lady'?

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

At their annual general meetings April 1 and April 2 respectively, the evening and daytime women's leagues formally voted to change the name of the leagues from Ladies to Women's. Evening Women's Flight. Day Women's Flight. Evening Women's Club. Day Women's Club.

Perhaps it doesn't roll off the tongue as easily as Day Ladies Club, but we'll get used to it. We are women after all.

The change was brought forward by Mary Kelly, a convenor and a member of the club's Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee, after several members approached her about making the change.

Mary did some research before the meeting and presented a number of points for consideration. Chief among these is that national sports teams (including curling) are usually referred to as men's or women's. "There has been movement globally to de-gender the terms used for sports teams, but short of that, to replace the outdated term "ladies" with "women". The term 'woman' has become associated with strength and power versus 'lady', which connotes femininity, gentleness [and gentility], politeness, and fragility."

I did some research too.

Our own club is proud of its history and the fact that, founded in 1820, it is the second-oldest curling club in Canada. But when we celebrated our 200th anniversary in 2020, we might as well have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of men's curling in Kingston. Until the late 1890s, women were considered too delicate for curling. It wasn't until 1909 that women formed the Kingston Ladies Curling Club and rented a locker room and ice time from the Kingston Curling Club. And that's the way it remained for another 53 years until the two clubs amalgamated in the 1962-63 season.

Fiona Tomas, a sports reporter for *The Telegraph* (UK) said she loathes the word "ladies" in women's sport.

"Overt gender marking has always been an inherent problem for women in sport, but the term 'ladies' takes it to a whole new level," she wrote. "For me, the term screams physical fragility, reinforces sexual stereotypes and depicts sportswomen as inferior to sportsmen.

"The lady boxers, jockeys and footballers of the world have bigger barriers to size up to as sportswomen – the fight for increased media coverage, having equal opportunities and the battle to change sexist perceptions."

Ask the lady curlers of Canada about the battle to change sexist attitudes. It's no secret that Canada's top women curlers have been bombarded with hate on social media, by email and even by telephone for being too loud, too shrill, too fat, too skinny, for not smiling, for swearing, for wearing glasses, for their hair, their makeup, or for spending time away from their children!

Continued on page 17.

'Women', continued from page 16.

Chelsea Carey has been called ugly and a b—ch because she doesn't smile enough.

Do you think anyone called Brad Gushue after he won the Brier and told him he is a horrible curler and a terrible dad? Or called Kevin Koe a whatever the equivalent name is because he doesn't smile enough?

Curling Canada regularly gets complaints about women shouting too loudly on the ice. Or having tattoos. Complaints about men shouting too loudly or having tattoos? Zero.

Curling Canada has acknowledged that there is still a long way to go until women in sports are treated with as much respect as men in sports. When women have to be "ladies" on the ice, but men can be men, it's not an equal playing field.

Formally changing "ladies" leagues to "women's" leagues is one small step towards achieving that equality.

CANADIAN WOMEN & SPORT

SHE'S GOT IT ALL: LEADERSHIP SKILLS, TENACITY, AND THE CHALLENGE OF NOT SHOWING BOTH WHEN SHE COMPETES.

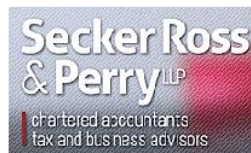
High-level curling demands strategizing, taking charge, and bringing intense focus to the game. Men with these skills are admired, but women are perceived as too serious—or even angry. Women should be judged on their athletic abilities, not how pleasantly they smile as they play.

Let's change the game at yourrole.womenandsport.ca

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Michael
Braun





MOMENTUM
PILATES

