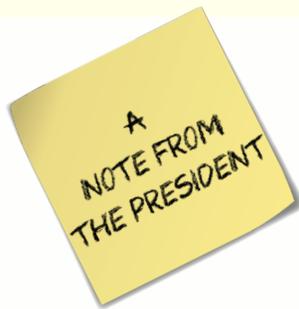




ROCK TALK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITBY CURLING CLUB



Well, what a unique season that was! After ending last season early last year and cancelling all the events over the summer due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus, we were left with the tough decision on if we should open for this season.

Our number one priority was to provide a safe environment for our members and staff. Erin Macaulay was left with the task of forming a committee that would follow all government guidelines and still allow us to enjoy curling safely. She went above and beyond! After providing the members with The Return to Curl plan a survey was sent out and approximately 300 members were confident enough that curling and socializing in the lounge could be enjoyed from a safe social distance. The registration numbers gave us financial security. As we navigated through unprecedented times the Board, staff and league reps had to spend extra time with planning, organizing and coordinating schedules and procedures. I personally want to thank everyone for all their hard work that was put into making this season happen.

I also want to thank the members for their patience and understanding. The decision to join this year or to stay home was a tough one to make for a lot of people. As you all know, The Whitby Curling Club is more than just a curling facility that you play in. Whether you threw a rock this year or not you are all members and part of our family. What ever decision you made it was the right one.

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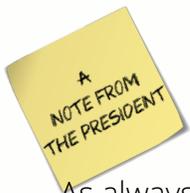
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As always (during the off season) volunteers stepped up when needed. Brent Collett painted the upstairs Bradley Room. Bruce Pizzolato, Dale Duke and Blayne Pascoe spent a lot of time pulling wires, fixing dishwashers and hanging doors. Donna Salt does an incredible job with our gardens. Paul Morgan updates our website. This just names a few of the many people that put so much time into our great club. This is also a good time to remind people to fill out the Volunteer of The Year Award found on our website.

We are lucky to have the greatest staff that stepped up too. Angela and Jamie had their group of bar staff and ice assistants making sure the club was run smoothly and continued to be The House of Hospitality.

As the season moved along there were many more ups and downs and highs and lows. We rolled with punches and continued to work together to ensure our little club on Brock St got through this pandemic. We were lucky enough to enjoy a few games, bonspiels and fun skills competitions. We have tried to include all members in special activities such as Bingo, car rallies, online cribbage, Salvation Army holiday donation float and virtual beer tasting. Looking ahead we have many more activities planned that will keep us active and together.

As Whitby was the only club in the area that decided to open we were blessed with having a few new (and returning) members to our club. We hope you were made to feel welcome and safe. Thank you for joining us.

The decision to end the 2020/21 season early, once again, was not an easy one to make. However, with no guarantee that businesses would be allowed to open up in the near future it became financially restrictive to continue to operate. On February 2, 2021 the last of the melted ice was removed by Jamie and Victoria and the lights were shut off in the rink.

Although the curling season has ended, there is still a lot of work and decisions ahead of us. Our focus now shifts to the responsibility of keeping our club financially stable over the next 6 months and into the 2021/22 season. The Board of Directors will once again ask for your patience and understanding. Thank you to all that have supported me during my first year as President and I look forward to a day I can see you all in person.

Please reach out at anytime if you have any questions or comments: president@whitbycurlingclub.com
Mandy Bennett





It has been quite a year so far!

I am so proud of the Whitby Curling Club community, volunteers, and staff for so many reasons! Everyone has stepped up in one way or another – whether it was registering early to help the club out financially, or the board and volunteers who spent hours and hours of their personal time to make sure our club could reopen safely. To the staff who had to learn all new policies and procedures and did so with that “House of Hospitality” attitude.

We know and understand the difficult decision many of our members faced regarding returning or not this season and we respect whatever decision you made! You are all part of the Whitby Curling Club community and we are excited to have everyone together again for the 2021-2022 season! The leagues had been running smoothly with our new protocols. Thank you to the league coordinators for continuously adjusting and accommodating to the ever-changing rules and regulations and to the members for adjusting to the new processes.

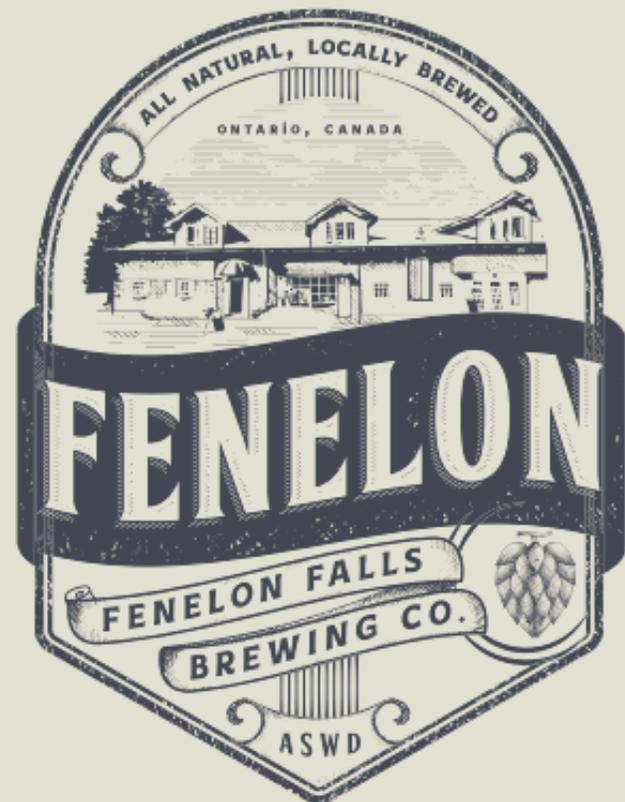
Thank you to Jeff Whelan and the Oktoberfest committee for putting on a safe and fun event for our members to enjoy.

Thank you to Rob Phillips for organizing creative events to maintain our sense of community during such a complicated and isolating time.

As you are all aware the Club has made the difficult decision to close for the remainder of the season. I cannot wait to see you all again in the fall for the 2021-2022 season!

Angela Feurstein WCC Manager

Manager's Report





STONEPICKER

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OUR BEER ROCKS!

Curling Facts Presented by Stonepicker

Curling was invented in Scotland over 500 years ago.

Unlike other objects, curling stones “curl” or spin in the same direction as they’re rotated. It’s a phenomenon that baffles even physicists.

The first curling stones in Canada were made of iron. Weighing between 60 and 80 lbs. and shaped like tea kettles, they can still be found in trophy cases at clubs across the country.

Today’s curling stones are made of granite – but not just any granite. The stone is sourced exclusively from two locations: the Scottish island of Alisa Craig, and a quarry in Wales.

PROPERTY & ICE REPORT

As most of you have noticed, a number of hydro poles have been relocated along Brock Street. This work is in anticipation of the future widening of Brock Street. The Region of Durham, in partnership with the Town of Whitby, will be adding a centre turn lane from just south of the Whitby Curling Club through the Manning Road intersection, where north-south left turn lanes will be added.

As such, the frontage of the club's property will be affected to accommodate the widening. This will include the reconstruction of both our driveways. I am in touch with the project manager to fully understand the impact, whether parking spaces will be affected and the impact on our sign. The Region is anticipating tendering the contract in February with a spring 2021 start of construction. Further details will be shared when available.

Doug MacKay
Property and Ice



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Curlers are responsible for building Canada's first indoor ice rink. You can send your thanks to the Royal Montreal Curling Club. First established in 1807 by a group of Scottish immigrants, it's now the oldest active sports club in North America.



Curling Facts Presented by Brock Street

The “hog line” gets its name from an old Scottish slang term for weak lamb, which was likely to be culled from the flock. Likewise, a “hogged stone” is one that doesn’t reach the far hog line and must be removed from play.

Curling is also known as “the roaring game”, which refers to the sound the rock makes travelling over the ice. The playing surface isn’t smooth; it’s actually covered with droplets of frozen water “pebbles”.

Curling is the only sport where players shake hands at the beginning and at the end of each game. The good sportsmanship extends even further, with players calling themselves out for fouls and winners buying the losers a beer.

To train, professional curlers do need to do full-body workouts. The sport isn’t just about precision it’s also about flexibility, balance, stamina and strength, as players are expected to launch stones the weight of a three-year-old child and sweep around 1.5 kilometres in the course of a game.



We were delighted to have been able to celebrate our Eighth Annual Oktoberfest On Saturday November 14th. Due to the need for social distancing we were not able to accommodate everyone we would have liked to so we had to limit our entries to 12 teams. But boy what a group of All-Stars we were able to assemble. Friends old and new, Oktoberfest battle hardened veterans and new members to the club joined past Oktoberfest Champions to compete for the Oktoberfest crown. Registration began this year at a pretty reasonable 9:45 am where teams were ushered into our two-story Biergarten. Participants enjoyed complimentary coffee courtesy of our community partners at Tim Hortons. Welcome gifts this year were provided by our friends at the Brock Street Brewery and of course our special limited-edition Oktoberfest 2020 pins will be a unique keepsake that our participants will look at fondly after this pandemic is finally put behind us. Once the teams took to the ice and the rocks started flying one team started inching away from the pack. Team Salt was able to capture 20 of a possible 22 points in their first match. Team Bemister, Team Phillips and Team Taite were nipping at their heels with defending Champion Team Mitchell still in the hunt. Team Cook was able to overcome the initial onslaught from a strong DeMerchant rink to squeeze out a narrow victory and put a scare into the leading rinks to be a possible darkhorse victor. Thus an amazing down to the wire finish was set with these Juggernauts facing off for the 2020 Oktoberfest Crown.

OKTOBERFEST





OKTOBERFEST

After our first contests the players were rewarded with a well-deserved rest with our new and improved bar service. Thanks to WCC's innovative spirit, "nach dem spiel" cocktails were ordered by text while the players were still battling on the ice so our thirsty competitors could sit down in a very civilized manner and enjoy their cocktails immediately after their matches in our new two-story Biergarten. Shortly thereafter the incredible culinary stylings of WCC's own Matt and Mandy Bennett and Rebecca Phillips were able to sate the players palates and fuel them properly for their final push for the Oktoberfest crown. With a lot of planning and modern technology we were indeed able to have our now famous L-R-C competition. This resulted in a lot of laughs as two very large contact-free LRC games ensued. 6 winners became the finalists for a winner take all event that was broadcast, along with our raucous closing ceremonies, on PTV (Phillips Television) courtesy of producer/cameraman Rob Phillips. This televised event was hotly contested and was won with Hannah Lariviere having the honor of hoisting the Oktoberfest L-R-C trophy. Now the final push for the 2020 WCC Oktoberfest championship would begin. In the "B" division some hotly contested battles would see Oktoberfest veterans DeMerchant and Lariviere, Oktoberfest newcomers Team Krupa and Team Edwards face off while Team Warne would battle a strong Oktoberfest committee team.

In the "run for the roses" Team Phillips made a strong push with Team Mitchell in the thick of things but in the end Team Salt were able to get by the shot making prowess of Team Bemister to secure victory and the 2020 Oktoberfest championship. A hearty congratulations goes to Team Salt consisting of master strategists Dave and Donna Salt with front end smoothies Chris and Melissa Boers.



OKTOBERFEST

The WCC Oktoberfest committee would like to thank the Whitby Curling Club and the wonderful community partners from: Cooper Gordon Ltd, Brock Street Brewing, Cameron Brewery, Stone Picker Brewery, Hand and Stone Massage, Tim Hortons and his (and her) honor Mayor Don Mitchell and the lovely FLOW (first lady of Whitby) Liz Mitchell.

Thanks to them our prize raffle table was the best it has ever been and fun was had by all, except Justin who for the first time in my experience was shut out from the prize table. Better luck next year Justin.

With some new safety measures in place some of the competitors did remain to socialize in a safe manner for some friendly revelry and in true WCC Oktoberfest spirit shared stories and fond memories of a day well spent.

On behalf of the WCC Oktoberfest committee I would like to thank all the people who trusted us to provide them with a safe but fun-filled day and do hope that our event next year sees all the safety measures we took to be no longer necessary and everything is back to normal.



CORN HOLE COMING SOON!





Curling Fact Presented by Fenlon Falls

The Beatles nearly died while curling. Okay, that might be a stretch. But in their 1965 musical comedy film "HELP" they almost bit the dust when a curling stone is booby-trapped with a bomb.

South Korea's women's curling team is known as the "Garlic Girls". The Olympic silver medal-winning team come from a farming region known for producing garlic.

In what can only be described as peak Canadiana, the Tragically Hip appeared in the 2002 film "Men with Brooms". Their role??? Team Kingston, of course.

CURLON REPORT

When asked to put out a report of activities it is extremely hard to do when there has been no activity. Oh wait!

There have been many e-mails from CurlON keeping clubs up to date in Ontario with government regulations. What clubs have chosen to stay closed for the season, changes in classifications from the Ontario Health Units, and much more. I can let you know that CurlON has announced it will hopefully host 3 Championships this winter and 2 early fall 2021. I have taken information from an e-mail received on Nov 25 which was their 5th revision to their plan. The following information has been pulled from that e-mail:

“With an ever changing landscape due to Covid-19 measures, CurlON has been working diligently to create plans (version 5 is being presented today) to host safe and meaningful competitions in Ontario under the proper protocols and measures. As with all our plans they can be obsolete once released based on new information provided by Health officials and Provincial measures imposed on facilities and sports. We are working within these new modified protocols to host the competitions all while creating a safe environment for athletes, officials, host clubs and staff but caution we could be forced to modify, adjust or cancel our plans accordingly. CurlON will NOT host any competitions while any of our jurisdictions is in the CONTROL(Red) or LOCKDOWN(Grey) measures in consideration that athletes in those measures should not be traveling to other jurisdictions. There was an open conference call December 1st to discuss competitions – The following are the competitions which will happen based on Health Officials and Provincial measures.

Here is the link: <http://www.curl-on.ca/competitions/>

Mixed Doubles - Feb

Scott Tournament - Feb

ON Tankard -Feb

U18 Men & Women - Fall

U21 Men & Women - Fall



Since the e-mail on November 25 there have been 4 more advising us of changes in protocols based on Health Units. I know that one more club which opened has now closed due to their region (Unionville).

CurlON announced a Calgary bubble for the following: STOH, Tankard and Mixed doubles and the Men's worlds which are all scheduled for February. The slam has said they will run a couple of events in the same venue. All events will be held with no spectators. ** Note all this information could change and may have changed by the time this article is published**I have only touched the surface with this information. The CurlON website has a host of information available if you are looking for something. In closing, Bob and I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe all. I am missing everyone and hope that we can be back to curling in the fall of 2021.

Liz Winters

WCC CurlON Rep

“Editor’s Note: We had intended to publish this article before Christmas. We apologize to Liz for any information that is now out of date. We also miss Liz and Bob very much too.”

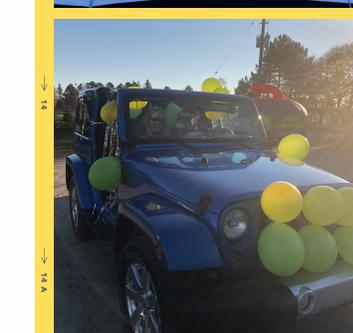
OUTSIDE THE RINGS

For anyone that has had the extreme pleasure of meeting me knows that "being social" is imbedded deep in my DNA. Yes, I'm an incredibly talented and award winning curler but that isn't what draws me to the Whitby Curling Club. It's all the stuff that happens off the ice that really creates that special bond between members and sets our club apart from all the others. When Covid-19 appeared and threatened our way of life we had to start thinking Outside the Rings to keep this curling camaraderie alive. The moment curling operations shut down last March a few members jumped into action. Bingo Bob and his sidekick Vanna Whiteboard hosted a Bingo game twice a week that had up to 100 people playing for donated prizes. Jo-Ann Jordan organized virtual Cribbage tournaments. Bill Windrem and his group focused on world domination with their Tuesday night online Risk games. The senior men had weekly trivia games. Members stepped up and kept us all together while being forced apart.

As the reality set in that the pandemic was going to be here for awhile our club didn't stop hanging on to the spirit of being there for each other. Whether it was meeting in a parking lot to join a surprise birthday drive by, join a Christmas gathering zoom chat or being in a parade to help celebrate Karen ring the Cancer free bell we all came together.

A few more events were organized to help give us something to do. The First Annual Car Rally had members racing around Durham region on a sunny Sunday afternoon. A float was built and driven around Whitby collecting food and toys for the Salvation Army. A virtual 428km walking tour of all our beer sponsors is currently underway. Lisa Pizzolato is collecting recipes to create a curling cookbook. And finally, there are a few dining room tables right now that have puzzle pieces scattered over them as their owners attempt to put together the 1000 piece WCC Puzzle. All of these events are keeping people active, engaged and feeling part of the Whitby Curling Club family. I want to thank everyone that has organized and participated in any of these events.

With the 2020/2021 officially coming to an end more events are being planned. Angela has organized a beer sampling night which is happening soon, the logistics of an online auction is being worked on and depending when we are allowed to gather again a new Whitby Cornhole League announcement is something to look forward to. Again, thank you to everyone that has thought Outside the Rings for activities that keep people engaged and social.



MIXED REPORT

Reader's note: *I wrote this before the Red Zone restrictions took out our league play but I believe this makes the entry all that more poignant. However, looking back and thinking about the enjoyment I got from that flirtation with the sport, maybe it is a warm spot in a darker landscape.* Dave Simmons

I've curled for a long time, since the early 70's. I started out in sand-bottomed rinks where the rumble of the rocks sliding along the ice meant having to raise your voice. I often wondered if the frozen lochs of Scotland made a similar sound. That's where the name "curling" comes from – Old Scottish "curr" meaning "to rumble". I learned how to soak my inverted straw broom to get a good whack on the ice and how to tape my hands to prevent loonie-sized chunks of skin from being torn off my palms as I brought my Rink Rat up to speed to join in the continuous thunder that was sweeping back then. I have curled in a lot of Clubs and in different formats, but I have never tried COVID Curling before.

It is a pain – wearing a mask fogged up my glasses and breathing was harder after a long scrubbing of an underthrown draw shot. Where do I stand if there are not enough markers? Did I forget to put my mask back on when I finished delivering a stone? I miss my locker – it is handy for a lot of things. And it is difficult to chat with the other team after the game – we all need selectable microphones at the tables. Hmm... that might be a really good idea!

But I have noticed that things are different in other ways. On the ice, I hear the scratching of a brush with a new head. And somehow, it is a clearer, sharper sound. The conversations at the table have become more intense, more thought provoking, leaving me to wonder about various points on my way home.

The look of elation on my vice's face is etched into my memory as she came down to the house to see what happened when she gave perfect weight and precise striking to her rock. What appeared from the other end as a bump into a couple of rocks was really a triple angled raise to the four foot within a fortress defending the front of the house (to you naysayers, yes, I called it!). Going home after a game, I have a warm feeling of satisfaction of an evening well spent and my strategy mistakes and almost made shots fade into the darkness.

What's going on here? What is making curling this season so different from other seasons?

It dawned on me a couple of weeks ago that every time I head out to the Club, it crosses my mind that I could be curling my last game... for a while... or even ... gasp... the entire season. How do I want to end my season? I'm not ready to let go of it! I make a determination that I am going to embrace the game, enjoy it, savour it and be thankful that I got one more experience on the ice this season. In the process of doing this, my heightened awareness is actually creating a richer experience, and it is all triggered by my COVID worries.

I believe that there is a lesson here – think of each game as your last of the season - how will you approach it, play it and remember it? Listen to the sounds, watch the details, seize a moment and caress it. Maybe COVID curling can become our "always" experience and deepen our appreciation for the game. If you see me on the ice on a Wednesday night – give me a thumbs up – I'll know where it is coming from.

Curl safely, Dave Simmons

DAY LADIES

REPORT



Things looked very different for the Day Ladies League at the beginning of the 2020/2021 season. The ladies who chose to curl, donned their masks and sanitized their hands and did what they needed to do to play according to the Return 2 Play Guidelines. Our games convenors Margaret Chew and AnnMarie Fitzpatrick devised a format that would enable us to have both Monday afternoon and Thursday afternoon curling.

The ladies enjoyed the format of three person teams with each player delivering 2 rocks per end. Each game consisted of 6 ends. Scoring was total points earned, and the points accumulated from each game will be carried by individual curlers, with the idea being that prizes be awarded to individual curlers with the most points, after 10 games. Rated positions were not applied and each team was free to rotate positions from week to week if desired. Our Thursday draw league finished one complete draw and Monday had 2 more games left in their schedule.

While we were unable to start the season with our usual Get Acquainted Day, Connie Young reached out to all of the curlers new to our league with a "Get Acquainted" phone call.

A warm welcome to Margaret Cox, Lorraine DePaulo, Laurie Jones, Lynn O'Brien, Patty Orecchio, Nikole Perreault, Diana Regan and Janet Russell.



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