

ROCK TALK



Whitby Curling Club Newsletter

Winter 2016/2017

Message from the President!

On behalf of the Board of Director's, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our returning members and a heartfelt Hello and Welcome to our new members!

The common theme for this year seems to be **stability** on all fronts. We were able to maintain our fees at last year's rates and maintain our membership numbers for this season.

Staffing is also stable. We are glad to see all of our staff returning this year. The bar staff (**Kara, Julie, Victoria and Glenn**) seem to be able to put up with all, or most, of us. The ice staff (**Jamie, Dave, Victoria again and Melissa**) had a very challenging beginning to the season. The ridiculously hot and humid weather in early October made it difficult for them to provide us with playable ice. But most of the time it was not only playable but fast and consistent. Our Manager, **Angela** has learned a lot about our sport, club operations and our members in only one year. Surprisingly, she was still happy to continue with us and improve the service to our members.

This brings me to thanking our outgoing President, **Tracey Macaulay**, for her service to the Whitby Curling Club. She had to deal with some extraordinary situations including the hiring of a new manager and assistant ice technician in the same year. She also had to put up with educating me as her understudy for the past two years. The diligence and professionalism with which she approached the position of President have set a high standard for those that follow. She has left the Board on a solid footing from which to move forward.

I am very happy that most of our Directors have agreed to stay on the Board for, at least, another year. Even though things are stable for the Board, they cannot be allowed to become stagnant. Elsewhere in this edition of Rock Talk you will find a listing of the Board members, their portfolio's and some of their early-season activities.

Please feel free to contact any of the Directors with concerns, suggestions, or even congratulations for a job well done. We are all volunteers and need to know what might be improved **and** what was done right.

The success of the Whitby Curling Club is due to the work that **all** of its volunteer members put into the running of leagues, activities and events on a regular basis. In the pages that follow, you will read about those efforts; both to date and to come throughout the rest of the curling season. Please try to participate or help out with these activities; whether they are fundraisers, bonspiels, curling and etiquette instruction, running leagues or participating in outside competitions. These things only happen because our members make them happen. You are the ones that make the Whitby Curling Club the "House of Hospitality".

Good on you!

Bryce Jordan, President



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Meet Your Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors has been very active prior to, and early in this curling season. Please see below for a listing of the Directors and some of their accomplishments so far.

Ross Weldon (Property and Ice) and his volunteers have replaced all of the lighting in the club house with LED lighting that is cost efficient and consistent in the colour of the light throughout the building.

Rod Bemister (Member-at-Large) has submitted the application for capital grant to the Trillium Foundation to re-clad, make air tight, and insulate the arena. He has also up-graded the sound system in the Bradley Room.

Liz Winters (OCA Rep), with assistance from Bob, Has applied to the OCA for the opportunity to host the Scotties Provincial Women's Championship in 2018.

Malcolm Macaulay (Bar and Kitchen) continues to add great new draft beers to complement the favourite oldies he dare not delete.

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Glen Walker (Membership) and **Rob Phillips** (Vice President), our two new Board members, organized the Whitby Curling Club's participation in the Santa Claus Parade which we have not done in a while.

Mandy Bennett (Fundraising) got things off to an early start with the new Comedy Night fundraiser in August.

Mike Elmhurst (Treasurer) has prepared a budget which should see us operate "in the black" again this year.

Laurie Light (Secretary) keeps us all in order and from missing our monthly meetings.

Bryce Jordan (President) shows up to meetings and tries to get them completed in a little more than an hour or so.

Thank You to Sarah Gray for all her hard work and dedication to Curling Development over the years at Whitby. Working on projects such as Learn to Curl and The Novice League.

Mixed Curling!

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And now let's turn the spotlight on the Mixed Nation. We are in need of someone to co-ordinate the delivery of snacks that we enjoy at the end of each draw and during the playoffs, a **Snackmeister**, if you will. The Snackmeister will be responsible for coming up with the snacks and employ the assistance of fellow Mixed Nationites or committee members to produce the treats. These can be simple or fairly fancy, as the Wednesday people have found out with rumours of curlers foregoing dinner knowing that the contents of crock pots await them at the end of their game. The funds for the snacks come from the Mixed prize money that we all contributed at the beginning of the season. See myself on Wednesday or any Mixed Committee member on Friday night with Joanna Rolfe having lots of experience with the task. It's a great way to get your volunteer hours in!

See you on the ice!

You're back in the game and enjoying curling for another season. You've got your new slider, moisture-wicking top and thermal layers and are trying to understand what the excitement over the new nylon brush head material is all about. But you find yourself wondering, am I missing something?

You hear stories about last year's Mixed Closing, about theme nights, hot snacks and people in tears hearing about the exploits of an ex-soldier who has a great delivery, on the ice and with his story-telling. Could there be curling *and* a lot of fun to be had on Wednesday and Friday nights?

Of course there is! Mixed Curling is the most popular league for a simple one-word reason –fun! You can jump right in and join either or both nights as a single entry or with a partner. If you like, sign up to spare in the league and get a taste of the hype. We're sure you'll become addicted and meet lots of people with all sorts of stories and conversation along with the curling you already enjoy.

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Message from the MANAGER

Welcome Back! I am so excited to start a new season as the Whitby Curling Club Manager! I am looking forward to working with all the wonderful volunteers and staff here.

After having now been through a full season, I am extremely motivated to improve the club and your experience as a member as much as possible.

We've changed the building lighting to LED lights which will save on costs and energy, I created the membership handbook which members will hopefully find useful and we're moving to online registration for all our bonspiels! Lots of fun and new things happening around the club. Make sure to keep an eye out for my weekly emails which will tell you about any other news about the club.

As with last season, the office hours are Monday-Friday 10:30am-7:00pm. As you know, the club is a busy place and there may be times where I'm away from my desk for work related tasks and errands. You can always send an email with your inquiries to info@whitbycurlingclub.com.

Good Curling everyone!

HOW ABOUT THEM DOUBLES!

This year the club introduced a new league, Mixed Doubles on Wednesday nights. The league started with 6 teams and has had a couple of additional teams show some interest so we are now at 8 teams! Great start.

The game is similar but different and a lot of fun. It is played with 2 players (a male and female). The premise of the game is the same; however, there are a lot more rocks in play only 6 rocks per team are used each end. The game is shorter in duration and you always feel like you are involved, less time to get cold out there!

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Mixed Doubles has become quite popular and is slated for the next Olympics!

We plan on offering the league again next season and hope to have more people come out to give it a try!

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Club Coach Workshop Hosted by the Ennismore Curling Club in October 2016

As you know from the ECC November Newsletter, the Ennismore Curling Club hosted a successful Club Coach Workshop on the weekend of October 22 & 23. This is to send you a few pictures and a little more information about this event.

The purpose of the Club Coach Workshop was to provide formal training to volunteer coaches needed in the Ennismore Curling Club Learn to Curl programs including Student Curling (After School & During School), New Curler Instructional League, and Novice Curling.

Eleven curlers participated in the two-day workshop and obtained their Club Coach designation. The Ennismore Curling Club Board wish to thank members Bill Ingram, Dianne Harris, Marshall Ferguson and Kim Ray for their time to participate. New and student curlers at the ECC will benefit directly from their enhanced knowledge and skills as curling instructors.

Other curling clubs participated in the Workshop including Whitby, Cobourg, Mississauga, Campbellford and Peterborough. The ECC Board and Club Coach participants thank kitchen volunteers Pat McLean, Alva Wakeford, Laura Toms, Syrie Gardner and Steve Thomson for preparing lunches for the Coaching Clinic participants. We received very positive feedback, one of the instructors commented that *it was one of the best lunches he'd ever had at one of these clinics*. In addition, the ECC realized a small profit from the lunch proceeds.

Feedback about the Workshop was positive:

The workshop training provided me with the knowledge to break the delivery of a rock down into bite size pieces and therefore allow me to teach a new curler bit by bit the complex and often frustrating process of getting a rock to the other end of the ice. There was also a great focus on safety, which we are so aware of these days. As a bonus, the program has had a positive effect on my own game. Marshall Ferguson, Ennismore Curling Club Member/Learn to Curl Instructor/Club Coach Trained

My introduction to "club coach" was very positive. As a volunteer to the School program and After-school program I believe my contribution, as well as my fellow volunteers and 'grads' of the "club coach" program, allow us to improve curler skills and satisfaction in our Learn to Curl programs. One other result of the Workshop, happened last week when I was asked by a "mature" curler for assistance to help their delivery. I suggested one change. Shortly thereafter, I received a very positive response. I observed that curler through the game and wow a little bit of coaching really does work. Can't say the same about my own curling skills - yet.

This type of coaching can take place at anytime and will bring benefit not only to curlers but also to the ECC. Bill Ingram, Ennismore Curling Club Member/Learn to Curl Instructor/Club Coach Trained

The Workshop exceeded my expectations and I now feel I have the resources and enhanced skills to deliver good curling instruction to new curlers. Kim Ray, Ennismore Curling Club Member/Learn to Curl Instructor/Board Member/Club Coach Trained

The ECC Board recognizes that having sufficient Club Coach Trained volunteer instructors at the ECC is essential to the success of our club. The Club Coach Workshop has been developed by the National Coaching Certification Program to meet the needs of curling clubs to provide effective standardized training to new curlers. Due to the success of this first Workshop, the ECC Board plans to host or participate in future workshops. So stay tuned if you too, would like the opportunity to become a Club Coach.





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