



ROCK TALK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITBY CURLING CLUB

A
NOTE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Spring has Sprung and Summer is right around the corner in Whitby!

We have made it through the 3rd wave of Covid and are moving forward with optimism!

The question that is asked the most is how are we doing financially? At this time, I am happy to report that our club is doing well. Our treasurer, Mike Elmhurst, has done a great job with applying for Ontario grants and our membership as always has stepped up to the plate. We had a great response with members donating their 2020-2021 fees after we shut down. This allowed the club to avoid substantial financial burdens that would have affected us in the long term. Thank you to the Refund Committee that navigated us through this.

The lack of playoffs and closing parties didn't stop our members with staying connected. We had a few events that kept us together. Doug Mackay and Rob Phillips took on running a Virtual Silent Auction. It was a huge success with raising \$4000.00. We did miss the "not so silent" part of the auction that usually happens on the Friday night but thanks to social media we were treated to a few battles for pickles and peanut butter balls. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Jo-Ann Jordan has been running on-line cribbage tournaments. Did you attempt to peg out first and claim the title? It was a good opportunity to keep in touch and keep that competitive side going.

A virtual 428km walk was organized to visit all our sponsor breweries around Ontario. We were all treated to Donna Salt lapping circles around us as her walking shoes were on fire.

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Even though the club is closed there seems to be no lack of action. Brock St. widening in front of the club is about to begin. We have been working with the Town so there will be minimal impact to our club property. Paul Adair and Doug MacKay have been using this down time to create a Building Condition Report to help guide the Board of Directors with future capital requirements. The Board of Directors have also been looking ahead to the up coming season with a goal of becoming more community focused once we get out of the pandemic.

We have two groups in our club that we thought would benefit from additional funding; the Hot Rockers and U12 Program. Lead by Rod Bemister, we applied to The Mayors Community Development Fund and we are very excited to announce that we received a grant to ensure these groups will flourish in October. The Volunteer of the Year Award nominations are now closed. This is an annual program to recognize the outstanding volunteer efforts of our members. All nominees will be recognized and there will be a presentation to the winner at the Annual General Meeting.

Looking ahead we are preparing with the mindset that curling will be returning in October!

Notifications regarding registering for the 2021-2022 season will be sent out to the membership soon, look forward to registration opening mid-July!

As always, I want to thank the staff, Board of Directors and the volunteers that have put so much time into our club.

If anyone has any questions please reach out at president@whitbycurlingclub.com

Mandy

NEW ADVERTISER ALERT.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE MALCOLM MACAULAY AND ERIN WAY OF COLDWELL BANKER R.M.R. REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE SIGNED UP AS OUR NEWEST SPONSOR. THEY WILL BE FEATURED ON THE HOME END RINGS OF SHEET 5. THESE TWO LONG TIME WHITBY MEMBERS WILL BE RUNNING A FUN AND ENGAGING CONTEST THROUGHOUT THE SEASON CALLED 'SCORE 5 ON SHEET 5', WATCH FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND POSSIBLY WIN A GREAT PRIZE AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

FOLLOW MALCOLM AND ERIN ON THEIR:

WEBSITE WWW.WAYBETTERHOMES.COM

FACEBOOK WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WAYBETTERHOME

INSTAGRAM [@WAYBETTERHOMES](https://www.instagram.com/WAYBETTERHOMES)





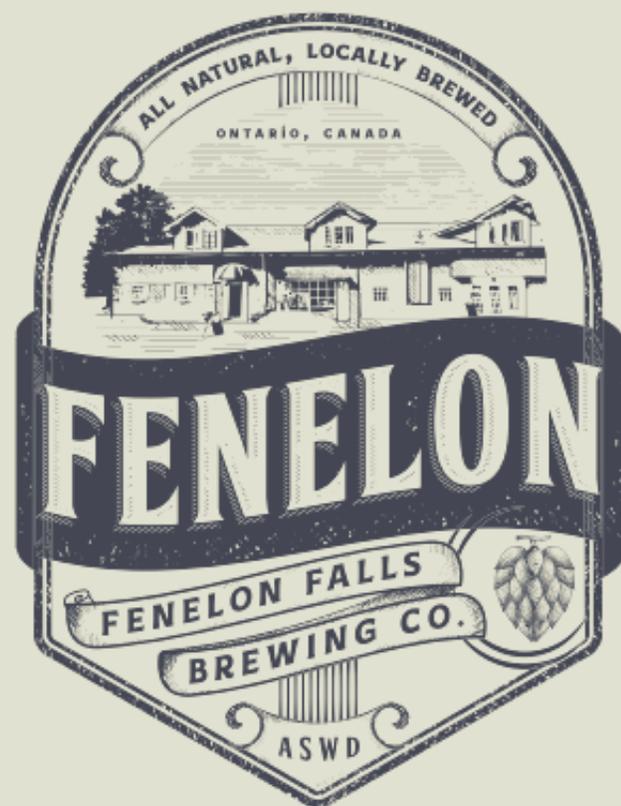
What an unfortunately short season we had last year! I am, however, so proud of the Board and their committees who helped to ensure our members were safe during the portion of the season we were open! Thank you as well to all the members who supported the club this past year by maintaining their membership, donating their membership fees and even coming out to practice when the ice was available!

I think we are all ready to put this season behind us and start looking toward the future! The Board of Directors are already planning for the upcoming season's registration. There are also a lot of new initiatives coming your way! From Volunteer Appreciation to new Fundraising events, we are going to make the off season as fun as possible for you!

This club is truly a large family and that has been even more apparent during all the challenges the club has faced as of late. We have had, and will continue to maintain, that sense of family and community. If you have social media, make sure to join the private "Whitby Curling Club – Members Only" Facebook group. Many of our members coordinate fun virtual activities for everyone to participate in! We will continue to send club emails to keep you informed of activities happening for everyone to participate in. We will get through this together! I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall!

Angela Feurstein
WCC Manager

Manager's Report





STONEPICKER

BREWING COMPANY

— FOREST, ON —

OUR BEER ROCKS!

PROPERTY & ICE REPORT

Brock Street Reconstruction

As reported in the last issue of Rock Talk, the Region of Durham and the Town of Whitby will be joining forces to reconstruct Brock Street from just south of the curling club to Rossland Road. The primary purpose of the reconstruction project is to provide a two-way left turn lane on Brock Street, north-south left turn lanes at the Manning Road intersection and the realignment of Rossland Road. We all know that driving along Rossland road the Brock Street intersection is challenging. Well, the Region will be shifting the intersection to the north so that the east-west alignment is improved. There will still be the hill to the west of the intersection, but at least, the chicane will be removed.

The Board of Directors are working with the Region/Town as our driveway will be impacted. Both will be reconstructed but access will be maintained. The Region expects the tender to be let by the end of May with construction to begin this summer. It will take two construction seasons to complete the work with an expected finish date of fall 2022. As construction proceeds, the Board will be working with the contractor to ensure your curling club's interests are properly represented.

Doug Mackay
Property and Ice



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Wednesday and Friday Night Mixed League

Dave Simmons prepared this article for the Rock Talk in April when, typically, a full season of Mixed Curling would have been winding down:

Wow – it hit me that during a more typical year, we would now be bringing out the Hot Snacks for the Friday night before the Closing and making the last minute preparations and checks for the Big Night (I'm writing this on April 17th). While there is a quick sigh of relief at not having to juggle work obligations and the Closing, the pang of a season of curling missed overtakes that fairly quickly.

It's great to hear that CurlOn is optimistic and preparing for a full season of curling in the fall. It certainly gives me something to look forward to and spurs our committee on to lay out the work required for organizing a new season.

Keep an eye out for e-mails announcing registration and events as they unfold around us – the Curling Club and the Board of Directors have been very busy successfully navigating the Club through an unprecedented period.

And before anyone points out the Spanish Flu from 1918, technically, the Club was in hiatus then.

Let's recognize the draw winners as our Covid Kings/Queens of the 2020 Season (technically, it was the 2020-2021 Season but we have not thrown a rock yet this year).

MIXED UPDATE



Before you speak, listen
Before you write, think
Before you spend, earn
Before you invest, investigate
Before you criticize, wait.
Before you pray, forgive
Before you quit, try

MIXED UPDATE

Wednesday Night – Team Simmons
(4 – 0 record)

- Skip – Dave Simmons
- Vice – Heather Cook
- Second – Anita Fisher
- Lead – Anthony Fisher

Friday Night – Red Draw – Team Solly
and Team Philips (both 3 – 2 records)

- Skip – Jeff Solly
- Vice – Belinda Solly
- Second – Michael Siem
- Lead – Shannon Costello

- Skip – Rob Philips
- Vice – JC Philips
- Second – Ron Kurtz
- Lead – Paul Pierson

Friday Night – Yellow Draw – Team
Way (4 – 1 record)

- Skip – Jeremy Way
- Vice – Erin Macaulay
- Second – Chris Boers
- Lead – Melissa Boers

Congratulations to all of our winners and it is really great to see newcomers to the Mixed Nation sharing in the accolades. On the downside, the Caribbean vacations we had organized to give the winners got dumped when the airlines cancelled their flights to those destinations. When you're outside and getting a whiff of sunshine, perhaps you can visualise that intense sun and feel the hot sand on your toes for just a few seconds (keep your mitts and hats on).

It's amazing how much we are tuned into medical issues and speaking like doctors when we discuss the pandemic – Scientific American noted in a recent issue that it is bringing those doctors and researchers into the limelight and underlining the contributions science quietly makes to our everyday lives. Covid has made them the focal point of our daily conversations.

If you recall the previous issue of Rock Talk, I spoke about Covid Curling and the awareness that it brought to my on-ice experience. That elevated alertness allowed me to perceive things that I had missed as it spread from the ice into everyday events. I'm recognizing birds that I had no idea were even present (thanks to several varieties of Juncos) and am closely watching the tribulations of a small plant in one of our front gardens that somehow grows during the winter months (it must have found an underground source of anti-freeze and has been sipping on it).

MIXED UPDATE

As some of you might know, I have a passion for woodworking. I had the privilege of growing up on a farm and gained access to the tip of the Northern Carolinian forest that is blessed with a large variety of trees, some of which are hard to find elsewhere in the province (can you say “Tulip Tree”?). I learned how to slowly harvest portions of a woodlot and fence lines to allow other trees to flourish while I converted that growth to lumber. I especially liked the parts of the tree that sawyers advised me to use for firewood. I chased out the ants and beetles to recover spalted maple and oak and sought out parts of the tree that resisted the stresses from the winds of the years to create the waves of undulating walnut and maple that appear to move if you use the right cuts and finishes. I am leaning towards hand work and am noticing how time disappears while I am honing a chisel and making those last paring cuts to prepare a surface. Refurbishing a century old plane or vice revives a story that has been hidden for a century and I marvel that some of my wood was in its bud stage when those tools were new. I set my self-imposed deadlines aside and deliberately take the time to cultivate that awareness. I can't claim that my skill level has increased but I do know that the time spent is quite therapeutic. Lee Valley calls it “hibermaking” and although I originally thought of that term as being clever, there's a much deeper level to it and I look forward to those half hour or longer sessions where I can explore it.

I also find myself taking time and setting aside obligations to be with my wife and children and to capture some of the deeper feelings and awareness that I sense with my chisels and planes. These days, conversations are deeper and so are the emotions. Covid has touched everyone in some way or another and the road ahead, in spite of the bright light that the vaccinations are bringing, has a calm before the storm feeling. Covid has escalated my work obligations and a tour of a field hospital yesterday to prepare for supporting its arrival coupled with the recent announcements of the government clamping down even further on our movements, increased my determination to support the clinical people around me.

I leave you with a paper bag – it is the one I received when I visited our St John's facility in North York. It contained two masks for use while I was there to support their electrical system. I have long ago used those masks, but I keep the bag in the centre console in my truck and insert new masks as I use them up. St John's has a long history dating back to 1937 and was set up by the Sisterhood of St John the Divine to provide rehabilitation care by treating the mind, the body and the soul. I can't know for sure that the bags were filled by the Order but they continue to guide the efforts of the health team's approach to care. Have a look at the picture below – I often open up the console just to have a read.

Stay strong.



CURLON REPORT

Hello everyone.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed watching some curling with the Scotties, Brier, Men's Worlds, 2 slams and then the Ladies Worlds. I am sure I can echo what a lot of you may be thinking and saying. I have missed participating in the sport this year and I think more than missing the playing I have missed our friends and our members. It wasn't a Winter that I am sure we all anticipated. I do however have good news that we can look forward to.

CurlON has announced that they are planning to proceed with all competitions this year as planned. That is good news and hopefully will happen as more and more people continue to get vaccinated. The Whitby Curling Club will be hosting the Senior Men and Senior Women's Provincials. The date set for these are March 16 – 20, 2022. More details will follow, and a committee will be needed. If there are any members interested in participating on the Committee, please contact Bob who is this Region Co-ordinator for CurlON. His e-mail is bwinters@ontcurl.com or you can contact me at curlonrep@whitbycurlingclub.com

I have also noticed that CurlON has changed their Website. I encourage you to visit it and become familiar with the site at: ontcurl.com

In closing it is wonderful to see that spring has finally arrived. Have a wonderful summer and stay out of this crazy viruses way.

Liz Winters
WCC CurlON Rep



DAY LADIES PREP

Day Ladies Preparations for next Season

The following update for next season was submitted by Judy Joel on behalf of the Day Ladies:

The Executive for the Day Ladies League has been meeting monthly via Zoom. At the June meeting, we will be discussing plans for the 2021/2022 curling season. We are keeping an eye on government restrictions and feel that by June we might have a better idea of what type of plans we will be able to put in place. Our hope is to have our usual Monday and Thursday afternoon Leagues with three draws as well as our Tuesday afternoon, Skip's Choice League. We may even be able to look ahead to planning a bonspiel or two. In the meantime, regular emails are being sent out to past and present members of our league with any news we might have to share in order to keep in touch and help everyone feel connected.

CORN HOLE



COMING THIS SUMMER TO THE WHITBY CURLING CLUB - CORNHOLE!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THURSDAY EVENINGS STARTING JULY 8TH!

LEAGUE WILL BE OPEN DOUBLES (TEAMS OF 2) AND \$100.00/TEAM

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thank you to Our Members

It is nothing short of amazing to see what we can count on our members to do in a crisis. You have stepped up and donated and deferred your fees to help keep the club viable into the 2021-2022 season. All I can say is THANK YOU.

The 2020-2021 season was a tough season on all of the members. Making the decision to curl or not early. The Return to Curl restrictions. Waiting each week as the numbers came out to see where the Durham Region would be placed in the colour code system. And then the dreaded red zone call we all could see coming, but did not want to believe when it did.

And then to see the club sit idle as we hoped that we could reopen. But that was not to be. But the bright side of what occurred was that we did open. A lot of clubs did not. Oshawa Curling Club and Port Perry Curling Club did not operate. But Whitby opened and the 361 members that played enjoyed their time on the ice.

So what is happening in 2021-2022?

The planning is being based on a regular season. All Leagues will return to their last season time slots with a few minor adjustments... some planned and some we will react to after we see the Registration numbers. All of the League Representatives are bullish on their members returning to past levels.

The planned dates for Registration is the normal mid-July with no early Registration planned.

When Registration opens, I encourage you to register early. There are folks from Annandale still looking for a home. Other clubs may struggle to reopen and we want our returning members to be at the front of the line.

The schedule we are working with as of today is below.

Enjoy your summer. Stay in shape. Get vaccinated.

Dale Duke - Membership Director



2021 - 2022 Schedule

	SUNDAY						MONDAY						TUESDAY						WEDNESDAY						THURSDAY						FRIDAY					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
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FRIDAY 4:15 MIXED LEAGUE

“Throwing Rocks at Houses” during the 2021-2022 upcoming curling season will be something to look forward to after a modified and finally cancelled 2020-2021 season. Our league usually has a full 12 teams and 3 draws of seven games each including fabulous Friday night dinners. This past year we had a total of 6 teams and only played 4 games of the first draw and NO dinners.

YUCK!! Not a very challenging season. I think those that participated did have a great time and enjoyed the required changes made to the sport of curling.

The league committee is looking forward to the upcoming season and a return of members from last season, a return of those former members who chose not to curl last season and of course any new curlers who would like to join a fun Friday league followed by evening dinners upstairs.

In some casual conversations with league members I asked if they would be interested in returning and the answers were always a very positive yes “I need something to do”.

By the start of curling season most everyone in Ontario will have had at least one shot of COVID vaccine and hopefully we will be back to some kind of usual/normal activities (curling included). Stay safe, wear a mask, stay home and stay well.

Kent Young



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HOURS: Mon. to Wed. 9am - 6pm Thursday 9am - 8pm
Friday 9am - 6pm Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday CLOSED

GRANT APPLICATION

“Successful Mayor’s Community Development Fund Grant Application

This past March, we had the opportunity to apply for a \$4800 grant for a local community initiative through the Mayor’s Community Development Fund. The purpose of the grant and the fund is to support initiatives that aim to make our community a better place. With that goal in mind, we focused on two programs that we currently offer. We are very pleased that our application for the grant was accepted and that we will be able to use the funding to make our community a better place through our two programs.

The first program is our Hot Rockers program. It promotes and allows those with special needs to be able to participate in and enjoy the sport of curling. Our goal with this funding is to be able to increase the participation of those with special needs by removing/lessening the barriers that the cost of participation may present. The funding we received will be used to subsidize the cost of ice rentals for the league.

The second program is our Little Rocks/Under 12 program. Our goal with this funding is to increase participation within this program by decreasing the cost of equipment for participants. The funding we received will be subsidizing the cost of grippers for participants. We are hoping that, again, lessening the costs will increase the number of youths within the community that will participate in the program.

While there is a direct benefit of the funding for these two programs through the Mayor’s Community Development Fund, there is also the indirect, longer term, benefit to the club of being able to grow the sport of curling within our community and, perhaps, an increase in memberships down the road.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Mayor and the Town for making this funding available to us for the opportunities it will provide to our Hot Rockers and Youth Curling programs.

Rod Bemister
Member-at-large