

ROCK TALK



Whitby Curling Club Newsletter

November 2015

Message from the President!

The curling season is underway and off to a great start. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend a warm Welcome Back to our returning members and a heartfelt *Hello* and *Welcome* to our new members!

Along with our membership, we are pleased to have a number of our staff members returning this year and we welcome our new additions (Angela, Dave, Julie & Glenn).

As most of you know, a new chiller was installed prior to the start of the season. While we never like to spend money, this was a true investment in the club so that we could have ice this year! Unfortunately, due to some issues with the roof, we have had a few leaks that have caused some challenges this year. Repairs are scheduled to be made shortly to mitigate that issue. As always, we appreciate your patience while we deal with Mother Nature and contractors!

The Club participated in the National Grand Slam recently which was a success. As always, our volunteers were amazing. There are articles and pictures regarding the event within the newsletter. Thank you Rod Bemister for being our club liaison with this event....much appreciated!

This season promises to be another busy one. There are a number of bonspiels being held, fundraising initiatives to participate in, Friday Night dinners to enjoy, and general fun to be had. Please take advantage of all the club has to offer you so that you can get the most out of your involvement. There are many volunteer opportunities available too! Get involved and have fun!

This year, we have initiated a communication binder for those members who do not have access to the internet or email. Every email sent to the membership will be in that binder, please review it regularly to ensure you are aware of the happenings at the club.

It is my honour to be President of the curling Club. I am very pleased to be working on your behalf again this season. I want to hear from you if you have any questions, concerns, accolades that you wish to share. We can only get better if we talk! Please feel free to call or email me at any time. I will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner.

Tracey Macaulay

President



In This Issue

- Welcomes and Hellos
- Articles from the members
- Slam Memories
- Upcoming Events

Member at Large Article

Welcome to all of the new curlers, and welcome back to all the returning curlers and knee sliders, as the case may be. I've been asked a number of times what does the Member At Large do. From my experience so far....it's an adventure limited only by one's imagination.

Over the summer, I attended a number of seminars and participated in some information sessions in order to gain more insight into the Trillium grant program. As most of you know the trillium grant, is a fund for organizations to access for community initiatives. Late in 2013 the Board had considered asking for a grant in order to upgrade our facilities. There are a number of upgrades we could make, however, maintenance and equipment costs are quite expensive, so the Board had to prioritize what needed to be done and what we would ask to be funded.

The decision was made to improve the curling conditions by working on the siding and insulation of the rink. This would improve the ice conditions and would allow for a longer season at a lower energy cost, saving us money....which in turn means we don't have to pass higher energy costs to the curlers.

The application was due on September 1st, and there is an expected wait time of approx. 12 weeks, while applications get processed, approved and communicated to the Government. We expect to hear back shortly on whether we are approved or not. Our application was for \$90,000. \$30,000 spent removal of the asbestos within the interior walls and \$60,000 to re-insulate. Thanks go to: Ross Weldon, Bryce Jordan, Tracey Macaulay, Casey and Jamie for all their help in getting together the information to move the application along. Let's cross our fingers!!

The second project that I was involved with is the upcoming/now finished Grandslam of Curling event which was held November 10th – 15th at the GM Center in Oshawa. We have worked with the Oshawa Golf and Country Club, as well as Oshawa Downtown club's to make this event successful.

A number of junior curlers from the club participated

in the opening ceremonies, a curling clinic and an exhibition game on the arena ice!! From what I saw the participation was outstanding and it proves curling is alive and well here in Whitby.

Planning for the event started taking place at the end of last season and involved a few meetings in person and by teleconference. Approx. 25-30 volunteers were recruited to help out on ice and for program/draw sales. Although, our original plans for making a million dollars didn't pan out....the club did receive money back from ticket sales and the participation of the juniors. As I'm writing, the numbers haven't been finalized. Thank you to all those that signed up to be volunteers, those that wanted to be volunteers and those who came out to watch. Hopefully, in the future when the decision is made to come back to Oshawa/Whitby again....we can out do the incredible job that happened this year.

The National Grandslam in Oshawa is now over, congratulations to Team Gushue and Team Homan. It was a long week on the ice for our volunteers arriving at 7:30AM and finishing their duties at 10:00PM. I'd like to thank everyone, especially those who went above & beyond the call of duty; you were integral to making the event successful! WCC volunteers were front and center and displayed the qualities that make the Whitby Curling Club the 'House of Hospitality'. Hopefully in the future when the decision is made to return a slam to Oshawa/Whitby we can out do the incredible job that happened this year.



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Thornton Cemetery and Crematorium is a new **GOLD** sponsor at the Curling Club. This season they will be running a raffle promotion. All you have to do is fill out a ballot and place it in their box, located at the bar for a chance to win.

This months raffle prize was a **\$100 gift card to The Keg**, the winner will be posted at the bar!

Every 2 months there will be a new raffle, so be sure to fill out your ballot next time your at the club!

Featured Article

Honorary Lifetime Membership: Ted Birchard

This past Annual General Meeting, Ted Birchard was presented with the Honorary Life Time Member Award. As many of you know, Ted has been a member of the Whitby Curling Club for over 40 years. He has been on the Board of Directors, run bonspiels, coordinated leagues and of course has taught a large number of the members to curl during learn to curl nights and just on-going support of the sport. His patience with new members and his knowledge of the game created an enjoyable atmosphere that has had a rippling effect over our membership.

Ted Birchard exemplifies the meaning of The Whitby Curling Club being The House of Hospitality. Over the 40 years Ted has curled at our club he has done nothing but improve its standing





Stan Senkowski | 905.999.9596

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"You can trust me, my wife does!"

From the ice

Well we spent a ton of money on some upgrades this year, the biggest being a new condenser. It is a fantastic new addition, completely air cooled as opposed to our old water evaporative one. This alone should save us over \$2,000 a season in water. The condenser was a needed upgrade and replacement for its well used 30 years old counterpart.

Our second addition was the icemakers mistress, a computer control system that now is integrated into our whole building. The mistress will run our temperatures in the rink, the ice and in the building. This is an amazing system that intuitively adjusts as the day goes on to keep us in the prime range of temperatures for play; then rests at night shutting everything down allowing the rink to warm and the building to cool saving us tons of run time and money. I hope to provide an update in the future as to our exact cost savings. Also, I hope everyone can already see and feel the difference in ice quality, as I've had many comments already.

Did you know that what you see your ice crew doing at most times is the final steps in the prep process before you play? Most days there has been between 3-5 hours of work and/or maintenance before you arrive at the club. I thought it was known but I've heard that many members had no idea, so keep an eye on my column in the newsletter as I'll be sharing some processes in the future.

Lastly if you are curious about your ice surface and the pebble go to Youtube and type in "water droplet freezing" the first result that comes up is interesting. This is very much like what happens to your surface after the pebble is added and as the game progresses. As you sweep a path you will polish off this growing frost, but as the path goes unused the frost builds and can affect your rocks speed and curl. This process evolves across the surface and as the game goes....if you lend it some thought it may just help you as a thrower and a sweeper.

Friday 4:30 Mixed Curling

The 2015—2016 season is in full swing and we are pleased to say we have started our first draw with a total of 10 teams!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our committee for this year:

- **Winston Dixon**
- **Kent & Connie Young**
- **Dave & Mary Parks**

Many of the Friday 4:30 Mixed curlers have dinner in the Bradley Room at 7:00pm. It is always a great meal with lots of fellowship. We would like to encourage and welcome all members to attend the weekly dinners, as they are OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS as well as family and friends. Reservations are required and it is easy to sign-up. Simply got the Whitby Curling Club home page, click on 'Curling', scroll down and click on 'Event Sign-up'. From there you will find the menu and can register for dinner. Hope to see you upstairs on Friday!

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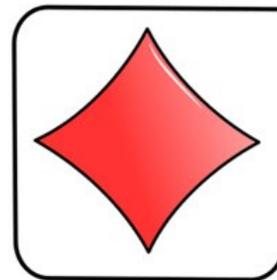
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stocking Stuffer!

This Christmas season we are having an ornament fundraiser where you can purchase a miniature curling broom or rock to hang on your tree.

The ornaments will cost \$8 each or 2 for \$15. They will be available for purchase at the bar. Approximately 50 available for purchase.



Fun, Friends & Euchre!

There will be a ladies euchre night held on **November 23rd** at 7:00pm! The cost is \$5.00.

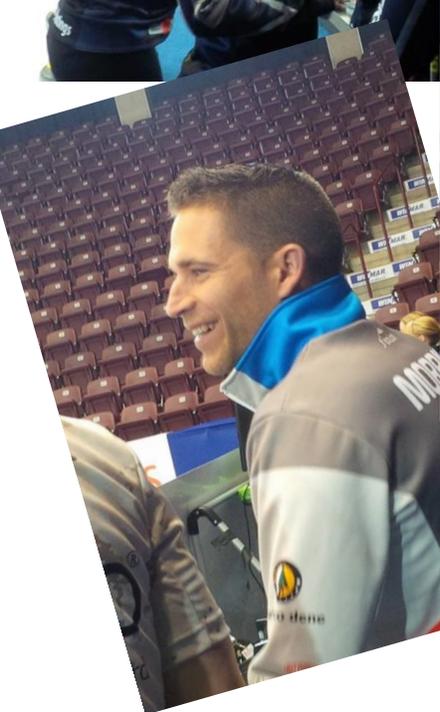
Treats, Tea, Coffee & Prizes will be available! Grab a seat at one of our new tables today!



NATIONAL

Memories from the National Grand Slam of Curling

November 10— 15 at the General Motors Centre



Youth Curling

It is hard to believe that our program can keep growing and getting busier, but every year it does just that! We currently have over 100 youth curlers in our program between Little Rocks, Bantam/Juniors, Students and Junior Associates.

A huge and heartfelt **Thank You** to the many volunteer coaches and organizers who make our program great! The smiles on the kids' faces speak volumes about the quality of your work.

Our Little Rock & Bantam curlers are participating in out of club recreational bonspiels around the GTA. There are at least six Bantam/Junior teams representing Whitby CC at various competitive spiels and events. We wish all our kids 'Good Curling' with their games.

This year, our competitive teams are benefiting from the Experts Express program through the Coaches Association of Ontario. Brenley Shapiro, sports psychotherapist and mental prep coach is working with the teams and their coaches on the 'mental side of the game'. As part of this program, Brenley also spoke with parents from all levels of our program on how to support their child in sports.

The OCA introduced the Hit, Draw & Tap Championship this year for curlers (and non-curlers) ages 6 to 13 years. We held our club playdown on November 14th, with 22 participants. Congratulations to Charlie Berlette (6-8 yr), Daniel Whelan (9-10 yr) and Isabelle Backus (11-13 yr) on winning their age category. They will be representing Whitby Curling Club at Zones in January at the Sutton CC on January 16th & 17th. Zone winners will move on to Provincials which will be held during the Ontario Men's Tankard in Brantford on February 1st to 7th.

As part of the Grand Slam of Curling Future Rockstars and Junior Grand Slam, our kids were invited to the GM Centre to participate in the Opening Ceremonies, an open ice session and clinic. Our curlers were happy to carry the signs for Teams Koe, Michel & Jacobs. On Sunday morning, the kids enjoyed throwing rocks on 'arena ice' and then posed for a picture with Slammer. Team Snelgrove and Team Enman spent 1 ½ hours working with members of Team Edin, after which they were presented with jackets signed by all players at the GSOC National.



We are looking forward to hosting our annual bonspiels, the Bantam Open Cashspiel on November 21st, the Lloyd Sonley Memorial Little Rock Bonspiel on November 28th and the Rockin' in Whitby Bantam Funspiel on April 9th. In addition, during March Break we will be co-hosting our annual Hot Shots Competition with Oshawa Curling Club. Invitations to participate will also be extended to Oshawa Golf and Curling Club and Annandale Curling Club.

About the Senior Men

The 2015-2016 senior men's league is off to yet another great year. Over the past several years the senior men have been able to maintain a consistent membership of approximately 110 curlers. This season is no different with the present membership at 108 strong. The Senior Men offer three leagues that have a great social atmosphere on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The Senior Men also belonging to an interclub league that runs on Wednesdays. The interclub league sees competition from Oshawa, Annandale and Pert Perry curling clubs. Unfortunately, Oshawa Golf and Country Curling club has not joined us this year; hopefully they will be back in the future. Further, the senior men also have a twelve team competitive league that curls every Friday. If any of these leagues look interesting to you please contact us, even if you are a beginner level curler.

Events and Activities hosted by the Senior Men

The Senior Men offer a special event day once a month, usually the first Thursday of each month for a minimal fee; that includes a great luncheon.

The men also have a very successful golf tournament each year that is held the first week of September. This year was no exception and we had a full slate of golfers, enjoying a great day with lots of fun, prizes and of course golf. The golf tournament also acts as a fundraiser for the club. The men then use this money to fund activities and initiatives that support both the Senior Men and the Whitby Curling club.

Last year the event helped to fund junior curlers, new jackets for members, the Christmas dinner, the year end dinner and new hacks for all 6 sheets of ice at the curling club. This year the senior men are offering any member who buys a new helmet and wears it \$25 towards the cost of their helmet. In light of the serious accidents that have happened recently we highly recommend helmets for everyone regardless of their age. Remember, a very experienced curler at the Scarborough golf and country club died this year from a fall on the curling ice.

Keep an out for these Upcoming Events

The senior men run a successful bonspiel called the Gus Brown spiel. It fills up early so look for the information and get your team entry in as soon as the forms come out. This year the spiel will be held **Friday, February 5th, 2016**. The Senior Men are also active in a Christmas fund raiser for the Salvation Army for the city of Whitby. All of the money that is raised, all 100% goes towards families in need from the Whitby area. The charity provides food, Christmas hampers and toys for underprivileged children who may not receive anything at Christmas. Over the last 3 years the senior men curlers have donated over \$10,000 to the Salvation Army for this very worthwhile cause.

If your are interested in joining the Senior Men at the Whitby Curling Club we'd love to hear from you.

Trevor Wilson, President
Rick Van Dusen, Vice-President
Gord Chapman, Past President



The Business of Curling

If you look around the club this year you will see a lot of familiar faces. Not just members but advertisers and sponsors of the Whitby Curling Club. Our club has some amazing supporters within the community and to them we say thank you for their continued support.

However, you may have also noticed that the club is featuring some new advertisers and sponsors this season. We have been joined by Thornton Cemeteries, Ben Aldridge Sun Life Financial and The Royal Oak.

All our advertisers and sponsors are showcased in the newsletter and on our website, as well as throughout the club. Let them know you are a Whitby Curling Club member if you interact with any of our sponsors and be sure to thank them for their support.

If you have any questions regarding advertising and sponsorship, are looking to get involved or know anyone who may want to take advantage of our clubs advertising space?

Please feel free to contact Erin Macaulay at: marketing@whitbycurlingclub.com or by phone at 905.706.2680.



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From the Pro Shop

It has already been a busy time to start the year, many have purchased new gear but we still have much to offer. Due to our limited space what you see on display is only a portion of what we have to offer. What you may not see are pants, belts, stopwatches, brooms, shoe bags, and grippers in a variety of brands and colors. If you explore any company websites our club offers the same products with the benefit of no shipping!

The shop is always open, even if I am not, any member of our staff can assist you with your equipment purchase. If you require more information or details you can always contact me at wcc-ice@bell.net and we can arrange a time convenient for you to discuss your equipment needs.

What you may not know is the pro shop is stocked by the club (you) and the bulk of profits go back into the club (you) so please support the shop and yourself.

Keep an eye for Christmas specials to come!

Are you new to the club? Have you fallen in love with the game? Are you thinking of buying new gear? If so come see me and we can make you a great deal on a full package to get you all the equipment you'll need to hone your game!

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Hello Mixed Nation!

Wednesday and Friday night curling is back! With two full draws on Friday night along with a few more teams it's a full house. You can't beat Friday night out with your friends and some frosty beverages to keep the spirit of curling at its best. The Wednesday crowd is still looking for a few more curlers if you want to test your skill and have even more competition and fun. We've got seasoned souls, newbies and a few rusty returning curlers all thrown together and having a good time.

The second draw is approaching with the scheduling group ready to mix up the teams and get everyone meeting some new faces. Even though it seems like a long way off, preparations has begun for the Closing already. Keep listening for rumors about this season's theme – last year's ducks are still hovering in the weeds.

Speaking of themes, our first theme night is coming up! Use your imagination and show off your Christmas Spirit on the ice. There's no sense in letting Santa have all of the fun!

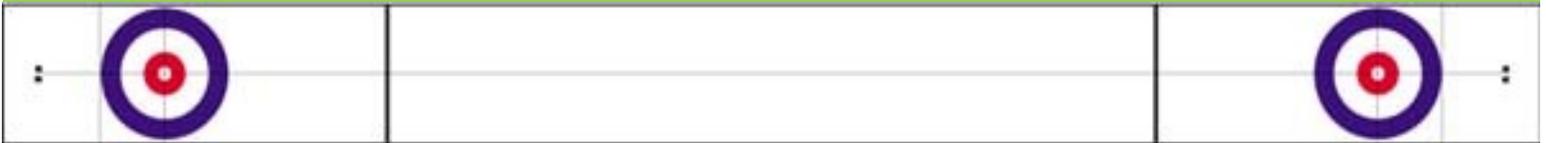
You will be seeing an opinion poll very soon asking for your input on the Mixed Curling. We want to hear from everyone to ensure that the "Mixed" experience is the best that we can make it. Watch for the upcoming poll and please fill it out.

Here's a quote from a French-Canadian farmer, circa 1790, upon watching a game of curling for the first time:

"Today I saw a bunch of Scotsmen who were throwing big iron balls like bombs on the ice, after which they cried, 'soop, soop'; and then laughed like mad. I think they are mad."

Over two hundred years later, curling is still a good time! *Soop, soop!*

Your Mixed Committee



Gord Carroll Classic Highlights!

The 2015-2016 Gord Carroll Classic took place on October 30—November 1st and featured a women's only field this year. The OCT event garnered interest from teams across Ontario. In the mix was last years Ontario Scotties Champion Julie Hastings, 2005 's Ontario Scotties Champion Jen Hanna and reigning Gord Carroll Champion Suzie McKnight (now playing third for team Auld). 8 women's teams qualified for playoffs, among them was Team Varnes, featuring Whitby Curling Club member Erin Macaulay. The Final was played between the Jaqueline Harrison rink from Mississauga and young squad Mallory Kean from Stoney Creek.



The 2015-2016 Championship was awarded to Team Harrison after a 5-2 victory. Congratulations to all the teams and we look forward to hosting another successful event next year.

Novice Curlers in Transition

The Novice League was established a few years ago as an opportunity for new curlers to learn the game while playing with their peers in a less intimidating atmosphere. The intention is that, after two or three years, these new curlers will have "caught the curling bug" and join the club as members of our regular leagues.

The intent appears to be working. This season 10 novices from last year have joined as members of the Whitby Curling Club. Monday night men's, Tuesday night ladies', Thursday night men's, Friday night mixed and Sunday night ladies' all have members in those leagues that are former Novice curlers.

Later in the season, we will again be providing an opportunity for Novice curlers to try out our regular leagues. If there is space in those leagues, we will be offering Novices a chance to join them for a draw or two on a pro-rated fee basis.

If you are a league convenor and are looking to fill out a draw, please let me or our Manager, Angela know. If you are a Novice curler and are interested in giving the other leagues a try, please let Andrew Gray know. You will find that our leagues are not that intimidating after all. Especially after you have some of Andrew and his gang's instruction under your belt!



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Message from the Manager

I'd like to start off by thanking everyone for the warm welcome and friendly introductions! As my first month at Whitby Curling Club comes to a close, I can say I truly believe this is the House of Hospitality!

With a change in managers comes a couple of small changes in the office! There is now an email binder located on the ledge in the lounge for members to see the emails which go out to the membership so everyone is receiving the same information. I have also created a volunteer binder so you can place your volunteer sheets and it's easily accessible if you need to add anything to your sheet. I also have posted office hours on my door 10:30am-7:00pm Monday - Friday though there are occasions when I may be out of the office during those times to do Whitby Curling Club tasks.

I am still learning my role here as well as all the other various staff and volunteer roles, and I appreciate everyone's patience and assistance during this transition.

Thank you!

Angela



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Dr. Marvella Mootoo

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Curling Development

As the new Director of Curling Development, I would like to say to all returning members....Welcome Back! To those of you who are new to our club....Welcome! With the addition of Dave Ralston as assistant ice technician, a new condenser and the 'Ice Mistress', we should have some great ice to play on, so it may be time to think about 'adding something' to your game!

Thank you to all the instructors who volunteered for our 'Learn to Curl' nights. The feedback from participants was very positive. With your help, we introduced over 170 people to curling!

Curling Development started early this year, with a 2 hour clinic on October 17th covering Rules, Etiquette, Delivery and Sweeping.

Our next clinic will be held on **January 10th**. This will be a 4 hour clinic covering Delivery, Sweeping and Basic Strategy. Online registration is open on our website or you can contact me at 905-425-0415 to register. There will be notices put up around the club as well as reminder emails.

For those interested in more regular informal practice, Wednesday nights at 9 pm is our Open Ice Practice. Instructors are available to provide some tips.

The Tuesday Evening Ladies are holding a 'strategy night' for their league this draw. There will be instruction for the newer curlers on all the 'strategies' that make up a great game from rules, etiquette, delivery & sweeping to understanding the basics of strategy. The more seasoned curlers will be working with Andrea Lawes on advanced strategy.

And remember that sometimes, it's not you....it's your equipment that's holding you back. We remind curlers to use new grippers as worn ones will leave debris on the ice but often we forget to talk about the other equipment we use. The type and thickness of your slider makes a difference. Remember the thicker the slider, the faster you will slide. If you are new to curling a thinner slider will allow you to feel more stable and balanced. This permits you to focus on the mechanics of your delivery. If you have been curling for a number of years and feel that your game has plateaued, it may be time to upgrade to a thicker slider.

If you are interested in a specific topic or skill, or would like something more focused to your league, please let me know. Our goal is to help you work on taking your game to the next level.

Sarah Gray
Director, Curling Development



Ein Prosit! Oans, Zwoa, Drei, Gsuffa!

On September 26th the 3rd annual Oktoberfest Bonspiel kicked off the 2015-16 fund-raising events.

Bavarian culture was celebrated with sausage, schnitzel, drindls, lederhosen, tirol-erhütes, accordion music, schnapps and lots of beer in the beer garden!

On the ice 72 curlers competed to be the German Champions. Team Berlette (Chris Berlette, Tom Rolfe, Joanna Rolfe and Jennifer Smith) came out on top and won the spiel!

Thanks to the Oktoberfest organizing committee for a fantastic day!

This was the 1st of 3 mixed bonspiels to take place this season. Find your teammates and mark these upcoming bonspiel dates in your calendars: February 6th (Winter Spiel) and March 12th (Shamrock Spiel)!





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Rock Talk Report Monday Men's Rated League

We just completed the first draw for the Men's Rated League. The winners of each division are as follows:

Division A: Team Adair with Carter Adair (skip), Stan Senkowski (vice) and Geof Nicolson (second), no one for lead

Division B: Team Reid with Mark Reid (skip), Larry Duckworth (vice), Ryan Slobojan (second) and Tim Dennis (lead)

Division C: Team Adair with Paul Adair (skip), Peter Warnica (vice), Mark Cretney (second) and Steven Porter (lead)

These teams have qualified for playoff spots.

It is interesting to note that Paul Adair and his son Carter are both playing this year and have both won their respective divisions. Carter has made a special request to play in the same division as his father in the second draw which I will accommodate. There is nothing like a little family rivalry!

The Men's Rated league increased from last year with 18 teams and 3 divisions. Last year with 16 teams we had to do division crossovers in order to make the schedule work. This year we don't have to. There are any new faces this year but this has also caused a small problem with filling the teams.

We do have 2 open positions for the second draw so if you play Sunday nights or another league we could use you to fill these positions and avoid 3 man teams. You are welcome to play even if it is just for one draw. Contact me if you are interested.

Good luck to all teams in the second draw!

Stan Senkowski—Men's Rated Coordinator



Contact Erin @ 905.706.2680 or marketing@whitbycurlingclub.com



Message from your OCA Rep

Welcome back to Curling everyone for the 2015/2016 season.

The OCA has a brand new website. It is still under the same link however a whole new look and some new changes as well. Please go to the site and browse around.

All of the OCA information has been posted on the OCA board which is located at the south end of the club as you go out to enter the ice. I have also posted one in the Ladies Locker room.

Please check the calendar for your event, or go on line at: [Competition Poster](#) to find any events you may be interested in. We will be under **Zone 6**. All entries must be submitted prior to or on the Zone Closing Date on the Calendar posted here. In order to register you will need to log in to the registration part of the site which will require a log in ID and pass word. Remember all entries must be done on line and paid for at the time of entry. All players, coaches and chaperones must provide the OCA with a signed waiver form. This is only required one time per season and the forms are available on line on the OCA web site.

Good Luck to all.

If anyone has any questions at all please contact me. You can send me an e-mail:

lwinters@rogers.com or give me a call, my numbers are in the club directory.

Good Curling everyone

Liz Winters, OCA Rep, WCC

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PAST COMPETITIONS

Traveler's Men's Club Championship

Skip: Gary Downs, Malcolm Macaulay, Glenn Mckinnon, Peter Baryliuk

Traveler's Women's Club Championship

Skip Terri Barton, Sarah Gray, Kym Imrie and Kara Hays, 5th Lori Way

UPCOMING EVENTS

Best Western Women's Challenge

Skip: Liz Winters, Gloria Ryan, Sherri Howard & Kym Imrie

Fairfield Marriott Challenge

Skip: Mark Reid, Ron Fennell, Dennis Jay and Dave Simmons

Skip: Jeff Whelan, Frank Veltri, Rob Phillips and Mike Bertrand

Pepsi Junior Women

Skip: Rachel Snelgrove, Nicole Massey, Melissa Gray & Alexandra Szeller

Pepsi Junior Men

Skip: Troy Stoner, Daniel VanVeghel, Justin Chung, Liam Thompson

Tim Horton's Master Men

Skip: Doug Pascoe, Ken Noakes, Blair McKaque, Ray O'Toole and John Gale

Skip: Ted Birchard, Steve Tooze, Stephen Smith and David Wake

Skip: Tom Steen, Bob Winters, Paul Morgan and Blayne Pascoe

OCA Bantam Boys

Skip: Adam MacKay, Alex Dafoe, Robert Walker and Liam Windrem