



RACC Newsletter

April 2023

We are fast approaching the end of our 2022-23 curling season, and what a year it has been!

This season saw our membership numbers nicely rebound from the drop during COVID. Not only are the membership numbers up, but people are playing more often, with several of the leagues now full or nearing capacity. We introduced new leagues this season, particularly during the daytime, to offer more diversity in game format and more opportunities for open play (i.e., players of any gender). These additions are proving popular, like our new Stick League which continued to grow throughout the season. A new Wheelchair program took root, with the addition of a 10-week Wheelchair Learn to Curl in the fall, and Drop-In Wheelchair sessions in the winter session. Participants in our youth curling instructional program increased again this year, and our youth offerings expanded with the addition of a new youth league. In late November, we began to experience and enjoy the new accessible changerooms, washrooms, and locker renovated area.

Spring has now sprung – and sadly a few leaks in the arena roof have sprung as well. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we navigate these disruptions and re-organize our schedules and find additional ice time to reschedule games.

Before we part ways for the summer, we want to remind you that there are still a few important events ahead of us – many leagues' year-end celebrations, the President's Spiel and Closing Party on April 15-16, and the RACC Annual Meeting on April 25.

**Read on for more details on these upcoming events
and other highlights from this past season.**

Your RACC Council

April 2023 Newsletter



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RACC Annual Meeting and Council Officer Elections

Mark the date! The **RACC Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 25 at 7:00 pm at the RA Centre in Courtside B**. More details will be provided soon.

A key agenda item at the meeting will be the election of Council officers. If you would like to nominate a RACC member for a position on the Club Council, please complete the Nomination Form (included at the end of this Newsletter) and submit this to a member of the Nominating Committee (Diane Burgess at burged@rogers.com or Pippa Sellers at pippa.sellers.racc@gmail.com). Several Council members are willing to serve for another year, and other positions are currently vacant. You can nominate someone for any Council position, and nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

6-ender!!

Congratulations to Rebecca Doherty and Cedric Lepage on their 6-ender scored in their Doubles game in the Youth league on March 28!



Member Survey – Coming Soon

In the coming weeks, we will be sending out a member survey to gauge your satisfaction and concerns with this past season and gather your suggestions for next season. Please take the time to complete this online survey. It is one of the few methods that the RACC Council has available to evaluate how the season went and how members feel, and it will help us develop and prioritize action items for both the RACC and the RA's consideration. We value your input and hope you will participate.

VOLUNTEERS – the Lifeblood of the Club

The successful and multi-faceted day-to-day operation of club activities and leagues couldn't be achieved without the Club's superheroes: league conveners, coaches and instructors, Council members, section committee members, and working group members. All these volunteers give so much of their time, ideas, and energy to ensure the best experience for all our members. On behalf of all the club we would like to say a big **THANK YOU to all the volunteers.**

Learn to Curl Coaching Changes – Goodbye to Paul and Hello to John

Sadly, one of our superhero volunteers is stepping back at the end of this season. For nine years, Paul Armstrong has been the head coach for the Learn to Curl Program. The program, launched under Paul's leadership on an evening weeknight and then expanded to include a daytime stream, has grown from an in-house program to one recognized, respected, and even modelled by other clubs in the region. Paul also helped to establish the Development League, a segue from the Learn to Curl that many of the graduates pursue after their initial instruction. These two programs have become an essential feeder group for new club members. We will miss you, Paul! (Have no fear. Paul is not leaving us, and will continue to convene the Tuesday Evening Open Fixed League.)

Happily, John Cooper is stepping into Pauls' shoes. The Learn to Curl program will be in capable hands, as John is one of the instructors and was also instrumental in establishing the Development League. Welcome John!

Practice Ice – Big Thank You to Cynthia!

Have you benefited from the practice ice available to members this season? This would not have been possible if not for all of Cynthia Gray's hard work coordinating the practice ice bookings – dealing with an untold number of emails, and not to mention the recent increased workload with sheets 4 and 5 out of commission and many games to reschedule.

Congratulations! Elaine Brimicombe

On March 30, Curling Canada announced that it was awarding the Ray Kingsmith Award for dedication to curling to Elaine. Click [here](#) for more details on this latest recognition of her contributions.

Are you interested in getting involved in a volunteer capacity and contributing to the operation of the club? Let us know. We'd love to have you on the team. Reach out to a Council member or your league convenor.

New Club Clothing!!



Did you order your RACC Hoodie? If you missed the deadline, not to worry: there will be a sale again this fall. Your choice of 7 colours for only \$30, tax included.

Our new club jackets will be on sale shortly. We have retained black and red as our main colours, gone away from the blockier look, and added a touch of blue to give them a distinguishing flair. We are aiming to have a few samples and a sizing kit on hand at the President's Spiel and to take orders in mid-April.

RACC Successes on the local, provincial, national, and world curling stages

RA Curling Club members have been busy in and around town, and on the provincial, national, and world stages. Congratulations to them all! A few highlights:

- Collinda Joseph represented Canada and won the Bronze medal at the World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Richmond, B.C. in early March. She also played with Team Ontario at the Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships in Moose Jaw in late March.
- Katie Hubbard was a member of Team Newfoundland at the Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships in Moose Jaw in late March.
- Amanda Crupi and Ian Briggs qualified for the Mixed Doubles Provincials held in Kingston in late February.
- Wheelchair curlers Doug Morris, Katie Hubbard, and Reid Mulligan won the Silver Medal at the Ontario Paraspport Games in Oshawa in February.
- Stella Armstrong placed 3rd in the U18 at the Ontario Winter games held in early February in Renfrew, and also qualified for the U18 Provincials held in mid-January in Oshawa.
- Margaret Woodley and her team of Jo Anne Milligan, Danielle Bernier, and Terry Holiday were runners-up in the Crystal Heart's Senior Division in early February.

- Greg Kresko and his team of John Drayton, Brandon Drayton, and Shane Livingstone were winners of the Statistics Canada Bonspiel held at Carleton Heights on January 28th.
- Claudia Howard and her team of Margaret Bérubé, Danielle Bernier, and Denise Kingsbury were runners-up in the MacDonald event of the Ladies Curling Association (Eastern Ontario and West Québec) on March 24



Claudia and her team (from right to left)



Beverly (left) and Barbara

- On January 22, John Cooper organized the fourth RACC Invitational Open Doubles Spiel. The winners of the first Draw were our very own Barbara Nicholson and Beverly Munn.
- The RACC's member Mini Brier on February 19 saw 16 teams sign up in two draws. Team Newfoundland was the winner in draw 1, while Team Quebec won draw 2.



Team Quebec (from left to right: Jordan Gignac, Chuck Pilkington, Tony Grieg, and Michael Dewing)



Team Newfoundland (from left to right: Andre Lafortune, Karen Dodds, Andre Imbeau)

Wheelchair Curling Corner

Our wheelchair curling program keeps rolling along!



This season the RA hosted two “Try It” days, one in October and the other in January, inviting the community to give wheelchair curling a go. Following the RA’s 10-week “Learn to” program, our Saturday drop-in days are growing steadily, with a dedicated group of volunteers, instructors, and coaches on hand providing

guidance and support. We’re thrilled that one of our Wheelchair Learn to Curl participants has been accepted to Curling Canada’s Female NextGen training program! Future plans include enhanced training opportunities and a program for young wheelchair curlers.

Our continued goal is to promote the RACC as a welcoming, inclusive environment, and this is reflected beautifully in its newly renovated, fully accessible space.

Youth Corner

Our Youth Instructional Program on Saturday mornings grew to thirty-five players this year, and they have been as busy as our adult membership! The Youth League on Tuesdays at 5 pm got off to a good start this inaugural year, with interest already growing for next season. This winter the Youth were busy, and successful, on the local recreational spils circuit. More importantly they had fun and developed friendships!



The club was represented by Youth as follows:

- One team in the Navy Bonspiel on January 22
- Two teams in the Buckingham U12/U13 Spiel on February 18
- Two teams in the Buckingham U15/U18 Spiel on February 19
- Two teams in the Huntley St Patrick Spiel, March 19
- One team in the Carleton Heights Cash on the Wall Spiel on April 1
- Two teams will be at the RCMP Spiel on April 10



Team RA1 at Huntley

Want to try the Stick or Doubles Games? Thinking of Joining the Daytime Open Fixed? Thinking about joining the Stick League or a Doubles league next season? Come out and give these games a try. **Circle Tuesday, April 18th from 1-3 pm on your calendar when we will be hosting a Drop-In session** for Stick and Doubles Curling. A representative of the Wednesday Daytime Open Fixed league will also be there to answer any questions you may have, in case you are interested in joining this mixed gender league next year.

Final Reminder of Upcoming Events

The Presidents Spiel and Closing party – Saturday April 15th and Sunday April 16th
The RACC Annual Meeting – Tuesday, April 25th at 7 pm

Next Newsletter – Midsummer

Information on registration, Try Curling sessions, as well as leagues and their scheduling next fall will be included in the next RACC newsletter scheduled for midsummer.

Though prices are going up everywhere, we are pleased to inform you that there will be no increase to our fees next year!!

**On behalf of the RACC Council we hope everyone has a great end to their season, and a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends.
We look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall.**

October 10th will mark the beginning of the RACC 2023-24 curling season.



**Nomination Form Club Council Officer Position
2023 Elections**

RACC member being nominated: _____

Position they are being nominated for (select one):

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daytime Women's Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Daytime Men's Representative | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Social | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> House and Property | |

Nominee's signature (accepting the nomination): _____

Date: _____

Name of RACC member proposing the nominee: _____

Signature of proposer: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Pippa Sellers: pippa.sellers.racc@gmail.com

Diane Burgess: burged@rogers.com

