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# GERALDTON CURLING CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 24, 2013



With the new ice plant and dehumidifier that were installed last year, the club was able to begin ice preparation a little earlier than usual and the first rocks were thrown on October 21<sup>st</sup>. A huge **THANK YOU** to all of our dedicated volunteers – [Edgar Carreira](#), [Clarke Brown](#), [Mike Davis](#), [Doug Haldane](#) and [Norm Kristjanson](#) who assisted [Bruce](#), [Mike](#), [Dominique](#), [Darius](#) and Chairperson [Dave Barker](#) with this task. This year four pre-made Jet Ice vinyl curling houses were purchased and installed at the home end. These houses help to save time, labour, are reusable and are customizable to any sort of design desired. The talented designers at Jet Ice were able to design one of the houses, based only on a picture of the Geraldton Curling Club pin, and it looks fabulous! In addition a house was designed for local software product Rock Clock which is used for timing in competitions across Northern Ontario and for some of the Grand Slam competitions.

## REGISTRATION:

**THANK YOU** to everyone who came out during our two registration nights and paid fees!! We were able to collect nearly 80% of the monies owing before the leagues start which makes collecting so much easier!! Every member who paid their membership had their name entered into our KITTY REWARDS contest and members of the Executive picked the winners at the Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting:

Men's Tuesday - **Clarke Brown team** (Bruce Lamb was picked by Dan Flynn)

Ladies - **Karen Saarimaki team** (Karen Saarimaki picked by Kurt Pristanski)

Men's Thursday - **Edgar Carreira team** (Jamie Armstrong picked by Serena Davis)

Mixed - **Ron Melhuish team** (Stephane Leblanc picked by Sylvie Fortier)

Congratulations to the winners!

There has been an increase of one team in each of the Ladies, Men's Thursday and Mixed leagues, with Tuesday night Men's league remaining steady. If there are any individuals/teams still looking to curl, the club is always looking for spares, and teams can be added in the second event. Ice is also available most Monday evenings for anyone wanting to practice or make up games.

For those of you who have not yet paid your fees, please bring your money to the club on the first League Night. We would like to get everything collected in record time this year!

**THANKS AGAIN!!**

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

We are still looking for contact information for a few new members – phone number and email address would be greatly appreciated so we can share information with you throughout the year. (we won't share your address with anyone)

**BONSPIELS:**

LADIES – Feb. 28, Mar. 1-2 We are still looking for person(s) to spearhead the event, and a group of people to help out!

MENS – Mar. 7-9

MIXED – Mar. 21-22

More information will be posted at the club over the next few weeks.

**NORTHERN ONTARIO CURLING ASSOCIATION:**

The new and improved NOCA WEBSITE was launched on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to check it out. This year CURLING WEEK will be promoted across Northern Ontario during the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Our club will again be participating in the DRAW TO THE BUTTON contest again with prizes for first to fourth place including a trip to the 2015 Canadian Mixed as well as Goldline gift cards. Lindsey Pascoe was the big winner last year – we will see if he can defend his title! Stay tuned for more details.

It is an OLYMPIC year, and Northern Ontario has 3 teams vying to represent Canada at the Olympics in February 2014 in Sochi, Russia. Brad Jacobs and his team from Soo Curlers (the 2013 Brier Champions and World Championship Silver medallists) along with the Krista McCarville (Thunder Bay), and Tracy Horgan (Sudbury) teams will be competing at the Road to the Roar Pre-trials in Kitchener Nov. 5-10, attempting to gain a berth in the Olympic Trials to be held in Winnipeg the first week of December. Tickets are still available for both of those events – we know of a few local curlers who will be there cheering the teams on! **The Northern Ontario Curling Association is holding a “Brooms & Jerseys Contest”! The Jacobs, Horgan, and McCarville teams have donated AUTOGRAPHED Brooms and Jerseys - 12 winners to be drawn, one adult and one youth draw daily between November 5 – 10. Entries open Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> and close November 4<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to visit NOCA’s new website for a chance to WIN!! [www.curlnoca.ca](http://www.curlnoca.ca)**

**DOMINION CLUB CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP:**

*A reminder that National Dominion Club Curling Championship is being held in Thunder Bay at the Fort William Curling Club the week of Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> (curling week). If you are in Thunder Bay for some early Christmas shopping then think about dropping in to catch some great curling – no charge for admission. Northern Ontario will be represented by the Kathie Jackson team from Fort Frances and the Jason Strelzki team from Copper Cliff (Sudbury).*

**CLUB WEBSITE:**

Be sure to check out our club website at [www.geraldtoncurlingclub.ca](http://www.geraldtoncurlingclub.ca). We also now have a page on FACEBOOK and a TWITTER account. **If you are on Facebook, check out our page, then be sure to “Like and share our page” or “Follow us” on Twitter – everyone that does will be entered into a draw for a \$50 Gift Certificate to be drawn on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**SPONSORS:**

We are very lucky to have all of our league sponsors return for another season –

RBC, Stedman’s, Errington Home Hardware, MacIver’s Auto, Dominion Motors, Daneffs, Eileen Pile (Herb Pile Memorial), Canada Brokerlink, Pietsch Group – Times Star, Gay Muree Ladies Wear – Please THANK them, and support them when you can.

In addition, we welcome 2 new sponsors of our Scoreboards – Beaulieu Bus Lines and Ron’s Signs!

We still have room for 3 more scoreboard sponsors and would also like to acquire some sponsors for another four logoed ice houses for next season. If anyone is interested or has a suggestion, let us know.

**CURLING CLINIC/INSTRUCTION:**

If you are interested in learning how to curl, and would like to take advantage of some instruction, a curling clinic is being held on Saturday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Instruction be given about the game, basic rules, terminology, proper delivery technique, sweeping/brushing tips, and use of the “stick” for those with knee/back problems. Contact Karen Saarimaki 854-1739 or email [president@geraldtoncurlingclub.ca](mailto:president@geraldtoncurlingclub.ca) for more information.

**CLUB HOURS:**

*The club is open for regular league play Tuesday to Fridays starting at 6:30, as well as Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 for the afternoon drop in league. On Monday evenings the club will be open for practice or makeup games (thanks Julie D. for looking after this). There may also be open sheets available on other evenings for practice or makeup games – please sign up on the board located in the hallway in order that our ice crew can make sure the ice is ready. **Afternoon Curling will start on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – 1-3 p.m.***

## **CURLING EQUIPMENT & ICEMAKER WOES:**

Here is an article from the Canadian Curling Association website in regards to some issues with ice, that cause grief for icemakers, but you as a club curler can help alleviate:

After a game of curling, there often seems to be a disconnect between the ice conditions and how players think the ice affected their game. Time and time again missed shots are blamed on poor ice conditions.

Players rarely stop to think about the effect they're having on the ice surface. The truth is, players have a lot more to do with creating their own on-ice environment than they think.

Level 3 Ice Technician and Head Icemaker at the Calgary Winter Club (CWC) Rob Hawley has painstakingly created countless playing surfaces during his 31-year career. I asked Rob if there were five simple things curlers could do to improve playing conditions, and he came up with some great answers.

Hawley is a curler himself so he not only has the best interests of the ice in mind; he truly cares about the sport of curling itself. Here's his advice:

### **1. Maintain Your Shoes**

Make sure you have one pair of shoes dedicated to curling and curling only. Thou shalt not walk across the parking lot in these sacred shoes, nor shalt thou run willy-nilly round the club in the sacred shoes, lest they become filthy (even if they look clean) and bring that filth onto the ice. Hawley urges curlers to put on their shoes only for the game and suggests using both an electric shoe cleaner and walking across an adhesive mat to make sure shoes are completely clean before stepping onto the ice.

### **2. What Not to Wear**

Many curlers may not be aware of this, but Hawley stresses, "fleece sweaters (and pants) are just horrid for the ice. Little balls of fluff come off the material and end up on the ice." Hawley says this problem is especially bad after Christmas when everyone comes to curling proudly wearing brand new fleece jackets and sweaters. The balls of fluff from the fleece clothing end up on the ice and cause rocks to pick.

### **3. Maintain Your Slider**

To keep from gouging the ice, avoid using scratched sliders. The deep gouges left behind by an ill-maintained slider can later have an effect on how rocks react to the ice surface. According to Hawley, these gouges often run from the hack all the way up past the hog-line, which means they could later affect a rock's path at a most critical time – in the house.

### **4. Be Careful Where You Put Those Hands**

Leaving your hands, fingers, knees or rear end on the ice for any extended period of time will cause problems. According to Hawley, the time it takes to permanently burn warm body parts into the ice takes "not very long because your hands are so warm. In seconds the ice starts melting and you can take the pebble right off."



### **5. Maintain Your Gripper**

According to Hawley, debris left behind from grippers can be a nightmare. The little bits of rubber that come off a gripper can cause rocks to pick and leave the ice looking dirty. Hawley recommends purchasing a new gripper every season and giving it a good wash with soap and water a couple times a year. "Grippers collect everything because they're made from soft rubber... It doesn't hurt to wash your gripper."

A common thread ties Hawley's suggestions up neatly: "The basic idea is to not bring in outside dirt... it definitely has an effect."

However, Hawley is not suggesting we spend so much time obsessing over debris that we forget to enjoy the game: "We just have to respect the ice and the clubs we play at."

## **So now that you have read the article....how about investing in some new equipment.....**

If you are looking for new equipment, such as pants, shoes, brushes, grippers - for yourself, or as a gift for someone, be sure to talk to Norm Kristjanson as he may be able to help you out. Check out the equipment display in the club showcase! Christmas is coming.....

**We are looking forward to offering everyone a great time curling during our long winter! Bring along some friends to try it out!**

**We are striving to make improvements in our club – we have just purchased 12 new tables and 50 new chairs to spruce up our lounge.**

**In addition we have ordered a new boot/shoe cleaner for the entrance way to try and keep our rug/floor a little cleaner and make the maintenance a little easier.**

**We also now have the services of an ATM machine in the club, thanks to Frank Hildebrandt (the club Interac will be removed).**

**Two dozen new club brooms for use by our juniors/rental groups/afternoon curlers as well as some additional curling sticks, stabilizers and sliders have been purchased. Plans are in the works for a new storage box to be placed where the middle bleacher currently is located between the lounge and the ice surface.**



***SEE YOU ON THE ICE!***