



# *The Sweep*

## Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 26, Issue 1

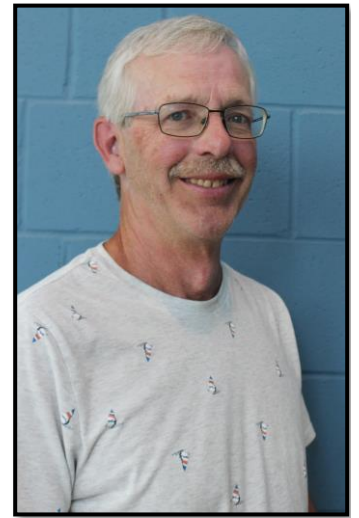
October 2024

# A word from the President

By Keith Mitchell

Where did the summer go? Seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Championship Night and skating out the ice, but here we are starting a new season full of hope and anticipation. Although the summer seems short and seems to get shorter every year, I can't wait to lace up the shoes, grab the broom and do that first (somewhat wobbly) slide.

The summer was a busy time at RKCC with events in the lounge, pickleball in the ice shed and beach volleyball out the back. Our new A/C unit that was installed last year was very well received by the pickleball fraternity with the courts being full much of the time. A new tiller has made the sand in the volleyball courts much better, and the new deck that the Operations group put together certainly helped with bar sales. Rhonda has done a great job of keeping all the various balls in the air (no, not pickleballs or volleyballs) at the club, as well as getting us ready for the upcoming season. Speaking of the upcoming season, we have some fantastic events coming up along with our regular list of events and bonspiels. Some highlights include a brand-new Mixed Doubles tour stop that is being held at RKCC.



**Club president Keith Mitchell.**

Many thanks to Anthony Hale whose idea this was, and for taking this on. We will also be having Lisa Weagle coming to RKCC to do a clinic and a talk in February. And in January we will be hosting the U20 Provincial Championships.

I want to welcome Gary Cound, our new Head ice Technician, to RKCC. Gary has a mountain of experience making ice at a number of clubs in Eastern Ontario and we are lucky to have him join us. As we are all well aware, the installation of the ice this fall has been a significant challenge with weather and equipment not cooperating. Gary not only persevered through this he has taken the time to pass on his knowledge to the other members of the ice crew. Building a home-grown team of ice technicians is a key objective of mine and we are well on the way to accomplishing that goal.

I do want to welcome all our new members to the club. We pride ourselves as being one of the friendliest clubs and I thank you for choosing RKCC to be your new home for curling. If I had a door, it would always be open to you, but since I don't, just ask for me. I am happy to address any questions you have.

It has been an interesting and challenging time to step into the role of president. The board has been meeting regularly over the summer addressing many of these challenges and I want to thank all the members for their hard work and support over the summer.

# Many new faces in Stick Curling this season

By Kathy Jackson, Stick Section Chair & League Convenor

Another year of stick curling is about to get underway with many returning members in our two leagues as well as a good crop of new 'stick' curlers joining us for the first time. The two-person stick league will be full with 31 teams divided amongst four divisions for the first draw.

The 'A' division is comprised of eight returning teams from last season, although a couple of teams will be newly-formed partnerships. The reigning 'A' division champions of Doug Pfeiffer and Bob Moore will try to fend off their opponents as they bid to capture the title again in 2024-2025.

The 'B' divisions include eight new teams as well as five new partnerships. Vic Matthews and Ernie Carter hope to repeat their winning ways of last year.

The four-person stick league will feature 12 teams, two of which are brand new to the league and three teams that have brought in new players to their line-ups. The defending champions, the Mary Skeggs' team, return with a new lead as they vie to capture another title.

Spares are **always** needed in both leagues, so if you are interested in checking out the league or getting in a little more curling, put your name on the spares list. I'm sure you'll get some calls!

Back for a second year, will be the Four-person Stick Holiday Spiel. In this event, everyone throws their rocks with a stick, regardless of whether that's their usual way of delivery. Last year almost half the participants were new to throwing with a stick ... and they still had a good time! Mark Wednesday December 18 on your calendar for this fun-filled event. Last year it was full and we're hoping it will be again this year.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for the stick leagues, feel free to reach out to any member of the Stick Section Committee – Kathy Jackson, David Townsend or Tom Sephton. We'd love to hear from you.

Good curling, all. See you on the ice!



**Women's club champions from left: Erica Simpson, Vanessa Cooper, Kaitlyn Welch and skip Laura Brown.**

## RKCC champs to compete in provincial qualifiers

Two teams will represent RKCC at the Club Championship Qualifiers for Ontario zones 4,5 and 6 on October 18 at the Oshawa Curling Club.

Overall RKCC Women's Flight Champions Laura Brown (skip), Kaitlyn Welch, Vanessa Cooper and Erica Simpson will compete in the double knockout draw against 10 other women's teams. Carol Fitzpatrick of RKCC will compete on a Cataragui team skipped by Tammy Scott-Zelt.

On the men's side, RKCC will be represented by Joe Waller (skip), Mario Fabbro, Ross Fabbro and John MacMillan.

Sixteen teams have registered in the men's qualifier.

Both Restricted Zone Qualifiers will advance one team per qualifier plus four teams by weighted average. The Provincial Men's and Women's Club Championship will be held November 1-3 at the Whitby Curling Club.



# MISSING!

A red binder containing *THE SWEEP* newsletters from the 1960's to 2006 has disappeared from the RKCC Boardroom. These irreplaceable, historical records are part of our club's archives. If you know the whereabouts of this binder, please return it to the club as soon as possible.



# Join the scam detection team!

**By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor**

As curlers we have a responsibility to look out for one another, not only on the ice, but in our social interactions too. We listen, we ask questions, we care. And we can also play detective, if we're attuned to certain clues that our teammates and friends might be at risk.

That was the message delivered to an RKCC audience of about 50 at a session on cyber security and fraud on September 26 by Detective Constable Carolyn Gauthier of Kingston Police's vulnerable sector unit.

"Who doesn't like to play detective?" she asked. "We have to watch out for red flags for ourselves, our friends and our loved ones. We all have to work together to help stop scammers, or at least make it harder for them."

Because, admits Gauthier, we will never stop scammers completely. They proliferate like mushrooms in the dark, always working to fool you into parting with your money through theft and deception, using ever more sophisticated means.

Some of the common frauds in Kingston include distracting people in the parking lots of large chain retailers and grocery stores, by calling your home and pretending to be a family member in distress and urgent need of money, by emailing what looks like a legitimate email from your bank, insurance company or other contact, by offering get-rich-quick schemes, or by promising undying romance.

Like the best con artists, scammers are very convincing, so convincing that even when members of the Kingston Police's fraud unit have sat down with victims at the request of concerned family members, some victims refuse to believe that they have been scammed and continue to send thousands of dollars to untraceable accounts, often in cryptocurrency.



**Detective Constable Carolyn Gauthier, a member of Kingston Police Fraud Unit, speaks at RKCC.**

"It's sad because a lot of our victims of fraud don't even report it because they're ashamed and embarrassed," said Gauthier. "They're accused of being greedy or gullible. But anybody can become a victim through no fault of their own."

How can we protect ourselves? By being vigilant and asking questions, by educating ourselves on the different types of scams, by listening to our instincts. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you didn't buy a lottery ticket, you didn't win the lottery or a new car or a dream vacation. If someone wants you to pay in gift cards or bitcoin, that's a scam. If they ask you to withdraw money and not tell anyone, that's a red flag. And check your accounts regularly. Identify theft is on the rise. If someone gleans enough information to steal your identity, they can borrow money, take out a mortgage, buy a car . . . in your name, without you knowing.

**Continued on page 5.**



**RKCC president Keith Mitchell presents Detective Constable Carolyn Gauthier with RKCC tuques.**

#### **Scams, continued from page 4.**

"I'm not here to scare you," said Gauthier, looking around at all the scared faces in the room. "I'm here to educate you, to stress that we all need to look after one another.

"I'm giving you tips to play the detective. If you're with your friends, or loved ones or neighbours, listen closely when they start to talk about investments, or a new romance with someone they haven't met – they may be getting phone calls where they are being groomed by scammers.

"When should you NOT play detective? When your bank calls and asks you to help catch a fraudster. That will never happen. Hang up and call your bank."

If you or someone you know has been or may have been the victim of a fraud, report it right away, urges Gauthier. "Even if you're a third party, you can report it to the Kingston police in person, by phone or online.

"Why report it, even though we can't do much?" she asked. "We want to know what's happening. We investigate fraud on a case-by-case basis. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre keeps track. And sometimes we can solve a fraud and get your money back.

"Report it. Please. Do not be embarrassed. We'd rather talk to you at the beginning than at the end when you have lost everything."

#### **Fraud Awareness Resources**

[www.kingstonpolice.ca/crime-prevention-and-safety/frauds-and-scams](http://www.kingstonpolice.ca/crime-prevention-and-safety/frauds-and-scams)

[www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

Download the Competition Bureau's Little Black Book of Scams

<https://competition-bureau.canada.ca/little-black-book-scams-2nd-edition>

Find more information on the websites of the Competition Bureau Canada, Ontario Securities Commission, Canada Revenue Agency, the Ontario government (Ontario.ca) page on "identify a scam or fraud" and Consumer Protection Ontario.

If your personal information is compromised, Gauthier advises you to contact one of the two credit reporting agencies in Canada, TransUnion Canada or Equifax Canada.



# RKCC to host new mixed doubles cashspiel Nov. 9-10

RKCC will be hosting an exciting new event in November. The Royal Kingston Mixed Doubles Cashspiel, to be held November 9 - 10, is a chance for teams to earn points on the Canadian and World Mixed Doubles rankings.

The tier-two event is open to 24 teams, with a potential prize purse of \$6,500. It is the only mixed doubles event on the Ontario Mixed Doubles Curling Tour in eastern Ontario and one of only 10 Tour events in the province.

The event is being organized by RKCC member Anthony Hale, who competes at the provincial level with partner Denise Mulville and whose team is also the current RKCC mixed doubles champion. After competing in both the 2023 and 2024 Ontario Mixed Doubles Provincial Championships, Anthony joined the board of the Ontario Mixed Doubles Curling Tour.

There are currently about 300 mixed doubles teams on the World Curling Tour Rankings. "All of these teams are ranked or looking to gain points towards the Canadian and World mixed doubles rankings," explained Anthony. "Points in this regard first and foremost let us know where each team stands in the world and Canadian rankings.

"Secondly, certain teams with the most points in Ontario get automatic entry into provincials, bypassing the provincial qualifiers. This also helps in rankings towards the Olympic qualifiers and trials to become Team Canada. "

The Royal Kingston event is filling up fast, with teams already registered from across Canada, the U.S. and even Mexico. Royal Kingston will be represented by its top doubles teams, Denise and Anthony, and Melissa Wong and Corey St-Laurent. You can see which teams have registered (although this is subject to change) at [curlingzone.com](http://curlingzone.com).

"This was an event that I got involved in through our success in competitions in doubles," said Anthony. "With the help of Linda Lott, Mario Fabbro and the Curling Committee, we have been able to get lots of support, some sponsorship and set dates for this event on November 9 and 10."



From left, skip Leah DaCosta, Lexi Wowk, Grace Berry, Mehda Charan, Copelynn Henderson-Boileau and coach Michael Berry.

## Team DaCosta makes Capital Curling debut

The first bonspiel is in the books for Team DaCosta! Donning their new uniforms, the team headed to Ottawa to take part in the Capital Curling Fall Open, September 27-29 at the RCMP Curling Club. The competition was the first of four in the the Capital Curling Series. It was a great start for these young curlers, finishing with a 2 and 1 record, winning the second event final in the U18 Open grouping. Congratulations, Team!

Special thanks to team sponsors Unity Sod Farm Ltd, RB Kingston Carpentry Ltd., Amy Henderson-Boileau - Real Estate Broker at Royal LePage ProAlliance, Cataraqui Dental, Abacus Archaeological Services, Budget Backdrops and Decor, Bridget Walker-Payne - Desjardins Insurance Agent, Holway and Hutchinson Insurance and Holly Behiels.

Next up is the Capital Curling Class October 11-13. Good luck, team!

**IF YOU ENJOY READING, RKCC HAS THE CLUB FOR YOU!**

**OUR BOOK CLUB MEETS ONCE A MONTH. JOIN US FOR INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS AND TREATS.**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS Oct. 16, 2024 @ 4 pm in the Lounge.**



For more information contact: [rkccbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:rkccbookclub@gmail.com)

## ***National Bullying Prevention Month:*** **Let's treat each other with respect**

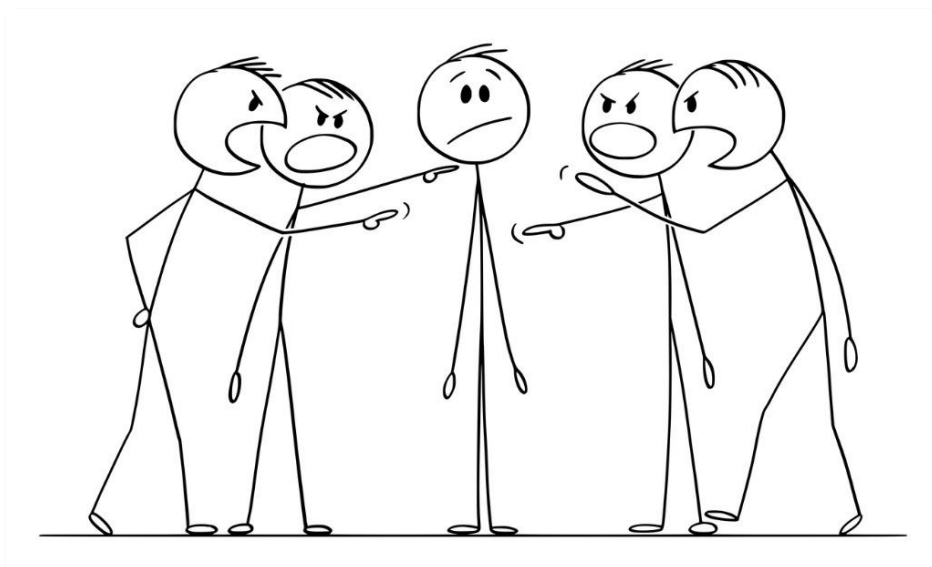
October is National Bullying Prevention Month and this is a perfect opportunity to remind us all that we are an open and caring club. As club members we are responsible for ensuring that all members and employees enjoy a safe, respectful and productive environment, free from bullying and harassment. Everyone, whether member or staff, deserves respect and acceptance. As a club we do not tolerate disrespectful behaviour.

Our club has an Anti-Discrimination, Harassment, Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and we encourage everyone to review it. Although our policy doesn't address bullying specifically, keep in mind that bullying is never acceptable and can have a negative impact on the club environment.

Bullying and inappropriate conduct that may not be severe or pervasive enough to meet the definition of harassment includes: rudeness, insults, ridicule, disrespectful "jokes", questioning someone's identity or intentionally misusing a person's name or pronouns. Other behaviours that might constitute bullying include offensive comments about someone's age, disability or appearance, malicious or harmful statements about others and swearing or yelling.

We particularly want to ensure that our staff are treated with respect as they perform their duties. No one wants to work in an environment in which they do not feel comfortable or welcome and it is up to us as members to ensure we give them that environment.

Simply put, all members, directors, management and staff, contractors and visitors have the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times.



# Variations of the 2-Person Curling Games

By Jim Rayner

Over the past decades various styles of two-person curling games have evolved.

The one we are most familiar with since it became part of the Olympics is mixed doubles.

However, the two-person styles we are dealing with today are the game we see played at our club, which is two-person stick curling and one we do not see locally, which is very popular in western Canada called Sturling.

So, what are the differences between them, we ask? Here is the short version of both.

Sturling is believed to have come about in a small town and co-invented by Brian Dingman and Carson Schultz of Didsbury, Alberta around 1998. The game follows the same rules as two- person stick curling but the two partners use different delivery styles. One person delivers their six rocks using a delivery stick, while the other partner delivers their six rocks using the conventional slide delivery. The game also is played in six ends, three ends for each partner.

Two-person stick curling is believed to have begun in the Ontario town of Huntsville. In 1998 a non-curler by the name of Rusty Drew came up with the delivery stick for his wife, who loved curling but could no longer slide due to health issues. Rusty called his invention the “Extender”. This led to what we now call two-person stick curling and follows the same rules as “Sturling”. The two partners both deliver the curling stone with a delivery stick, playing three ends each and delivering six rocks. The invention of the delivery stick by Rusty Drew led to the acceptance of wheelchair curling in the Olympics in 2008.

Interestingly enough, both styles of games and their founders and inventors are being recognized by special events in the near future. In Didsbury, Alberta, the town will be funding the building of a giant curling stone to be placed on a pedestal at the entry to town in recognition of Carson Schultz and Brian Dingman and the founding of Sturling. In Huntsville, Ontario, the local sports hall of fame will be inducting Rusty Drew for his invention of the delivery stick called the “Extender”. The delivery stick invented by Rusty was approved by Curling Canada.

Here are a couple of web sites if anyone would like to read more about the two styles of two- person curling in this article.

[https://kwgranite.com/index.php/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=363:dawn-of-stick-curling&catid=43:news](https://kwgranite.com/index.php/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=363:dawn-of-stick-curling&catid=43:news)

<https://www.thealbertan.com/didsbury-news/stick-curling-stone-monument-proposed-in-didsbury-9075998>

*The stick curling slogan is ‘6 Rocks, 6 Ends, & Making Friends!’.*

Jim Rayner is a longtime member of RKCC and the new editor of the Canadian Stick Curling Association (CSCA) newsletter, *News & Views*. He has been curling since 1974 (that’s 50 years!) and stick curling since 2008. He has represented RKCC in the 2023 and 2024 CurlON 2-Person Open Provincial Stick Championships, along with Tony Bush. You can find the CSCA newsletter and everything stick curling at [canadianstickcurling.ca](http://canadianstickcurling.ca).

**Making  
ice  
(when  
it's not  
nice)...  
Thank  
you, ice  
makers  
all!**



Icemaker Jeff Gray returned to help with the ice. Here he sprays white paint on the rink surface. Holding the hose are Gisele Cyr, Mada Bender and Paul Moorby.



Left: Chief ice technician Gary Cound paints the first circle. Photo by Jim Rayner.

Right: Gary with volunteers Laurie Winter (left) and Jennifer Robertson. Photo by Denis Faubert, who also helped with the ice.



Mada Bender paints the eight-foot circle.



RKCC president Keith Mitchell paints between the lines.