



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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January 2025

RKCC to host U20 provincials

By Peter Waugh

The 2024 Turkey Spiel was held on Saturday December 14 and was a day filled with curling, fun and friendship. There were 12 teams participating for turkeys and bragging rights.

In addition to two six-end games, the curlers enjoyed a delicious lunch, sweet dessert, Curling Bingo and a Chase the Turkey contest.

A 50/50 draw was dedicated to supporting the. Curlers at RKCC were very generous in supporting the Southern Frontenac Community Services Food Bank, donating: \$595 in cash and 368 pounds of food, including two of the turkeys won by the curlers. The food has a value of \$3.52 per pound according to Feed Ontario.

RKCC greatly appreciates the generosity of our sponsors - Loyalist Flowers, Avenue Florist and In Bloom. They donated floral arrangements for raffle prizes. Thanks goes out to Mary Lynn and Dave Beaton.

The Turkey Spiel winners include:

- Bonspiel winning team – “The Sliding Legends”- Jim Rayner, Cathy Grant, Michel Ringuette, Susan Radford each won a turkey
- Best themed costumes – David Stone and Laurie Winter
- Curling Bingo – Team Curling Me Softly – Richard Moulton, Jean Vannest, David Stone and Linda Shanks



Mary Lynn Beaton, left, owner of Loyalist Flowers, Avenue Florist and In Bloom Floral & Home Décor, presents a winning draw basket to Kathleen Poole. Mary Lynn is a club member and generous supporter of the Turkey Spiel.

- Chase The Turkey – Charles Harari and Carlye Oda
- The Southern Frontenac Community Services Food Bank

Next season will be the 10th annual Turkey Spiel. Put in on your calendar as it is guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

More Turkey Spiel photos on page 2.



Clockwise from top: David Townsend; Carlye Oda and Peter Waugh; the Sliding Legends, L-R Jim Rayner, Michel Ringuette, Susan Radford and Cathy Grant; Peter Waugh and Charles Harari and Kathleen Poole and David Stone.

Photos by Peter Waugh



U20 provincials at RKCC Jan. 29 - Feb.2

Get ready to rock, Kingston! The 2025 Under-20 Provincial Curling Championships are coming to the Royal Kingston Curling Club January 29 – February 2.

The Championships will feature the top eight men's and women's U20 teams from across the province, each vying for a chance to represent Ontario at the 2025 New Holland Canadian U20 championships March 22 – 30 in Summerside, PEI.

The event is open to players under the age of 21 at June 30, 2025. Many of the top competitors are still eligible to compete at the U18 level. In fact, the women's field at the U20 provincials includes the top four U18 teams in Ontario ranked highest in the Trillium Team Ranking System (TTRS), a points system created by Curling Ontario to give teams an opportunity to earn direct entry to the U18 and U20 provincial championships by participating in sanctioned events throughout the season.

The men's field has two U18 teams and six U20 teams, including the top-ranked teams in TTRS points. Four of the participating teams have been selected to the Ontario Curling Council's 2024-25 Next Gen Program, designed to support athletes who have proven competitive success over time and to help them advance along the Long Term Athlete Development pathway as individual athletes and teams. Selected as Tier I (highest ranked in Ontario) Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative Teams are U18/20 Teams Noah Garner (Toronto) and Ava Acres (Ottawa) and, as Tier 2 CurlON Teams, Teams Evan MacDougall (Guelph) and Dominique Vivier (Navan).

But in truth, all 16 teams participating in the 2025 U20 Provincial Curling Championships represent the next generation of elite Canadian curlers with dreams – and realistic hopes – of someday competing at the Scotties, the Brier, World Championships and Olympics.

The provincial championship is a round robin format with semi-final and final playoffs. Two women's and two men's teams will advance to the national championships in PEI.

The first games will start on Wednesday, January 29 at 2:30 p.m., followed by the opening ceremonies at 6 p.m., during which RKCC's own U18 women's Team DaCosta will throw the opening rock. Denis Faubert will pipe the teams out and flagbearers will be Edward Gibson and Jennifer Robertson.

There will be three draws on Thursday and Friday, at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. Saturday's draws are at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., with tiebreakers (if necessary) at 8 p.m. The semi-finals take place on Sunday at 9 a.m. and the finals at 1:30 p.m. Notably, all games are 10 ends, with no time-outs.

Spectators are welcome and all games are free. Come on out and see the future of Canadian curling.



Skip Harry Jones calls out to his sweepers during the 2022 U18 provincial curling championships at RKCC. Team Jones from the Burlington Golf & Country Club was the men's second playoff winners and went on to compete at the U18 national championships in Oakville that year.

Want to support Ontario's best?

Adopt a U20 team

On January 29 our curling club will welcome 64 of the premier U20 curlers to the provincial championships. We are very excited to be sponsoring this provincial competition between the 16 teams (eight women and eight men) who will be competing from January 29th to February 2nd.

These athletes and their families spend hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars practising, travelling and competing for an opportunity to reach the provincial championships. This is your opportunity to help these athletes in a tangible way. This is the next generation of curlers that will be representing Ontario and maybe Canada.

The "Adopt-A-Team" program is designed for your RKCC curling team to support one of the competing teams with a \$100 donation, that's just \$25 each. Or you can donate \$25 as an individual.

Our target is for each of the **16 teams** to be adopted by two local RKCC teams. The junior teams will receive at least 75% of every \$1 donation in cash and approximately 25% will be spent on their welcome bags and healthy snacks.

As we go to press, the response has been great in support of these U20 curlers coming to town. We have raised 50% of our goal to adopt-a-team, with the target of having two adopting RKCC teams getting behind each one of the sixteen teams coming to compete. The Draw schedule and team information is now posted on our website." Your generous support will be recognized at the event and some of you will have a chance to carry the team name signs at the opening ceremonies.

How do we "adopt" one of the U20 teams coming to RKCC?

1. Talk with your curling team-mates on your flight or club team. Start with, "did you see the email message about adopting a U20 team? Make the decision to do this.
2. Collect \$25 from each member of your team.
3. One person goes to the member home page on the website and go to Event Registration <https://royalkingston.com/index.php/events/events-registration>
4. Scroll down to the Adopt-A-Team U20 and follow the instructions.
5. If you are registering as a group, please enter the names of all four team members. If you are supporting these U20 athletes as an individual, use the Register button
6. Payment via credit card.

Questions? Please ask one of our organizing committee members - Murray Matheson, Deb Wilkin, Jo Miller, Kathy Jackson, Tom Sephton or Jan Ray.

Watch the website for more information on the team rosters, kickoff events and Opening Ceremony on January 29 and draw schedule for the curling.

How much fun was that!?!

By Kathy Jackson, Convenor

The second rendition of the ***Four-Person Stick Festive Funspiel*** was a big hit! On December 18, this fun, non-competitive event was once again filled to capacity. There were 48 eager participants, all ready to attempt to master the art of stick delivery. As was the case last year, almost half of the people participating were new or recently new to delivering the rocks with a stick.

Things got underway with a short instructional clinic under the leadership of David Townsend and Tom Sephton. Feedback on this aspect is very positive, as people appreciate the pointers they receive as well as the opportunity to practice throwing some rocks with this unfamiliar method before attempting to do so in a game setting. After the mini-clinic, teams of experienced and less experienced stick curlers took to the ice for a four-end game. A tasty lunch followed with a few stories, a few beverages and lots of laughs. A second four-end game saw teams play different opponents as teams shifted left or right depending on their rock colours in the first game. Finally, the day wrapped up with some dessert and a couple of fun prizes on each table. All in all, the day was a most enjoyable one, filled with smiles, some expressions of chagrin and many pledges to return again next year! Many thanks to all who assisted with the event, both on and off the ice. Events can't run without willing volunteers, so kudos to all of you who leant a hand.

Sure hope we'll see more of you next year. We're already planning the event with a theme of 'Sports Jerseys'. This gives you lots of notice to pull a jersey out of the mothballs and be ready to join us on the ice immediately prior to the holiday break for another fun day of stick curling. What a great way to wrap up the fall portion of the curling season!

Top photo: Reg Gore admires a shot. Right: Donna Jeffery gives a wave.



Day Women's Christmas Funspiel

By Cathy Fobert

The Day Women held their annual Christmas Funspiel on Thursday, December 5. Our theme this year was the "Ugly Sweater", and we had a lot of great sweaters! We served a delicious lunch at 1 p.m. followed by six ends of fun curling plus dessert and prizes afterwards. First and second prizes were given out to the winners of the curling game and we drew tickets for six additional prizes. This year we donated \$132 to our local Foodbank. The plants on the tables were won by one person at each table. Lots of great Christmas spirit and a fun day was had by all. Thank you to everyone for your support and participation and we'll see you at our next funspiel on February 13, 2025!



Above, from left: 1st place winners, Deb Emerton, Kathleen Poole, Caroline Nash.

Photo left: 2nd place winners, from left, Richelle Morgan, Mirelle Ringuette, Claudia Stevenson, Janet McCreath.



Great sweaters!

Left to right: Lindsey Foster, Diane Fera, Diana Hopkins-Rossell (winner of the Great Ugly Sweater & Socks contest), Candace McConomy, Heather Proderick, and Karen Francis.



Photos by Cathy Fobert.

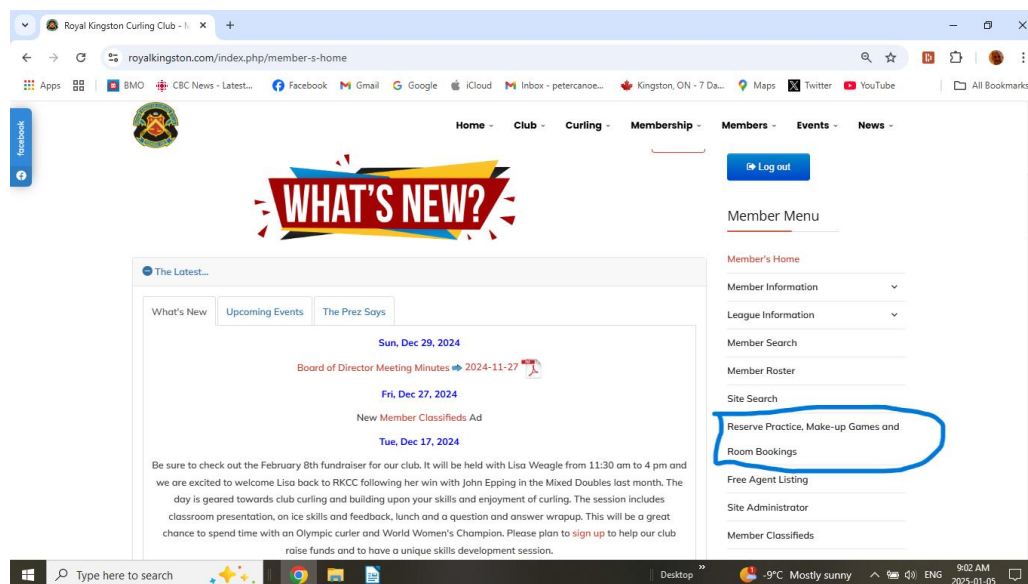
How to book practice ice

Practice Ice and Make up game times

- Bookings can be made up to 7 days in advance and are limited to only one time slot per day.
- On Sunday mornings members can book practice times between 8:45 and 11 am (sheets 1-3 & 6) or make-up games (sheets 4 & 5) from 9 to 11 am
- Sunday practice times are 45 minutes in length and there are four spaces on each sheet. Please plan to share the ice and make a plan with your curling partners.
- We also have limited practice and makeup game times on Mondays (sheet one), Tuesdays 1:30 to 3:30, (sheets 5 and 6); Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 (sheet six, makeup game only) and Thursdays 1:30 to 3:30 pm (practice, sheet 6). Practice times are one hour in length and there are three spaces on each sheet.

How do I book practice and make up games? Sometimes I have to cancel a booking. How do I do that?

- Go to “RKCC Website Help / FAQ” – it’s all there.
<https://royalkingston.com/index.php/homepage/help-faq>
- However, if you want to follow along, here are some step by step instructions:
 1. Log in to the member website.
 2. Go to the right-hand menu. Under Member Menu, scroll down to Reserve Practice, Make-Up Games and Room Bookings hit enter.



Continued on page 8.

Practice ice, continued from page 7

3. You will now see the club calendar and can check for available times. It is often easier to stay in the “today” view and then scroll to find a possible date. The calendar booking will be in green if available and you click on the ice sheet.
 4. When the booking window opens, you can choose make-up game or practice. Please indicate the names of both teams if it is a make up game. Use the **red** confirm button to book the ice.
 5. You will receive an email confirmation of the booking.
- Please remember that ice time is valuable to all club members and if you cannot make a practice or need to cancel a make up game, follow the online instructions.
 - Follow the same steps to log into the member website and go to the right-hand menu.
 - Go to the second line, **Member Information** – which is your information – and scroll down to the fourth line, “My Bookings”.
 - A new window will open, use the **X** button to cancel the booking or game time.

Maybe it is just easier to ask our Manager, Rhonda to book some ice time?

- ✓ The available practice and make up game times are posted on the website. It is your role as a member to book these times.
- ✓ Good to know, however, that our manager does book ice rentals and these are important for both revenue and community participation in the club.

More questions, need help with the website – communications@royalkingston.com

RKCC SOCIAL CLUB

Welcoming in the new year - the RKCC Social Club is looking to host new events to provide social opportunities for members. We need your help! Do you have a special talent/expertise that you could share with others (i.e., painting, carving, board game)? Email the Social Club at rkccsocialclub@gmail.com with ideas.



A Trip of a Lifetime: **Canada to Scotland 2024 Rotary Curling Tour**

By Lindsey Foster and Marc Siemons

We are in recovery mode. This mode may take awhile since our three-week epic adventure through Scotland that involved incredibly kind people, curling matches, food at every turn, and enough 'spirits' to last a lifetime.

We are both long-time members of the Rotary Club of Kingston where we have heard endless and wonderful tales over the years from Rotarians who have taken part in this curling fellowship tour. Every two years (other than during the pandemic) since 1956, teams of Canadians have travelled to Scotland and two years later, teams of Scots have travelled to Canada, and so on. We were thrilled to be selected for this year's tour and like our predecessors, we have endless and wonderful tales to tell.

Mark started curling at RKCC pre-Covid and Lindsey took the learn-to-curl at RKCC two years ago. Committed to upping our games, both of us joined leagues in the fall of 2023 and curled and learned as much as we could over the season. We first met our 16 Rotarian Scotland-bound teammates (all from southern Ontario) last fall and gathered over a series of weekends in Guelph, Kitchener, Ennismore, and Fergus. In September, the team came to Kingston (pre-curling season), and we gathered at RKCC for a social-get-to-know-each-other-better weekend. In our minds, that's when the team truly bonded.

We flew out early November to Glasgow where we were greeted by tour organizers who had coordinated an unbelievable 21 days staying with Rotarian hosts and visiting Perth, Fife, Kinross, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Dundee, Forfar, Aberdeen, Inverness, Troon, Prestwick, Ayr, Dumfries, Lockerbie, and Stranraer.



Marc Siemons and Lindsey Foster enjoying a pint in a Scottish pub.

We visited castles and lighthouses, The Globe (Robert Burn's drinking den), walked the Royal Mile, stood on the grounds of St. Andrew's Links and Cruden Bay Golf Club, toured whisky distilleries, met various Lord Provosts (aka mayors) at civic receptions, and enjoyed pub crawls in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Oh, and we curled. A lot. Thirteen matches at Dewar's Centre, Kinross Curling, Murrayfield Curling, Forfar Indoor Sports Centre, Curl Aberdeen, Inverness Ice Centre, Greenacres, Dumfries Ice Bowl, Lockerbie Ice Rink, and Stranraer Ice Rink. We were piped in at every game.

And we did well!! We won the Bob Mackintosh Quaich based on the aggregate number of points against the Scot host teams. We also captured the Duddingston Trophy by defeating the 2022 Scotland team that had travelled to Canada. Before we left on the trip, our team won the John Cutler Memorial Cup against the 2018 Canadian team.

Continued on page 10.



Rotary Curling Tour, continued from page 9.

And, along the way, our team raised funds with auction items (Canada hockey jerseys, maple syrup, team bling, etc.) and 'happy bucks/pounds' to be donated to Scottish charities. Over £5,000 was collected and donated to a children's hospice, cancer drop-in centre, wheelchair swing, and the Matt Murdoch Foundation (sending Scottish teens to participate in a Canadian curling program).

One of the top highlights for Mark... he curled against Vicki Wright, the vice from the 2022 UK Olympic Women's Curling Championship team. (And they only lost by one point!!) For Lindsey, her two rocks were the only ones left in the house at a critical end. The best two-fer ever for a newbie lead curler!

All in all, the tour was truly an exceptional experience. The kindness and generosity of the Scots was heartwarming. There was so much laughter, and so many precious moments that will remain in our memories forever. We're both so thankful to Rotary for continuing to support and promote this fellowship tour and we encourage all you RKCC curlers who aren't Rotarians to consider joining this service organization that does so much good for local and international communities AND provides opportunities such as this one.

To see photos of the tour, please visit: www.facebook.com/2024RotaryCanadaToScotlandCurlingTour

Meet Lisa Weagle!

The Saturday, February 8 Curling Skills Clinic with elite curler Lisa Weagle is full, but don't despair! Non-registrants can still attend the moderated discussion, beginning at 2 p.m. in the RKCC lounge. This is your chance to ask questions and maybe even take a selfie with Lisa. Admission is by cash donation. Open to members and non members.



What in the world is going on in 2-Person Stick Curling?

By Jim Rayner

Members of the 2-person stick curling league at Royal Kingston, along with those of other clubs across Canada, were asked to participate in a PILOT PROJECT that would test a slightly different style of the free guard zone in 2-person stick play.

Currently, the rule states that the first time a team may play a takeout shot to remove a rock of any colour has to wait until the fourth rock being played in an end. Even rocks in the rings are subject to this rule. In other words, if you have the hammer, you may not play a takeout shot on ANY rock in play until your second rock of that end. That equates to the fourth rock being played.

The PILOT PROJECT will test what could be called the 5-rock rule or free guard zone, meaning that rock number six in the end being played will be the first rock allowed to be used in a takeout shot of any rock already in play anywhere on the sheet.

Eight teams in the 2-person stick curling league joined in the PILOT PROJECT to play two games each in their schedule. At the end of those games, each player was asked to provide feedback through an online questionnaire. The results of that questionnaire are being reviewed by the Canadian Stick Curling Association's director of rules and events and those results will be forwarded to the executive of the Canadian Stick Curling Association (CSCA) for their review and recommendations. Those recommendations, if any, will be taken to the annual general meeting of the CSCA in Grand Prairie, Alberta during the Canadian 2-person stick curling championships April 2-6, 2025. This does not mean that a rule change will occur any time soon or at all. Numerous options could come from the review and be discussed at the annual meeting. If an agreement is reached on a rule change, it may not happen across the country for a year or possibly two years. To keep up to date on what is going on in 2-person stick curling you can sign up for quarterly newsletters from the Canadian Stick Curling Association by writing to canadianstickeditor@gmail.com and writing "sign me up" in the subject line of your outbound email. The link to the Canadian Stick Curling Page is also on the RKCC website and there is lots of interesting reading there.

** For this discussion the Free Guard Zone, 3 Rock Rule, 5 Rock Rule are considered similar in meaning.

"Showdown at the Saville" - Exciting news coming out of Alberta

By Jim Rayner

There will be a World Open Stick Curling Championship held at the Saville Centre in Edmonton, Alberta this coming April 23-26, 2025, titled "Showdown at the Saville."

Open to two-person teams, including wheelchair curlers, the event offers a minimum \$10,000 purse. World and Canadian Champion and Hall of Fame curler Kevin Martin is behind this effort, with support from his associate Warren Hansen of the "Inside Curling with Kevin Martin & Warren Hansen" podcast. In the press release they comment that 2-person stick curling is a fast-paced, unique game that has tremendous potential for growth.

They are inviting anyone in the world to enter and apply their skills at taking a piece of the purse.

Oh, and just in case you had not heard, some of our Canadian champion curlers have also tried stick curling. Just to name a few, the current head of Curling Canada, Nolan Thiessen and three-time Scotties champion Kerri Einarson have both tried the stick and gave favourable comments on using it. Maybe one of these fine days, we will see stick curling on TV too.

YOU ARE INVITED FOR
AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday March 29, 2025

From: 2-4pm

Location: RKCC 130 Days Road

Come, bring friends and join us for a delicious
afternoon tea with sandwiches, sweets and scones.

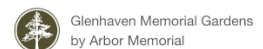
Don't forget Hats!

Register yourself, and your friends
by MARCH 22nd, 2025 for \$25.00 pp

At RKCC events you may pay online by:
CREDIT CARD or offline by e-Transfers rkcc.payments@gmail.com

Questions? contact [Social Committee](#) or [Kathleen Poole](#)

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