



# The Sweep

## Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 23, Issue 5

April 2022

# U18s a win for RKCC

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

It's not often in curling you score a four-way win, but that's exactly what happened when RKCC stepped up to host the U18 Men's and Women's Provincial Curling Championship March 30-April 3.

It was a win for the Ontario Curling Association (CurlON), which scrambled to find a host for the event after it was cancelled in January due to COVID concerns.

It was a win for RKCC, which seized the opportunity to showcase its ability and willingness to host major events successfully and to show off the club, its hard-working staff, friendly volunteers and excellent ice. It was a win for the City of Kingston, which welcomed over 65 curlers, their coaches and family members for nearly a week's stay.

But most importantly, it was a win for these talented young curlers, who otherwise might not have had a chance to compete for their provincial honours and ultimately, the national title.

"A month ago we didn't think this would happen, and we're so grateful that it did," said Kyle Stratton, skip of the U18 men's championship team from London. "Thank you to all the volunteers. Royal Kingston is a great club!"

When CurlON approached RKCC, the board didn't hesitate.

"We did not want to see another delay or cancellation take place for these young, enthusiastic curlers," said RKCC president Deb Wilkin.

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The team that threw the ceremonial first rock consisted of, from left: Vic Matthews, Diane Labrie, Joan Doucet and Jim Barton

### **U18s, continued from page 1.**

“As the event has not been held since 2019 [due to the pandemic], this is the first opportunity for many of these teams to compete at this level and to meet others from across the province who share their dream of someday competing at the Brier, Scotties or Olympics.”

With only a month to prepare, the U18 organizing committee of Deb Wilkin, Joanne Miller, Jan Ray, Murray Matheson and club manager Steve Hulton swung into action. The committee secured sponsors, planned the opening ceremony and awards banquet, put together information packages for the teams, and developed media packages. Steve arranged for caterers for the banquet and other meals, helped with information packages, fielded countless phone calls and ordered the distinctive U18 hoodies to sell. Phil Tomsett recruited and trained timers for each game. The club’s social media coordinator Celia Russell reached out to teams via their Facebook and Instagram pages, and also posted videos of outside and inside the club, so that by the time they arrived at RKCC, they already felt at home.

And they had fun doing it. “I’m so glad we did this!”, said Joanne Miller, who was “adopted” by the women’s Team Johnston when she stepped in as their sign-bearer at the last moment during the opening ceremonies.

Time and again throughout the week, the young curlers sought out the volunteers in their bright blue hoodies to thank them for the event, to tell them how great the ice was, and sometimes to give them a hug. They were great ambassadors for the sport, courteous on and off the ice, supportive of each other in their wins and losses, genuinely appreciative of all the volunteers and the work that went into hosting the event.

It was a transformative event for RKCC. The building buzzed with excitement. And the ice – well, let’s just say it’s a long time since the ice has seen curlers like these talented young players. From their targeted warm-ups and drills through quick speed of play, skilled strategizing, constant communication and precision shot-making – there was so much to learn just by watching them.

**Continued on page 3.**

## **U18s, continued from page 2**

Head ice technician Jeff Gray babied the ice and, along with his assistants Gisele Cyr, Gene Miller and Paul Moorby, ensured a fantastic, consistent ice throughout all five days of play.

It was one of the first things Scott Chadwick remarked upon. Scott, who hails from Napanee, was the guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet. He was a member of the team representing Ontario at

the 2019 Brier and on Tanner Horgan's team at the Olympic trials.

Scott said that RKCC's ice was the best in Ontario and told the young curlers and their guests how Jeff had slept at the club during the major power outage in January while waiting for the power to come back on, prompting a solid round of applause for the dedicated icemaker.

As for the curlers, "I'm glad I'm not U18!", Scott quipped.

"Keep playing, keep practising, and your dreams can come true. When you leave, make sure you left everything on the ice and did everything you could to win."

"Be the best teammate you can be, both on and off the ice. Be supportive, make your shots and off the ice do everything to make yourself and your team better."

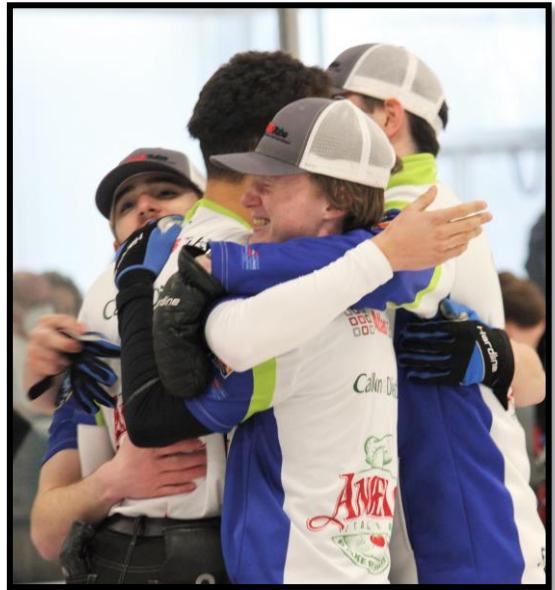
He also advised the coaches that their role was to help the players become not only better curlers, but better young adults. And he reminded the curlers to thank their coaches before they went home.

He too thanked the volunteers at RKCC. "Your sacrifices this week to put on an event like this don't go unnoticed."

"Keep curling," he said as he wrapped up. "Stick with it. Whether you want to be the best in the world or just do it for fun. Just keep curling."

"Keep playing and tell your friends they should be playing too."

Carmelinda Del Conte, a member of the CurlON Board of Directors, also thanked RKCC's organizing committee and ice crew. "Thank you for jumping in at the last minute when, a month ago, it looked like this event would be cancelled."



**Team Stratton celebrates after winning the final 7-4 over Team Jones.**

She congratulated all of the teams for making it to the U18s through their hard work, dedication and navigation through the pandemic.

"You played fantastic!" she said. "Be proud of your accomplishments. Keep practising and you will one day achieve your goals. Wear your provincial colours with honour and pride."

The overall winners of the championship were the men's Team Stratton from the London Curling Club (which included former RKCC member Kibo Mulima as fifth) and the women's Team Acres from the RCMP Curling Club in Ottawa. The second playoff winners were Team Harry Jones from the Burlington Golf & Country Club and Team Charlotte Johnston from the London Curling Club. All four teams will compete at the U18 nationals May 2-7 at the Oakville Curling Club.

# Volunteers make U18 success



The success of the U18 provincial championship at RKCC is due to the work of all the volunteers who pitched in to help. Thanks to:

**Ceremonial first rock team:**

Jim Barton, Vic Matthews, Diane Labrie, Joan Doucet

**Maintenance:** Gord Greer and Wayne Smith

**On-ice helpers for the Opening Ceremony:**

Lisa DaCosta and Kari Fraser, who recruited all the children for the opening ceremony and made sure each had a matching black jacket.  
Jeremy DaCosta, Lisa Thorburn, Gail McNabb and Robbie Roques

**Sign bearers:** Maggie, Rowan, Megan, Leah, Alex, Liam, Noah, David, Hadley, Fiona, Neve Medha, Malcolm, Jonah, Koen and Brad

**Flag bearers:** Collin Brown and Alan McNabb

**Singing of National Anthem:** Celia Russell (middle photo, right)

**Banquet set-up:** Jim Barton, Karen Matheson, Murray, Jo, Jan and Deb  
Servers: Pauline Herron, Karen Matheson, Marilyn Wilson

**Kitchen clean up:** Karen Matheson, Gail McNabb, Alan McNabb, Sylvia Myers, Pauline Herron, Marilyn Wilson, Jan Ray, Joanne Miller

**Commemorative Hoodies and Gift Bags:**

Claire Dominik Mallette, Diane Labrie, Jan Ray, Joanne Miller

**Timers for U18 competition:**

Phil Tomsett recruited and trained the following timers: Judy Russell, Barry Niles, Jim Barton, Collin Brown, Mike Freeman, Brian Ward, Kim Barker, Tom Bryant, Lisa Thorburn, Steve Ottenhof, Gillian Turnbull, Tamara Van Grunsven, John MacMillan, John Giles, Ron Cameron, Kathleen Poole, Shirley Kwakkenbos, Bob Dowling, Liz Baer, Richard Dickson, Keith Mitchell, Judy Janzen



# RKCC Summer Golf Tour 2022

We are pleased to announce that the RKCC Summer Golf Tour is returning for its second season. Once again we will be touring some local courses, sharing a few pints and generally having a great time. There are five stops planned this year:

**Camden Brae – June 3**  
**Amherstview – June 24**  
**Rivendell – July 15**  
**Smugglers Glen – Aug 15**  
**Garrison – Sept 16 (BBQ at RKCC to follow)**

To register for the tour please go to the Events page on the club website. Cost is \$20 to register for the tour, which includes the cost for the year end BBQ and prizes.

For those that can't make all the stops but would like to join us at one or more stops you can register for individual events as they are posted. If you have family or friends that would like to join us we would be happy to have them as well.

There will be prizes at each event, including men's and ladies closest to the pin, men's and ladies longest drive and a couple of mystery prizes, plus draws for prizes at the end of the season. Every foursome can chose the format they want to play (stroke play, best ball, scramble etc). You will be able to register at each event as an individual, a twosome, or a foursome.

Details for each event will be posted on the website and will be emailed to all those who register. So come on out and let's **HIT SOME BALLS!!**

## Lost and Found

**By Jan Ray, Lounge Committee Chair**

Please check the Lost and Found, located in the cloakroom area behind our trophy cases, across from the Manager's Office. Anything left there after the end of April will either be donated or thrown away.

I would like to extend a big thank you, on behalf of our members, to **Candace McConomy** for managing to keep our plants alive during this challenging time.



**Coming back soon by popular demand!**  
RKCC will be holding another online auction of gently used, quality items and we'll be looking for donations—so start your spring cleaning now and save us your best. Watch for details in next month's Sweep.



## 8-Ender!

Playing short-handed, Jamie Duffe's team scored a rare eight-ender during Evening Men's Flight on April 19. Congratulations to (from left) Jamie Duffe (skip), Keith Guenter (vice), and David Gray (second). Absent that evening was Marc Labrie (lead).

## EL announces full executive for next season

By April Welsh, Chair

Another season is nearly over and I can't thank my executive enough for all they have done this year to keep the section running. Thank you also to the curlers for being so flexible and accepting of the changing schedules.

The Evening Ladies had their spring AGM on March 28. I am very pleased to announce that we have a complete roster for next year's executive, with all present executive staying on! Liz Baer will be moving into the Chair position and I thank her so much for her many years as club convenor! I move to the Past Chair position.

Vice Chair: Karen Matheson, Club Convenor: Andrea Berry, Flight Chair: Karen Matheson, Flight co-chair: Carol Fitzpatrick, CurlON Representative: Linda Lott, Secretary: Nancy Roantree

Social Committee: Georgia O'Shaughnessy, Nancy Roantree, Karen Peters, and Tanya Ledford.

Thank you to Georgia's flight team for stepping in to the Social Committee position. They will be looking for lots of volunteers to help them with the Opening Potluck, and our invitationalspiel on Saturday, November 12.

Here's hoping that the 22-23 season allows us to return to our pre-COVID curling routines and socializing!

# Summary of a (n)ice season

By Jeff Gray, Head Ice Technician

Well, it started off as a relatively normal-seeming curling season. Our ice installation went well, the paint job looked good and the weather cooperated when we needed it most. There was a period of warm temperatures and high humidity in late October when we experienced some condensation drips and resultant bumps, but nothing too outside of the ordinary.

This past season minimal work was done on the rocks. Yes, they were treated with sandpaper, but in a less aggressive manner than in previous years, the idea being more to match the performance of individual rocks than to enhance curl.

Some curlers are under the impression that sanding alone is what makes rocks curl. It certainly is a factor, but in the case of our ice, surface temperature, pebble size and the overall shape of the ice contribute equally.

Many of you have seen the ice crew at work on the ice using our new Ice Master "Boss" scraper. (The purchase of this, our most prized ice tool, was made possible by a donation from Donna and Wayne Smith in the name of Donna's late father affectionately known as "Woody". Many thanks for this from those of us who know well what it's like to toil with lesser machines).

Twice daily we resurface the ice to clean it and ensure a level playing surface. In the mornings, as well as scraping the "in play" areas, hacks are removed, rocks pushed out and every square inch of the area behind the back lines gets a good going over before it is re-pebbled and hacks and rocks put back in place.

Afternoons, before the evening draws, a second scrape is done to ensure the best conditions manageable.

Every four to six weeks, in spite of our best efforts to keep the ice clean and level, a more major maintenance procedure is usually advisable.

At these times we have been employing what has been called a "controlled melt". That is, the ice plant, including the brine pump gets turned off and the heat in the ice area cranked up as high as it will go for six or so hours.

After that time the plant is turned back on and the heat off and the ice allowed to refreeze. If all goes well, the melting will have levelled things out and the refreezing will have forced any impurities (dirt) to the surface where they can be removed with the scraper.

After the first pass it becomes apparent how much dirt (more about dirt later) has been trapped in the ice and then brought to the surface by melting and refreezing: what the scrape yields is black sludge that looks like it has nothing to do with ice whatsoever.

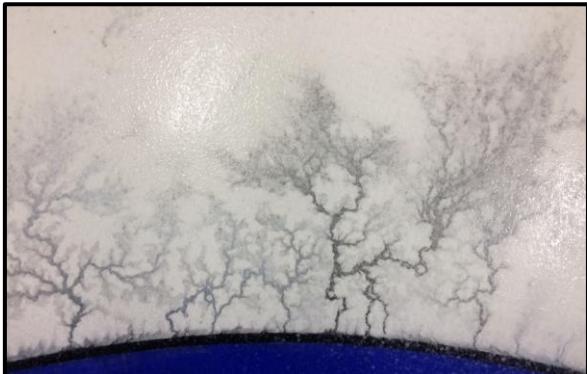
The ice is then pebbled with hot water (to bring up more dirt) and scraped some more.

At this point a series of different pebbling and scraping patterns brings the ice back to playing shape. This whole procedure takes in excess of two days. During Christmas holidays we would do the same but also add in a flood (mostly to ensure level).

I'm sure everyone has noticed and some must still be wondering what happened to our lovely paint job this year.

All those weird tendrils and faded patches and grey areas are the result of a process similar to the one described above but without the "controlled" part.

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In mid-December, strong winds caused a power outage and our ice plant was down for about thirty-six hours. The ice melted to the point where the paint was affected and the result is what you saw (above). Unfortunately, repainting (being too involved and costly) was not an option. Better luck next year.

During the coldest, driest weather, which this year persisted into March, a number of ice related issues came into focus for me and for some of you as well, I'm sure.

Among them, continual sublimation (the evaporation of the ice from solid to vapor) left the ice surface feeling greasy due to accumulating impurities. Add to that a full house of curlers and the heating system operating on high, and things sometimes got a little slick and dirty.

I'm under the impression that salt being tracked into the building from the parking lot contributed to the overall effect as well.

The cold dry weather we can't do much about except keep scraping and adding fresh pebble.

The heating situation we're working on with Modern Niagara.

The salt might be somewhat remedied by more frequent mopping of lobby floors.

As far as ice dirt goes, beside actual grime and foreign objects from outside, a lot of it is just lint from people's clothes and broken fibers from the walkway carpets. If you ever want a good look at what we scrape up off the ice, I'll collect a handful for you from what accumulates outside the back door. More frequent vacuuming and sticky mat replacement should help in this department.

In discussing the problem of ice dirt with some concerned curlers, some additional ideas about how to deal with it came up including additional shoe cleaning machines and replacement of old worn out grippers.

This past season, for the first time, we had some volunteer ice help. What a blessing that was I can tell you, especially when six sheets were coming off and six were going on and you're on your own with little time to get it all done. What a relief for me personally, on a busy morning, to have someone lend a hand sweeping and nipping in order to keep things on time. I'm sure the rest of the ice crew feels the same way. "Thank you" to all those who volunteered their time to help out on the ice! Once again, over the holiday season, curlers were unbelievably generous in chipping in to make the Ice Crew's Christmas that much merrier. From Gene, Paul, Gisele and myself, thanks so much for your generosity!

In spite of the fact that it was yet another fragmented curling season and there were some bumps in the road and that I myself have not been operating anywhere near 100% for quite some time, I think it was a successful year. I look forward to seeing all of you in September!

Before signing off though I have to thank Gisele for propping me up every morning; Gene and Paul for their solid day in day out effort (and for taking over the show while I've been out with COVID ); Steve for his humour, smarts and direction.

As I'm sure you all know, Steve Hulton is stepping down as RKCC Manager (he has dropped a couple of hints about future plans but remains elusive). I suspect we have not heard the last of him in Kingston area curling circles. I certainly hope not because, in my longish experience of curling club managers, he is a standout and his future involvement could only be to the benefit of our sport.

Cheers! And have a great summer!



## **Stick Leagues say 'Thanks' to Pat Simms**

On Wednesday, April 20, members of the Stick Leagues made a presentation to Pat Sims to acknowledge her unwavering commitment and dedication to the stick league program for the past six years. On behalf of the members, Jan Ray presented her with a floral arrangement and a gift certificate for a spa day. Countless members, past and present, expressed their appreciation in a thank-you card made especially for Pat.

## **Pickleball Open Houses May, 10, 11, 12**

RKCC invites you to join us for another exciting pickleball season starting May 9. Still considered the fastest-growing sport in North America, pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis.

This year we will be hosting an Open House (no admission fee) from **1 – 3 pm on May 10, 11 and 12** for both new and past participants. Equipment and instruction will be available for newcomers. We will once again have six courts available and utilize a drop-in format with rotation of participants based on win/loss, resulting in more efficient and balanced play with minimal wait times. Cost will be \$8 per person per two-hour session. Facilitators will be on-site to coordinate this program and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

## **Pickleball Season begins Monday, May 9 and ends Friday August 26**

<b>May – June:</b>	<b>Monday to Friday 9 – 11 am</b>	<b>Monday and Tuesday 7 – 9 pm</b>
<b>July – Aug.:</b>	<b>Monday and Friday 9 – 11 am</b>	<b>Monday and Tuesday 7 – 9 pm</b>

Note: During July and August the Seniors' Association will be back offering pickleball Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9-11 am.

For additional information, please email Deb Wilkin at [dwilkin2@cogeco.ca](mailto:dwilkin2@cogeco.ca) or Denis Faubert at [dfaubert@bell.net](mailto:dfaubert@bell.net).

# Sunday Juniors Club League

By Lisa DaCosta

The RKCC Junior League began in November on Sundays from 11:30-1:30 for our experienced (1+ year of learn to curl) and older youth. It is run as a club league of balanced teams with a mix of ages and abilities. The first draw saw five teams and ran from Nov. 7 - Feb. 28 due to all the closures. The winning team from Draw #1 will play in the A Final at championship weekend and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will play in the B Final.

A Final - Draw #1 Winner: Logan Bedard, skip; Michael O'Donnell, vice; Leah DaCosta, second; Rachel Roberts, lead

Draw #2 Winner: Alex Splinter, skip; Noah Bedard, vice; Michael O'Donnell, second; Koen Blasko, lead  
B Final - Draw #1 Runner up: Emma Hoover, skip; Abigail van der Plas, vice; Fletcher Burnham, second; Alex Bulch, lead

Draw #2 Runner up: Abigail van de Plas, skip; Logan Bedard, vice; Ewan Jones, second; Medha Charan, lead.

A successful "learn to curl" and "little rocks" program has also been run on Sundays from 1:30-3:00, supported by a wonderful team of volunteer coaches and convenor Kimberly Barker.

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## Busy season for competitive junior teams

By Celia Russell, Social Media Coordinator

After hosting the CurlON U-18 provincials, it's time to focus on the accomplishments of RKCC's junior competitive curling teams. Despite pandemic disruptions, Teams De Groote, Hookey and Bedard competed in several events this season.

Team De Groote won a silver medal and Team Bedard placed sixth at the U-15 Challenge Cup in Cornwall (March 26-27). The event, which is open to players aged 15 and younger, is unique in that the teams can be of any composition with curlers playing all positions.

Team Bedard scored a second-place finish in a youthspiel at the Pembroke Curling Centre last November.

Team Hookey had an exciting first U-18 season, competing in two junior slams as well as the provincial and Winter Games qualifiers. Last October, the team competed in the Orion Slam in Dundas, where they recorded their first two wins in U-18 competition. At the Apollo Slam, also in Dundas, they won two games and were runners-up on the B side, losing a tough match on the final rock of the game.

They also competed in the U-18 qualifier A in Brockville but did not advance. The team practised twice weekly with their coach Sabena Islam at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club and played in the RKCC Men's Flight League. Sabena Islam and Lisa DaCosta of RKCC coached Team De Groote. Both teams thank their coaches for their hours of dedication, and the Cataraqui and RKCC clubs for practice ice.

Team Bedard is coached by Sean O'Donnell and consists of skip Logan Bedard, vice Michael O'Donnell, second Reid Giffin, and lead Adele O'Donnell. Team Hookey is skipped by Ryan Hookey, with vice Luke De Groote, second Andrew DaCosta and lead Ryan Kreick. Team De Groote is skipped by Luke De Groote, with vice Andrew DaCosta, second Alex Splinter, and lead Abigail van de Plas.

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# **KLBC invites you to try ‘curling on grass’ in free session May 28**

**By Pierre Vanderhout**

The Kingston Lawn Bowling Club (“KLBC”), located on Napier Street just south of Johnson Street, is gearing up for an essentially normal season this year. We plan to open in mid-May and close by mid-October.

In addition to regular recreational bowling (similar to club curling), we will be hosting six full-day tournaments, three fun days, two district playdowns, and various club championship events.

Curling’s core skills (line, weight, and strategy) are exactly what you need in lawn bowling. The bowls curl just like curling rocks. There’s a target (called a “jack”), and the goal is to get your bowls as close to it as possible.

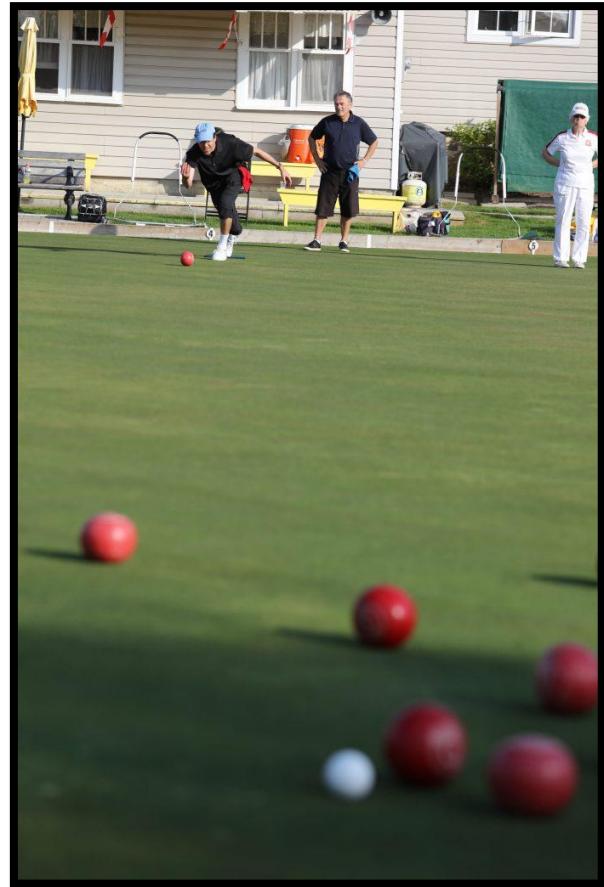
And for the same reasons that I really like doubles curling, lawn bowling offers more active options such as singles and pairs play.

Just like curling, some people lawn bowl for social reasons. It’s easy to learn, always good for a laugh, and you ultimately get some good exercise. In addition to singles and pairs, you can play triples or even “fours” for a more social experience.

Recreational lawn bowling games usually take less than 90 minutes. If you can curl for six or eight ends, you can lawn bowl. However, competitive tournaments are like bonspiels: it is not uncommon to play for 6-8 hours over the course of a day.

KLBC members range from purely recreational bowlers to those who aspire to success at the national level.

Whatever your preference, you will find your niche in the sport. With first-year memberships at only \$150 (including free bowls rental), and even lower prices for those under 25, it is also very affordable.



**That's Pierre, above, throwing a bowl.**

On Saturday, May 28, the KLBC plans to hold a free session for curlers who want to see what “curling on grass” is all about. If you think you’d like to try lawn bowling, give me a call (613-634-1469) or send me an e-mail ([p\\_vanderhout@hotmail.com](mailto:p_vanderhout@hotmail.com)).

*Pierre Vanderhout has been curling for about 20 years and lawn bowling for five, but already feels that winter sports are a way to pass the time between lawn bowling seasons!*

# *A taste of what's to come . . .*



Kathleen Poole, chair of the Social Committee, holds a cake she made for Championship Day.



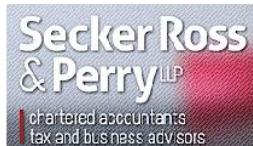
The Day Men's D Flight Champions were the team of, from left: Ed Tarvicz, David Townsend and Brian Nolan, sparing for Tom Sephton. Missing is lead Heinz Becker.



The Senior Men's C Flight Champions are Team Lemieux. From left: Bob Moore, (sparing for Skip Dan Lemieux, ) Terry Romain, Ted Willard, Murray McDowell (sparing for Kerry Johnson).

Next month in *The Sweep*, we'll have full Championship Day results and photos, including our newest Life Members and outstanding volunteers. Also, watch for an interview with our new club manager, Debra Hill, details of the Curling Club Revitalization Project presented to the board in April by the Queen's PhD Community Initiative program and lots more!

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