



The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

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March 2023

RKCC to host 2024 senior men's & women's provincials

By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

Royal Kingston Curling Club is developing a strong partnership with CurlION, the provincial curling association. After RKCC stepped up last March to host a wildly successful U18 provincial championship, CurlION asked our club to host more major events.

Now, following the success of the 2-person stick provincials February 10-12, CurlION has awarded RKCC the Senior Men's and Senior Women's 2024 Provincial Championships, tentatively scheduled for March 13-17, 2024.

"We are thrilled to be hosting an event of this calibre," said Deb Wilkin, part of the ace organizing team for the U18 and the 2-Person Stick championships. "It will be a chance to showcase our club and a boon for the entire city of Kingston. Plus the curling will be exceptional."

This year's roster includes teams skipped by Joanne Rizzo and Sherry Middaugh and Bryan Cochrane and Howard Rajala. The 2023 seniors, for players aged 50 and up, will be held March 15 – 19 in Ingersoll.

In addition to Deb Wilkin, the organizing committee includes Murray Matheson, Jan Ray, Joanne Miller, Kathy Jackson, Tom Sephton and club manager Deb Hill and the planning is already underway. Let the games begin!



Winners of the 2-Person Stick Provincial Championship Morris Anderson, left, and Wayne Shea accept the championship banner from CurlION board member Kevin Tanner. See story and photos on pages 2 and 3.



Ron Cameron, left, and Bob Hilliar. Photo by Jim Rayner.



Jim Rayner delivers a rock.

2-Person stick provincials

By Martha Tanner

It was fun, it was fast, and it was friendly. RKCC welcomed 12 teams to the 2-Person Stick Provincial Championship February 10-12, including home teams Jim Rayner and Tony Bush and Ron Cameron and Bob Helliar.

The field also included defending champ Ron Scheckenberger from the Dundas Granite CC, and five-time Brier participant, Canadian Curling Hall of Fame inductee and World wheelchair and Paralympic gold medalist Jim Armstrong. Ron Cameron and Bob Hilliar finished first in their pool but lost the semi-final to Jim Armstrong and Ian Gray. Tony and Jim finished third in their pool, with a 2-3 record.

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Above, on-ice assistant Jan Ray shares a laugh with Shauna Petrie, from the Toronto Cricket Club. Left, Jan holds Shauna's wheelchair, ducking out of the way of Shauna's delivery arm.

Photos by Martha Tanner



Flagbearers Reg and Val Gore with teams during the opening ceremony.



Tony Bush sweeps a rock under the watchful eye of Glenn Herrell from Dundas Granite CC.

2-Person Stick event ‘magic’ – ‘just go for it!’

Despite being disappointed by the outcome, Jim Rayner says the experience was “magic” and gave everyone who participated a sense of accomplishment. He particularly singled out the members of the organizing committee who gave each of the four RKCC contenders “a strong sense of support personally and it was a very gratifying feeling that we could almost wrap our arms around.”

In a letter thanking the organizers, Jim wrote:

“Our club members who before the event and those who came to watch added more of that magic feeling by verbally expressing their support and complimenting us on our efforts.

Naturally, every one of the four Royal Kingston players would love nothing more than to have brought home the winners’ banner for the club. Naturally, we are disappointed.

Nonetheless, the experience of being on the ice and playing against some fine competition and wonderful people, along with going head-to-head in a game against a former Canadian Olympic wheelchair skip was very humbling and gratifying.

I would encourage any of our stick curlers to seek entry into future events like this to experience the sense of accomplishment it brings by just being there.”

In fact, so enjoyable was the experience that Jim and Bob are considering entering the 2024 Provincial 2-person stick event, and perhaps the 2024 nationals to be held in Toronto.

“We met some wonderful people in our competition and enjoyed very much the games with all of them and the social visits and dining after each game,” Jim said. “All in all, I would recommend to anyone who has the opportunity and feels comfortable playing under what may feel like daunting conditions, to just *go for it!* - and enjoy the feeling that comes from it.”



Photo left: First-place winners (L-R) Lead Callie Warwick, Skip Mirelle Ringuette, Second Kathleen Poole, Vice Francine Korczynski.

Below: Bev Pitts, left, accepts the prizes for Best Shot and the Oops shot from Candace McConomy, DL social Convener.

Be my Valentine

By Candace McConomy, DL Social Convener

The Day Ladies held their “Be My Valentine” FunSpiel on Tuesday, February 14. Ten teams played two four-end games, with a lovely lunch in between. There was a well-represented costume contest won by Heather Proderick as a “Bee” with a valentine of “Be Mine”. Bev Pitts won both the Best Shot prize and the Oops prize. Thanks to Cathy Fobert for all her help and for making the rhyme from which the table centrepieces were won. Also thanks to our scorekeeper Bev Ayling, and our wonderful 50/50 ladies Claudia Stevenson and Alice Gaudine. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make the FunSpiel a success.



Photo left: In second place was the team of, from left, Lead Alice Gaudine, Skip Renee LeClair, Second Gill Turnbull, Vice Judy Sly.

Photos submitted

For RKCC's Don Mallory, curling is a lifetime passion

Story and photos by Celia Russell

Don Mallory carefully pushes the curling rock to the hack with his delivery stick and slides the end over the rock handle. His eyes narrow as he lines up the shot. A faint smile crosses his face as he slowly steps out of the hack, breaks into a jog, and releases a bullet that leaves his sweepers breathless as they race to keep up with the rock. At 91, Don is the oldest active curler at the Royal Kingston Curling Club. "In two years, I will have been at it for 70 years," he says with a smile.

Don played his first curling game as a new employee at Alcan in Shawinigan, Que. The Ottawa native had recently graduated with a degree in metallurgical engineering from Queen's University in Kingston. "It was the fall of 1954. My boss asked, 'Are you doing anything tonight?' When I said no, he said, 'Why don't you come down to the curling club?'"

That was the start of a lifetime love of the sport. It might have begun even earlier. While walking to classes at Queen's, Don would regularly pass by the old, unmarked Kingston Curling Club building near the corner of Clergy and Division streets. "There were these old guys in fuzzy hats and sweaters going in and out, and I wondered what it was they were doing," he recalls.

Don eventually returned to Ontario and earned an MBA from Western University. "I would have done my masters at Queen's if they'd offered one at the time."

In 1961, Don moved to Burlington and joined Dofasco in nearby Hamilton. For many years, he played in the Dofasco employee league at the Hamilton Curling Club. In 1992, Dofasco was cutting back, so Don took early retirement,



At 91, Don Mallory is the oldest active curler at RKCC.

joined the club, and curled in the men's and mixed leagues. "It's been 31 years since I retired, after 31 years working at Dofasco." Don intends to keep curling for as long as he can, well past the 70-year milestone in 2024, which is the same year as his 70th Queen's reunion.

While in Hamilton, Don was an early adapter of the delivery stick. "My slide was never a thing of beauty," he admits.

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Don Mallory delivers a rock in the four-person stick league.

Don Mallory, from page 5.

He fashioned his first two delivery sticks out of old hockey sticks. He regrets that they didn't make the move when he and his wife Barb arrived in Kingston in 2010, the same year he joined the Royal Kingston Curling Club, which had moved to 130 Days Rd. in 2006.

"My takeout weight was pretty good when I used the slide delivery, but I'm trying to tame the power in my stick delivery to finesse my shots," he says. "I can really belt it [with the stick], but I'm trying to throw a more controlled version."

What does he like best about curling? "Partly the social side and partly the exercise. I like the sweeping and the physical exercise. The hits are the easiest. The draws take work. I'd like to think I'm a good hitter and a respectable drawer." His favourite position is second or vice. "But I've done all of it. I like the shots you get at second or third."

"Curling is a sport that you don't have to quit," Don observes while taking a break on a bench with the lead on his four-person stick team during a recent game. "With tennis, if your elbow goes, you're done."

"Lots of sweeping today," the lead observes. Don grins. "That's why I'm here."

In the off-season, he likes to stay active as much as possible. "I used to do more, but my wife won't let me bike anymore!"



Broomstacking
 from left:
 Alastair Fyfe,
 Denis Faubert,
 John
 Stevenson,
 Lorne
 Carmichael,
 Willie
 Paterson,
 Joe Murphy,
 Iain Buchanan,
 Keith Mitchell.

See more
 photos on the
 website.

RKCC defends Canada's honour

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor

Royal Kingston did its part in defending Canada's honour when the Scots came calling for the Strathcona Cup. The five men's teams, proudly decked out in new RKCC jackets, bested the marauding Scots by 10 points overall, with 38 points to the Scots' 28. Alas, it was a different outcome later that day, when the Scots scored 39 points to Cataraqi's 27.

But the points aren't really the point. Friendship and a shared love of curling define the Strathcona Cup tour, which alternates every five years between Scotland and Canada. This year, 60 curlers came to Canada, playing a total of 350 games in less than a month. Eat, sweep, sleep, repeat. At every rink they were welcomed with open arms, wine and dined, toasted and roasted.

At RKCC it was no different. The team bus arrived at 8:30 on January 27 and a piper played as the "tourists", fresh from "morning classes", stumbled off the bus and into the club under an arch of brooms held by their hosts. There was a huge buzz of excitement and pride in the club at the privilege of hosting the tour.

After the fourth end, the teams stacked their brooms and enjoyed a wee dram of Scotch as a quick pick-me-up. "Having a shot of scotch mid-game is fun, but I am not sure it helped my play," joked Keith Mitchell.

After the game, teams enjoyed a rowdy lunch and then the Scots travelled down the road to repeat the drama at Cataraqi.

It was an overall win for Canada, which had 2454 points versus 2317 for the Scots. In 2028 it will be the turn of Canadian curlers to visit Scotland, and no doubt some of our own will be keen to make the trip.

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Clockwise from top left, volunteer Renee LeClair shares a laugh with members of Teams Herron and Murray; Billy Henderson entertains volunteer Deb Emerton; Kevin Tanner pipes the Scots in under an arch of brooms; Jim Kirkwood demonstrates the art of broomstacking.



Strathcona Cup Tour 2023 Facebook entry Feb. 5, 2023

A massive thank you to all our Canadian hosts, couriers, friends, etc. Far too many to name in person but appreciated by every single Scottish tourist. I am sure over the next few days as we reflect on the tour even more memories will come flooding back. Thank you and we sincerely hope we will have the opportunity to return your very kind and generous hospitality to any Canadian friends who want to be part of your tour to Scotland in 2028, or indeed anytime you are across this side of the pond.

And the draw winners are . . .



Draw 1 winners, from left: Andrea Berry (Second); Liz Baer (Vice) sparing for Anje Cranshaw, Mary Buchanan (Skip), and Jennifer Robertson (Lead).

By Liz Baer, Evening Ladies Chair

Evening Ladies Club is growing! We have eight new members that joined Club this year and have had 10 teams for both Draw 3 and 4! Evening Ladies Flight has had a successful season and are looking forward to the playdowns and Championship Weekend. Congratulations to our Evening Ladies Club Draw 1, 2 and 3 winners!



Draw 2 winners, from left: Melinda Kelly (Second), Amy Hacker (Lead), Denise Mulville (Skip), and Gillian Turnbull (Vice).



Draw 3 winners, from left: Deb Wilkin (Skip), Sylvia Myers (Vice), Darlene Naugler (Second) and Natasha Muller (Lead).



Ted Brown throws the ceremonial first rock in the Ted Brown Classic January 19. Sweepers, with Brownie brushes of course, are sponsor Phillip Brown (left) of Brown's Fine Food Services and Noel Herron, whose junior team Ted coached to a silver medal finish at the World Juniors in 1990.

Legendary spiel becomes a Classic

You don't become a classic overnight unless, that is, you're already a legend.

Such is the case with local legend Ted Brown and his namesake bonspiel, the Ted Brown Classic. Ted, of course, is a local curling legend, whose story was detailed in the *January Sweep*. The Whig Men's Open Bonspiel is Royal Kingston's longest running bonspiel, celebrating 86 years in 2019. Covid put the kibosh on The Whig until 2023 when it emerged with a new sponsor and a new name. The 'new' bonspiel is sponsored by Tulips and Maple the Art of Catering, owned by Brown's Fine Food Services Inc. of Kingston, whose owner, president and CEO is Phillip Brown. Not only is Phillip Brown a curler, but he is also a cousin of Ted Brown and was eager to sponsor the bonspiel as a tribute to Ted.

Phillip is committed to working with RKCC to make the Ted Brown Classic an event worthy of the name and the premier bonspiel in Eastern Ontario, with a full slate of 64 teams or more.

It may take a bit of time to build the bonspiel back up to its glory days, but if the inaugural event January 19 – 21 was any indication, curlers will soon be clamouring to participate. Longtime organizers Phil Tomsett and Mario Fabbro, assisted by Keith Mitchell and Murray Matheson, welcomed 38 teams. They spent hours setting up the draw sheet, which looked like a Christmas tree tipped on its side, with games spread out between RKCC and Cataraqui.

The guest of honour, Ted Brown himself, was given a lengthy standing ovation in the lounge and showed great form when he threw the ceremonial first rock, with a stabilizer fashioned out of his trademark Brownie Curling Brush.

The winner of the Ted Brown Classic was Team Schnurr, a Queen's University team based out of Cataraqui with Colin Schnurr (vice), Connor Massey (lead), Grant Schnurr (second) and Owen Purdy (skip).



The Middle Earth Movers won the best costume prize at the Empire Life bonspiel. From left are Mike Bird, Rhonda Bird, Francine Korczynski and Broniek Korczynski. They even wore matching sweaters, below.



64th Annual Empire Financial Group Mixed Bonspiel

22 teams Draw for the Rings

What better place to celebrate Curling Day in Canada than Middle-earth? RKCC was the place to be on February 25, as the lounge and participants were transformed with Middle-earth magic for the 64th annual Empire Financial Group Mixed Bonspiel.

The bonspiel committee was once again headed by Teresa Gibson, who thanked her committee and participants for a successful mixed open bonspiel.

“The bonspiel was well attended with 22 enthusiastic teams who enjoyed great food, fun, and fellowship. This year we added an exciting new feature of a four-game minimum. This meant that even though the bonspiel was playdown format, all teams were guaranteed four or five (six-end) games during the two days.

“Congratulations to the bonspiel champions – Linda Lott, Keith Mitchell, Melanie Kamphuis, Ross Fabbro and Mario Fabbro. And thank you to all who supported the charity auction - I am happy to announce we raised \$5,000 for Pathways to Education!”

Check out the Photo Gallery on the website for more fun photos.



Our club depends on volunteers. Volunteers run leagues, clinics, bonspiels, instructional programs and more.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends, develop new skills and share your talents. That’s why we will be asking all of our members to complete a Volunteer Survey, to let us know about your skills and interests. Please watch for it!



St Paddy's Dance

Royal Kingston
Curling Club

130 Days Road
Kingston, ON



Sat March 11, 2023

8pm—12pm

Steve Cheesman
&
the Heeters

Tickets: \$20 at RKCC bar

Event organized by

RKCC Social Committee

Bravo to our Provincials participants

Congratulations to Denise Mulville and Anthony Hale who competed in the Mixed Doubles Provincial Championship February 24-26 at Cataraqui, finishing with a 2-3 record. The winners of the event were the team of Dave Mathers and Lynn Kreviazuk from the Ottawa Curling Club, who defeated Tanner Horgan and Keira McLaughlin from the Dixie Curling Club 6-3 in the final.



Mulima's magical season

By Martha Tanner, Sweep editor (with thanks to Judy Russell)

Congratulations to former RKCC youth member Kibo Mulima, currently attending Wilfred Laurier University, who has been having a fantastic season.

Kibo and his mixed doubles partner, Tori Zimmelink, won silver medals in the U20 Mixed Doubles at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island February 18 - March 5. The pair won the Ontario Winter Games Trials in December, where Kibo was also awarded the Spirit of Competition award by the Ontario Curling Council, which administers the Ontario Winter Games.

Secondly, his university men's team, on which he plays third, was named the 2022-23 Next Gen U18/U21 Team by the Ontario Curling Council. The Ontario Curling Council's Next Gen Program is designed to support athletes who have proven competitive success over time and help advance them as individual athletes and teams.

Thirdly, Kibo was awarded Curling Canada's 2022 For the Love of Curling scholarship of \$2,500. With a goal of influencing important change, Kibo aims to be a leader by sharing his experiences as a Black curler, being a role model for younger kids and working with the curling community to make the sport more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

All applicants were required to demonstrate excellence on the ice, volunteer leadership in the community and share a personal essay about how curling and the sport's community have impacted the person they are today.

"This year's scholars are showcasing their incredible qualities and telling new stories about curling and what it means to be a curler in Canada," said Curling Canada CEO and selection panel member Katherine Henderson.

In an interview with Devin Heroux and Colleen Jones on their podcast That Curling Show, Kibo said the pandemic gave him an increased opportunity to volunteer with junior and development programs in his community because he wasn't away competing so much. He has also been working for Rocks and Rings for the past year, introducing the sport to elementary school children.



Tori Zimmelink, Kibo Mulima and Coach Matt Wilkinson at the Winter Games Trials in Guelph in December.

"For me it's about paying forward some of the time my mentors have invested in me," he told the podcast hosts.

Kibo started curling when he was 10 years old and was the first in his family to try the sport. "When I started curling I didn't see a ton of people on TV who looked like me, and maybe not as many people in curling clubs who looked like me, so I began to understand a lot of where curling might be lacking in that area."

Kibo wants to be a role model for young curlers and to continue to learn and to coach so that he can try to make curling more welcoming, and hopefully introduce more young children to the sport.

"It starts with representation so people can see themselves in the sport, then with outreach and exposure."

Spring Plant Sale



Saturday, May 13, 2023

12:00 Noon

Royal Kingston Curling Club

**Donations of cuttings will be
accepted Friday, May 12**

**Please ask your friends and
neighbours if they have donations**





100 Stones runners-up and skills competition winners

Congratulations to the U15 team of, from left, Leah DaCosta (skip), Adele O'Donnell (vice), Mehda Charan (second) and Grace Berry (lead) who won the skills competition at the 100 Stones friendly competition at the Buckingham Curling Club February 19. The team, coached by Michael Berry, were also runners-up in the U15/U18 competition.

The event welcomed teams from Buckingham, Lachute, Vankleek Hill, Ottawa, Prescott, Manotick and Kingston over two days, with U12 teams competing on February 18. Each team threw a total of 100 stones over two games plus the skills competition.

RKCC hosts EOSSAA championship

Royal Kingston is proud to host the Eastern Ontario Secondary Schools Athletics Association (EOSSAA) curling championships on March 6 and 7. The championship will feature teams from across Eastern Ontario. Come out and cheer on our RKCC-based teams which won gold and silver at the Kingston Area Secondary Schools Athletic Association (KASSAA) championships last month in Napanee: the men's team from Frontenac Secondary School and the mixed team from Kingston Secondary School won their divisions, while the women's team from Frontenac SS and the mixed team from Ernestown SS both won silver. The teams would like to give a big thank-you to Linda Lott for her help in organizing this event.

Our junior curlers are enjoying a busy season, so watch for a full update in next month's *Sweep*.



Lefty McDonald Champs

Team Waller won the Lefty McDonald Seniors' Major League trophy. The cash league, hosted by Cataraqui Golf & Country Club, ran from November 8 to January 23, followed by playoffs in February. From left: convenor Gary Allen, Larry Waller, Rob Campbell and Rod Pearson.

Missing from photo is Joe Murphy.

Curling Canada recognizes Kingston's Ken Thompson

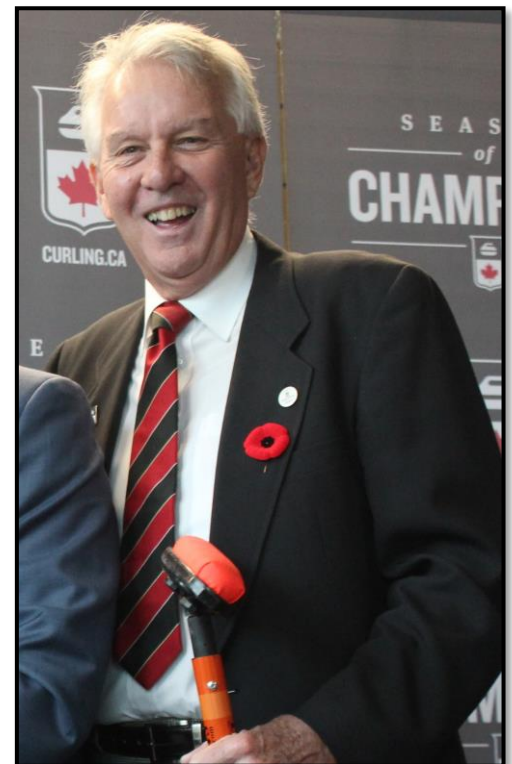
Congratulations to Ken Thompson, who has been awarded the Ray Kingsmith Award by Curling Canada.

The Ray Kingsmith Award is named after the man who played a leading role in bringing curling to the Winter Olympic family. He was a tireless volunteer in administration and management roles in the sport of curling. The award honours individuals who best demonstrate a similar commitment and dedication to our sport that made Kingsmith the consummate sport executive.

Ken Thompson has spent countless hours working behind the scenes on successful major curling events in Ontario including the 1974 Brier, the 1991 Brier, the 2013 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the 2017 Canadian Curling Club Championships in Kingston and the 2020 Tim Hortons Brier in Kingston.

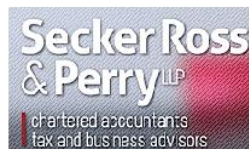
He's also been active at the local level as well, as a board member, a curling board chair and former president at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club in Kingston.

He was a feature writer and co-owner of the *Ontario Curling Report* for 38 years.



Ken Thompson, chair of the Kingston 2020 Brier Bid at the announcement in 2018 that the Kingston bid was successful.

Please support our sponsors!



Michael
Braun





MOMENTUM
PILATES

