



# The Sweep

Royal Kingston Curling Club

Volume 25, Issue 2

October 2023

## Thankful for a great start to the season

By Martha Tanner

As curling resumes after Thanksgiving, we have so much to be thankful for. When hot, humid weather wreaked havoc on the ice and interrupted our curling schedules during the first week of October, Jeff and his ice team worked overtime to restore the playing conditions to the excellence for which our ice is renowned. We're grateful to Jeff and Paul and Gene and Giselle. The ice-making team spent Thanksgiving weekend repairing the ice. Thanks too to our president, Murray Matheson, for keeping members informed.

We're thankful to have found a capable new manager in Rhonda Jarvis. Rhonda came highly recommended by our outgoing manager, Deb Hill. We are grateful to Deb, for the wonderful job she did during her (too brief) time at RKCC and to Rhonda for stepping in so quickly and so smoothly.

We're thankful to all the league convenors for working around this disruption and for all the work they do; it's often a thankless job, but not today – *thank you!*

We're thankful to all our volunteers, who serve on the board, on committees, as instructors and coaches and as general helpers.

We're grateful, as always, for our wonderful bar staff whose work behind the bar is only the tip of the iceberg of the myriad ways in which they serve the club and its members.

We're extend thanks once again to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which granted RKCC a \$60,700 Resilient Communities Grant to install air tempering in the existing air handling system of the ice shed to improve air quality for summer users (see story and photos starting on page 2). Thanks to the Grant Committee - chair Deb Wilkin, Gord Greer, Brian Ward, Rob Campbell, Deb Hill – which worked tirelessly to procure this grant and to the members of the Operations Committee who devoted countless hours of volunteer labour to make it all come together by deadline: Gord Greer (chair), Reg Gore, Wayne Smith, Cam Gruer and Mike Braun.

Thanks to our fundraising auction volunteers – Donna Poirier, Judy Russell, Martha Tanner, Karen and Murray Matheson – and everyone who donated items. Together we raised \$3,883 for the club in our August MaxSold auctions.

Thanks to all our volunteers, without whom the club would not run (and there would be no fun). Please indicate your volunteer interests under 'Member Information' on your RKCC Member page.





Members of the OTF Grant Committee and the Pickleball Committee who attended the Welcome Back BBQ, from left: Kevin Pereira, Reg Gore, Gord Greer, Murray Matheson, Deb Wilkin, Tish LaVallee.

## OTF grant breathes new life into RKCC

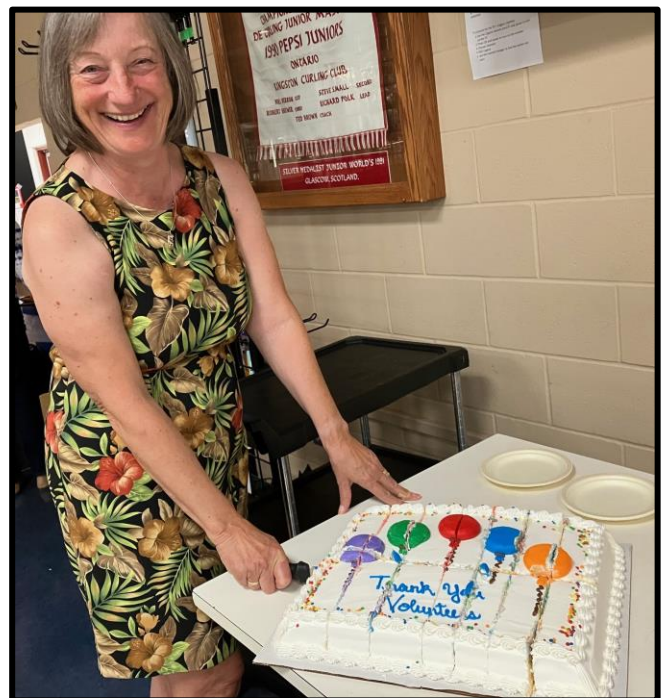
By Martha Tanner, Sweep Editor

RKCC officially welcomed the start of the 2023-2023 season on September 22, when the Golf Tour Committee and the Social Committee organized a Welcome Back BBQ for members.

The occasion was also a chance to formally thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its \$60,700 Resilient Communities Fund grant. Although invited guest Ted Hsu, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, could not be present, he did provide the following comments, which were read out by RKCC president Murray Matheson:

"The Royal Kingston Curling Club is a valuable and long-standing staple of our community. As the second oldest curling facility in Canada, it has been providing Kingston and the surrounding areas with top-quality curling services for over 200 years.

Continued on page 3



Deb Emerton, chair of the Social Committee, cuts a Thank You cake for volunteers.

## OTF, continued from page 2

“Of special note is the club’s strong commitment to accessibility, which makes it particularly deserving of recognition. By ensuring that its services can be enjoyed by people of all abilities, the Royal Curling Club has done much to expand the curling community in Kingston.

Congratulations once again on receiving this grant, and I hope it will help you to continue your great work for another 200 years!”

Murray noted that the OTF grant, which was awarded last fall, is for installing air tempering in the existing air handling system of the ice shed. This will reduce the temperature and humidity and improve the air quality. Summer activities will be more enjoyable and this will lead to increased use and revenues.

“We’re very happy to tell you that the installation has just been completed just this afternoon,” announced Murray. “This will allow us more use of the facility for indoor fitness opportunities and expanded year-round use by the community.”

Murray recognized the Grant Committee, “whose many hours of work have led to our successfully receiving this grant and putting the system in place”: Deb Wilkin (chair), Gord Greer, Brian Ward, Rob Campbell, Deb Hill and Communications Chair, Martha Tanner.

“In addition to the installation of a new air tempering unit by the HVAC contractor Modern Niagara, this project involved many hours of volunteer labour by members of our Operations Committee, which acted as Project Manager and installed all the insulation on the air ducts into the ice shed. This kept costs as low as possible,” continued Murray. “Please help me recognize the hours work by the Operations Committee, chaired by Gord Greer, Reg Gore, Wayne Smith, Cam Gruer and Mike Braun.

“The impact of this grant cannot be underestimated. Our facility is used by a variety of community groups of all ages – for sport and social events, summer camps, meetings, celebrations and fundraisers – and the upgrades will ensure more use and a healthier environment for all.

“Pickleball, beach volleyball and facility rentals contributed roughly \$45,000 in revenue to the club this summer,” Murray said, “and we expect that revenue will increase again next summer.

So please join me in thanking the volunteers who keep our summer pickleball program running: Denis Faubert, Kevin Pereira, Tish LaVallee, Bonnie Arlt, Barry Malmstrom, Brian Ward, Deb Wilkin.”



**Michael Berry, who leads the junior program, coaches a youngster during the club’s Fun Day drop-in sessions, September 23. See story and photos on page 4.**

Photo by Celia Russell.



Jeremy DaCosta, one of the Membership Committee volunteers, jousts with daughter Megan.



Murray Matheson aims to 'dunk' volunteer Linda Lott.



Photos by Sam Tomsett and Celia Russell.

## Fun Day showcases all that club offers

By Sam Tomsett, Membership Chair

On Saturday, September 23, RKCC invited the Kingston community to come join us we showcased all of what the club has to offer!

With the intent for awareness of the club, we wanted to show Kingstonians that we offer more than just the sport, but also our indoor and outdoor space, our hall, and a fully-stocked bar and kitchen. We offered this FREE event plus loads of activities, including learn-to-curl, lounge entertainment (see below), and jumping castles! Lots of families, juniors and other Kingstonians took advantage of the event and proved that we can offer some great atmosphere in our club. To extend our awareness, *The Whig* and the *Kingstonist* picked up the event and shared with their news channels!

A special thanks to the Membership Committee and the Board for helping plan and those who were volun-'told' to participate in our mini Dunk Tank to help raise money for the club!

Look out for next year for more to come, as we hope to build this further and make this an annual tradition!

The event musical talent included Chris Jackson (daytime acoustic) and The Limestone Cowboys (evening band).

# ***Sign up for a fall bonspiel***

If you want to have FUN and improve your balance, burn more calories, and strengthen your legs & upper body, consider putting together a team and playing one of our Fall bonspiels.

For more information and to register for a spiel, visit the RKCC website and look under the *EVENTS/BONSPIELS* tab. The five Fall events are:

**RKCC Fall Classic (open)  
Limestone Sr. Men's  
Evening Ladies'  
Pratt Day Men's Fall  
Open Doubles**

**CANCELLED  
Sat., October 28, 2023  
Sat., November 11, 2023  
Fri., November 24, 2023  
Sat., November 25, 2023**



*Susan Hara, Bonspiel Chair, 2023-24*



## ***Get your curl on!***

Did you know you can subscribe to the CurlON's monthly newsletter, *The Back Line*? It's packed with the latest information on competitions, clinics, funding opportunities and the workings of your provincial curling association. The October issue provides links to the recordings from its annual symposium, as well as to its Youth Webinar Series including U12 RockStars, Triples Curling and Hit Draw Tap.

Visit [curl-on.ca](https://curl-on.ca) – the website has been improved – and sign up at <https://curl-on.ca/newsletters>. Curling Canada also has a monthly newsletter. You can subscribe by going to the homepage, [curling.ca](https://curling.ca), scroll down to the bottom and click on 'Sign up for the newsletter'.

And while you're browsing, check out [curlinginontario.ca](https://curlinginontario.ca), the new home of the Ontario Curling Council.

# Growth in Stick Curling Leagues

By Kathy Jackson

2023-2034 Stick League Chair & Convenor

As we head into another season of curling, the Stick leagues are in a great position. The four-person stick league has grown from nine teams last year to 12 teams for this season. And the two-person stick league has also seen an increase to 30 teams compared to 27 teams last year. Some new curlers have joined our leagues and several veteran curlers are making the transition to delivery with a stick. Come out and watch the action on Wednesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:15 each day.

## Save the Date: Wednesday, December 20

If you are interested in getting a feel for delivering the rock with a stick, you should consider signing up for the four-person stick spiel which will be held during late morning/afternoon on Wednesday, December 20. All participants will deliver the rock with a stick for this fun bonspiel that will feature two four-end games plus lunch. Registration for this event will be as an individual and teams will be formed with experienced and inexperienced stick throwers on each team. Watch the website for more details and the registration deadline.

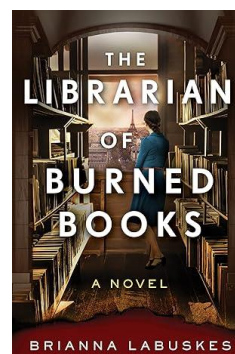


A pink-themed poster for a Barbie Bonspiel event. At the top left, the word "Barbie" is written in a large, stylized, pink font, with "Bonspiel" in a smaller, similar font below it. To the right is the Royal Kingston Curling Club logo. In the center, a white silhouette of a curler is shown in the middle of a delivery stroke. Below the silhouette, the text reads: "SATURDAY, NOV 11, 2023", "ROYAL KINGSTON CURLING CLUB", "8:30AM START", "ONE 8-ENDER + ONE 6-ENDER", "BREAKFAST, LUNCHEON + DESSERT", "\$200 PER TEAM". At the bottom, it says "Pink The Rink" in a large, pink, bubbly font, followed by "COME WALK THE PINK CARPET IN YOUR FAVOURITE Barbie OUTFIT." and "Register: royalkingston.com". At the very bottom, in small text, it says "Questions? Karen Peters petersk2@icloud.com".

## RKCC Book Club

RKCC's book club will be meeting Thursday, October 26 at 4 p.m. New members are welcome for some lively discussion and snacks - with post-meeting dinner at a restaurant if you wish to join us.

October's book choice is *The Librarian of Burned Books* by Brianna Labuskes. Contact [Renee.LeClair@bell.net](mailto:Renee.LeClair@bell.net) for more information.



The Royal Kingston Curling Club has great news:



Our popular  
“Open” Doubles  
Autumn Bonspiel  
is back:  
Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

This is an invitational bonspiel and all Doubles curlers are welcome.

- ✓ Each team will play two **six-end** games and the top six teams play in the final game for total cash prizes of \$600 (based upon 24 team entries).
- ✓ Registration fee is \$90 per team.
- ✓ Curling Canada rules (Mixed Doubles with local exception for “Open” Doubles – any combination of female-male team). If there is a tie game – draw to the button & sweep your own rock.
- ✓ Point spiel, using the Schenkel system. Teams are randomly selected for the first game, in the second game, teams will have opponents close to their own level, as sorted by points scored in the first game.
- ✓ Maximum 24 team registration. Please register as a team and email confirmation of registration will be provided.
- ✓ *Lunch, morning and afternoon snacks included.*
- ✓ Draw prizes.
- ✓ First draw at 8:30 am. Second draw at 10:05 am. Top six teams in final draw at 3:30 pm. Prizes at 5 pm.

Registration only online at  
[royalkingston.com/events/events-registration](http://royalkingston.com/events/events-registration)  
Full registration to be paid by Saturday, November 18, 2023  
E-transfer payment to [rkcc.payments@gmail.com](mailto:rkcc.payments@gmail.com)  
Questions: Contact [petercoughlin77@gmail.com](mailto:petercoughlin77@gmail.com)

# Summer Golf Tour ends at Rivendell

By Keith Mitchell

The RKCC Summer Golf Tour wrapped another another great season of golf on September 11 at Rivendell Golf Club in Verona. First, I want to thank everyone for coming out. We could not have had a nicer day and a big shoutout to Mike Dillon and his crew at Rivendell for hosting us.

Alright let's get to the prizes.

**Ladies' Closest to the Pin:** Doreen St. John. There was only one name on the card, so I guess Doreen is just too good. She gets to play from the blues next time.

**Men's Closest to the Pin:** Murray Matheson - Murray feel free to remind F. Charles Harari about your stunning victory.

**Closest to the Pond:** There was quite a list of names on this one, but in the final group Sharen McDowall put the ball so close to the water she had to stand in the pond to hit it.

**Straight Shooters:** OK this is EMBARASSING!! Nobody - and I mean NOBODY - made it through without losing a ball. Rivendell 56 - RKCC 0. On the plus side, I should be able to find lots of balls out there.

**Wayward Wackers** - Since EVERYBODY was in this category, I drew two names.

Wacker 1: Bonny Arlt

Wacker 2: Reg Gore

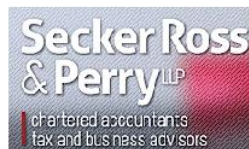
Thanks again for coming out, and to my fellow committee members for organizing another great golf tour: Pam, Tom and Heather.

## IDEA Committee update

Did you notice you weren't asked to specify your gender when registering for curling this season? That's one of the changes the IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) Committee has made, when we realized that there really was no valid reason to request that information on the registration form. The committee is still in the early stages and we're learning as we go. Our next steps are to create Terms of Reference for the committee and to draft an IDEA policy for adoption by the board. The committee consists of Martha Tanner (chair), Kathy Jackson, Dale Marecak, Mary Kelly, Linda Lott and Michael Flowers. We welcome suggestions and your participation.



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Michael  
Braun





**MOMENTUM**  
PILATES

