



Written in GRANITE

February 2023

Upcoming Events

Queen of Hearts Bonspiel

Monday, March 6

Draws at 9:15 and 1:00

Event for all Women in the Daytime Leagues

Club Nametags

Contact the office, or sign the nametag sheet at the bar if you are interested in a KW Granite Club nametag. The cost is \$15 + tax.

Are you seeing spare requests?

Sign in on the website and go to Member's Home > Other > Member search. Send yourself a test email and make sure it shows up in your Inbox, not your Junk or Spam Mail. If you see an email from KW Granite Curling Club, someone is trying to contact you using the website. If you get a spare request, a response is greatly appreciated even if you can't play.

How to get the Written in Granite newsletter?

The best way to read the newsletter is online. Go to Our Club > Newsletter. If you prefer a hard copy, please contact the office.

Rentals – Rentals – Rentals!

Our ice rentals and programs have been very active and we are excited to have such a strong demand. It's a great source of revenue for the club and an excellent way to introduce more people to the sport and to the club. And... we can do kids birthday parties, family social events in addition to corporate rental programs! A curling day makes a great, unique birthday present. Please contact the club office (John Gable) for ice availability and pricing.



Instructors?

We have multiple opportunities for qualified instructors to handle some of our rental programs – if not through the balance of this season then into next. Instructors **are paid** for each rental they handle (singly or with other instructors). If you may be interested and/or looking for more information on this opportunity, please contact Scott Allen (gartrav@sympatico.ca)

Learn to Curl Volunteer Instructors Needed

A few more volunteers are needed for the last two dates of the winter Learn to Curl program: **Saturday March 4 and Saturday March 11 from 9 am to noon.**

The participants have all been through the fundamentals of the slide, along with sweeping and game play. The last two sessions with focus on line of delivery drills and coached game play.

No previous instruction experience is required, just enthusiasm to work with new curlers. This is a great opportunity to share your passion for the game and grow the club. In a survey of the fall program participants, 81% said they were inspired to join a league. Please contact Tim Taylor – taylor@golden.net – if you are interested.

RINK IN THE PARK

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Staff

Interim Gen. Manager: John Gabel
Ice & Facilities Manager: Rob Adams
Part-time Ice Technician: Al McKeag

Board of Directors

Executive:

President: Sean Orsborn
VP Admin: Brad Lushman
VP Curling: Scott Allen
Secretary: Matt Brouwer
Treasurer: Matt Wilkinson

Committee Chair:

House and Property: Marcus Baker

Directors at Large:

Mary Ann Burke
Katie Hitchman
David MacTavish
Dan Polischuk
Lindsey Schmalz

Fall Learn to Curl participants overwhelmingly enjoyed the program

"I thought LTC was great! I had a fabulous time and truly appreciate the time and knowledge of the instructors" is one of the comments received in a survey of the 39 participants in the Fall Learn to Curl program. When asked what they liked best about the program, participants mentioned "the enthusiasm of the instructors", "the chance to learn with other newer curlers with no pressure", "the LTC explained the fundamentals very well in an extremely enjoyable format", and "all topics were covered - play, strategy, form". The majority of participants said the program inspired them to join a league next fall. The Winter Learn to Curl is currently underway and in the spirit of continuous improvement, those participants will also be surveyed for their insights into what went well and what we can improve. Congratulations to all the volunteer instructors for their time and enthusiasm that deserves such praise!

Food4Kids Fundraiser

In December, fellow KW Granite Club Members collected food items and cash donations to support Food4Kids Waterloo Region's 12 Days of Giving. Our organization supports 1030 local school age children who have little to no access to food on weekends and breaks. This past Winter Break was no exception and the need was even greater.

Together you hurried hard to collect 258 items valued at \$898.29, cash/grocery cards totaling \$1881.46, for a grand total of \$2779.75! Talk about a sweeping success! With your support, we were able to provide children with a bag filled with nutritious food, fresh fruits/vegetables and grocery cards to help while they were away from school. These bags not only provide the nutrition they need, but also provide relief. A relief from the worry of not knowing where to find their next meal. Instead, they can just be kids!

On behalf of Food4Kids Waterloo Region, thank you for your generous support! You have made a difference in these children's lives by giving them a bit of joy this holiday season. I am so proud to be a member of this caring community - Curlers Caring for Kids.

Kim Mervyn - Food4Kids Waterloo Region

A great afternoon of Entertainment!

We have a limited number of group tickets for the Drayton Festival Theatre's production of "The New Canadian Curling Club" on Saturday, July 22 at 2pm (matinee performance)! Tickets are available on a first come basis at a rate of \$56.50 (\$50 + HST / Youth (under 20) tickets are at \$38.42) and can be purchased by e-mailing Scott Allen (VP Curling) at: garrtrav@sympatico.ca. [More details about this event are online.](#)

Those that have bought tickets will be asked for payment before the end of February. Though you will need to pay for your tickets, they are fully refundable up to 31 days prior to the show (June 21).

Even sock monkeys love curling!



Show us *your* best curling attire!
Sent your image to
khitchman1952@gmail.com and
we'll share it next month.

Equipment Corner: Grippers

If you're asking yourself if it's time to replace your gripper, the answer is probably "yes". Many of us are still using the gripper we got when we first bought our shoes... but shoes outlast grippers by a long shot. Grippers will wear down and small bits of rubber will find their way onto the ice, and cause your rock to pick when you least want it to.

We have many sizes of grippers to fit any curling shoe in our ProShop for reasonable prices.

Even if you don't need a new gripper, it's also a good idea to wash it once in a while. Grippers will collect bit of dirt and dust which also find their way onto the ice. Help keep the ice clean!

Junior Curling League

The KW Granite Junior Curling League is having another great season. We are a 7-team league of youth players (aged 11-17) who currently play on Sunday Mornings. We are set up as a learning league where we have coaches on ice actively helping the players while their games are in progress. This sets up a fun learning environment that allows for healthy competition and player development. I would like to take a quick moment to thank our on and off ice volunteers (David MacTavish, Alec Cram and Tara Somerville) as we can't make this happen without you.

We are halfway through our second round robin and the teams are looking forward to our championship playoffs that will begin next month. It's a close race for first place but as of this writing the team skipped by Maddy Martin is holding top spot. In March, we will also be hosting our first "Bring a Friend" event to help get more youth introduced to curling.

Convenor: Kurt Rahnenfuehrer



Tuesday 5 pm Social League – A new name with a long history

The Tuesday 5 pm Social League is a rental league where the emphasis is on learning and enjoying the game in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Formerly known as the Manulife League, we changed the name as we have for many years been welcoming more than just Manulife employees.

The league welcomes new curlers every season and provides instruction on the first day and on an ongoing basis. Many of our members started curling in the league. Last winter, we had five graduates of the Learn to Curl program join our league, and this winter we'll have 3 new members from Learn to Curl. We have become known as a "farm team" for club leagues, as a lot of our members become club members and "graduate" into club leagues. There are teams in the Monday and Wednesday club leagues and at least three teams on Friday night that have their origins in the former Manulife league.

This is not the first name change for the league. The history goes back to the Dominion Life Assurance Company in Kitchener, which changed to the Manulife League when Manulife acquired Dominion Life in 1984 and moved its Canadian Head office to Waterloo. We played for years at the Elmira Curling Club, but jumped at the chance to play at the KW Granite when it moved to its current home in Waterloo. We fondly remember the first year of curling in the new location before the lounge and change rooms were built. Memories of changing in unheated tents built on top of boards above the ice surface still bring us chills.

The Tuesday 5 pm Social League has many cherished league traditions that will continue regardless of the name change. The trophies that are awarded to league champions have dates and names going back to 1980. That is 42 years (and counting) of team names. Not only do the champions get their names on a trophy, they also get custom Asham jackets. You probably have seen them being worn on the ice and now you know where they're from. As an added bonus, each championship team gets to organize the league the following year, bringing new people into the convenor role.



We also have a tradition of sending teams to local bonspiels, often introducing a new member to a bonspiel for the first time. In the 2019 Home Hardware bonspiel, there were three teams from the league on the same Monday night draw in Fergus.

Since we curl from 5 to 7 pm, we're able to go out for pub nights during the year, and our year-end banquet dinner in the lounge is a fitting end to the season. After the curling season ends, we still get together for a friendly game of softball in June followed by dinner and refreshments at Morty's.

There are many reasons why we enjoy this league. Some like our individual-entry format where we change the teams twice each season, so our members get to know each other. This format is particularly attractive to new curlers or people new to the league, since they don't have to worry about forming a team to join. Others like the consistent time each week, and no 9:00 games. We also have existing club members join our league because it is a convenient time for a second night of curling. Still others like the balance of quality curling in a friendly non-competitive environment, where there's always laughter at the tables after the game.

This year we have a new name, but the tradition of fun, friendly, social curling hasn't changed.