



Written in GRANITE

February 2024

Around the Club...

Upcoming Events

Rock the Grand -

A Learn to Curl Bonspiel
March 9, from 2:30 to 9:30 pm
Cost: \$30
This event is full.

Daytime Women AGM

March 7 at 11:45
Snacks will be served. There is no cost, but registration is required.

KW-Detroit Exchange

March 15 – 17
The return leg of the KW-Detroit Curling Club exchange will be held later this month. Additional information can be found on page 2.

KWGC-Guelph CC Challenge March 23

The Guelph Curling Club has returned the Challenge to the KW Granite Club after KW held the first challenge last year. New to this year, two mixed doubles teams will join the two mens, womens, and mixed teams to play in a Points Bonspiel.

Daytime Women Closing Banquet

April 3, starting at 5:00 pm
Registration required

Monkey Bonspiel Little Rocks & U18

Saturday April 13, 2024
See website for details and registration

We're coming into the home stretch of the 2023-24 season, and while the weather this winter has been absolutely spring-like, we're not there yet. Here's a quick recap of what's been happening and what's coming up at the KW Granite Club.

New Roof

The plan for the replacement of the roof remains on schedule with work planned to begin shortly after the season ends in late April. While the City has not given us a guaranteed date of completion, their goal is to have it completed by August. However, this will affect our usual summer offerings.

Temporary Home for Trillium

To accommodate the Trillium Curling Camp in August, the City of Waterloo has offered to rent the arena at Albert McCormick Community Centre to us during the month of August.

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee is off to a great start!

Thank you Curlers for stepping forward to help make our club more welcoming for all!

We were overwhelmed with the interest expressed by club members in joining the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. From all of the applicants, we selected 6 members to join the core committee based on the diverse experiences and interests they bring with them to this work.

Over the next few months, the Committee will begin to explore changes and improvements around the club to make our space, our leagues and our practices work for both our current members and people in the community with different needs and lived experiences. Some changes will be small or clear enhancements that the committee and staff can work on right away. Some changes will require conversations with members to make sure that we don't lose sight of what's already great about the Granite while moving ahead.

One thing's for certain, this work will take a lot of help. There is space to involve anyone who is interested at the project-by-project level. So even if you didn't get placed on the Committee proper, we can use your help, and the help of other club members as we move forward. If you're interested in learning more or in working on projects along the way, please reach out to Committee Chair Tracy Suerich at tracysuerich@gmail.com.

KW GRANITE CLUB

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Staff

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Ice & Facilities Manager: Rob Adams

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Executive:

President: Ashley Falconer
VP Admin: Brad Lushman
VP Curling: Katie Hitchman
Secretary: Matt Brouwer
Treasurer: Matt Wilkinson

Director of House and Property:

Marcus Baker

Directors at Large:

Mary Ann Burke
David MacTavish
Sean Orsborn
Dan Polischuk
Lindsey Schmalz
Tracy Suerich

LTC Instructor quote –

After playing the game for 50 years, it is so much fun seeing new people having fun on the ice learning the game that has been such a big part of my life.
- Bruce

Friends & Family Bonspiel



Big thank you to the Village at University Gates for sponsoring this event for all ages (from 9 to 70ish) on February 17! Because they supported us, we were able to support local, small businesses at the prize table. First place went to Kerry Townsend, Byron Leis, Barry Foster, and Brian Kendrick. The lunchtime brainteaser prize went to Team Moffat – Paul, Lindsay, Adalyn and Madie. It was a successful, fun event – hopefully to be repeated in 2025.

Katie Hitchman, organizer

KW Detroit Exchange – March 15-17

One of the highlights at the end of the season is the Kitchener end of the KW Detroit Curling Exchange, taking place March 15-17, 2024. This will be the 107th year that Detroit will be in town. Sign up is now available. Information about the event is located on the lounge tables in the club, as well as the men's bulletin board. The event includes a hospitality Friday night, with food and refreshing beverages all included. On Saturday there is curling, lunch, and a four-course meal in the evening. Things wrap up on Sunday morning with breakfast and awards at the Plattsville Curling Club. The cost for this event is \$100 for returning curlers, and only \$80 for new curlers. You will not be disappointed.



For those who are tech savvy, we have created a QR code to allow you to sign up electronically. Please note that this is a men's only event; 19 years of age and older. For more information on this event, please contact either:

Brett Dubrick – dubrickb@gmail.com

Matt Schumacher – mattshoecurling@gmail.com





Thanks to Diane Janes, the KWGC looks amazing in every season.



Piper Peter Finlay

Daytime Women

Since Christmas two very successful jitneys were held.

Winterlude was held on January 8 and was hosted by Dale Sinclair, Jill Rowett & Rosemary Gowman. Eight teams participated and the winning team was Joan Stubgen, Jannette Mitchell, Carolyn Fried & Maria Greco. The **Queen of Hearts Jitney** was held February 12, and hosted by Anne Silk, Ilsa Hoffman, Carolyn Zenger & JoAnn Vincent. Eight teams participated and the winning team was Val Rotar, Pat Fitton, Elsie Millard, Sandy Keller & Maria Greco.

Plans are underway for the **AGM** being held on March 7 at 11:45 after curling. Snacks will be provided. Also plans for the **Closing Banquet** on April 3 are being finalized. Happy hour will begin at 5:00 with dinner to follow.

Daytime Men

The 2nd Round of both Leagues were completed on Tuesday 6th and 8th February respectfully. Tuesday was able to field 14 full teams thus ensuring all six sheets were full every week. The competition was kept quite lively even up to the last rock in the last end for Tom Powell's winning team comprised of Al Nichols, Marty Bell and Dave Muir. The team was to complete 8 games achieving 100% wins. In 2nd place was the Tyler Somer rink including Ian Ward, David Slover and Bill Day. Well done everyone! The John Carr team of John Scott, Ted DeYoung and Mike Neuféglise won two of the throw-off challenges. As a note, it seems that there are fewer and fewer 16's these days.

To begin the 2nd Round and for the upcoming 3rd Round we have been heralded onto the rinks by our Piper Peter Finlay – a great way to start the competition thank you Peter, it really adds a flavour of pride to the games.

We appreciate the spares who have been filling slots where colds, whatever interfere with attendance. We hope that Phil Heard and Bob Toogood are able to recover from their maladies and maybe even slide in to the wind up Skins Game open to both Tuesday and Thursday curlers. But, get your names on the sign-up sheet ASAP as there is only room for 48 positions.

Thursday results: The Neil Bailey Team, including Brad Bennett, Phil Heard and David Cooper came first with a record of 6 - 2. The Bryan Hawkins Team including Gerry Steingart, Larry Himmelman David Muir had the same record of 6 - 2 but lost the first game against the Bailey team to place 2nd. Eight (8) of the 14 teams had a record of 5 - 3. Amazing!

It would be remiss not to say thank you to Rob for the excellent ice Piper Peter Finlay 'mothering' of we neophytes.

Convenors John Scott, Brian Black, Brad Tucker

LTC Instructor quotes –

I get re-energized by the excitement and passion new curlers always bring to the game. Being an instructor reminds me over and over again why I fell in love with this sport in the first place.

- Tracy Suerich

There is great satisfaction in seeing a novice develop into a curler knowing that, through the efforts of qualified instructors, they have shared their love of the sport. Certainly, the exceptionally organized and well-run “Granite Learn-to-Curl” program is a model of that success. Huge congratulations to Tim and the other instructors who provide volunteer hours working on behalf of this special group.

- Scott Allen

The LTC program is so comprehensive, yet simple at the same time. There is a focus on the mechanics of the sport, but I love that there is also discussion (and demonstration) of the flow of the game, the strategy, the etiquette, and even the post-game socializing. Participants are given a real understanding of the whole experience. I love seeing former “Learn to Curl-ers” on the ice during a regular league game - knowing I may have played some small part in getting them involved with a sport that I’ve enjoyed for so many years!

- Shannon McVicar

Final issue of the season

Our next issue of Written in Granite will be the last of the season. Like last year, since it will be published at the end of the season, it will be a super-sized online only issue posted to the website. And, like last year, we hope all convenors will have photos taken of the winners. Look for an email announcing the issue in April.

The ‘Dawn’ Of Stick Curling

Ray Hanton, January, 2024

As I was reclining with my feet up in front of the fireplace one evening, it suddenly dawned on me that I had unconsciously witnessed and actively participated in the development of a new sport - “Stick Curling”!! Curling with a Stick came upon the scene very unsuspectingly, mainly due to the frustrating efforts of a few individuals, who due to their declining years and medical concerns with uncooperative knees and backs, were desperately trying to find a means to continue to play the game they loved!! For centuries everyone played the game by sliding out of the hack holding the handle, to deliver the stone down the ice. However, when “Olde Age” made that difficult on your knees and back, you reluctantly accepted a demotion to the position of Lead - **or reluctantly retired from the sport!** But thanks to these ‘diehard experimenters’ and a Canadian inventor, the sport of Stick Curling has evolved dramatically. Over half of our club’s Senior curling members now curl with a Stick!!! **Can you beat that!!**



Looking Back.

My first recollection of someone using a Curling Stick was around the year 2000, when I was a member of a Senior Men’s league, at the Thornhill Curling Club north of Toronto. Two of the more senior Skips were experimenting with homemade ‘Gismos’ attached to the end of cut off broomsticks! That’s only two out of 64 curling members!! Their Sticks were rustic, cobbled together from pieces of plumbing, steel springs, screws, duct tape, etc. - whatever they could find lying around in the Garage!! If that didn’t work, they tried something new next game.

I must admit I was definitely curious, and was impressed to see how well they actually played with their Curling Sticks. However, these ‘custom’ Sticks often failed later on during the game due to the weight of a 40 lb. curling stone attached to the end of a stick, and their amateur handyman’s inability to construct a strong and stable attachment between the end of the Stick, and the handle of the stone. Still they tried and tried and didn’t give up. It certainly led to serious discussions between the curlers after the game and over drinks, resulting in further test runs and some improvement of the product. Still no one seemed to find the true answer. The handle of the stone would often stick or slip on the stick attachment, causing a missed shot and a lot of frustration on the part of the curler – and the ‘novice inventor’ too!!

[The story continues online...](#)