



Written in GRANITE

October 2024

Greetings Fellow Curlers!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for the 2024-2025 curling season!

For returning members, you will hopefully notice lots of positive changes that have taken place during the off-season. Some key changes that I would like to call your attention to are: the new roof, the updated banquet room, reorganized pro shop, and the cleaner look of the ice shed due to the removal of the old speakers and fans on the ceiling and the removal of the centre walkway. I want to thank everyone that volunteered to help with these and all the other initiatives I didn't have room to mention in this update.

A recent decision made by the board was the selection of a new logo. This logo was selected after significant deliberation over two seasons on what should (or should not) be included, how we want to brand ourselves moving forward, appropriateness to inclusivity and accessibility, and aesthetics. Another big thank you to everyone that put time and effort into bringing us to this decision.

The key focus of the board this season remains relatively the same as last season - who do we want to be in the future? This season it will involve continuing to strengthen our relationship with the city and local community as well as being strategic with our capital updates.

One last thing I would like to say before ending my first Message from the President this season is how best to communicate with me. Everyone has valuable feedback, so you are encouraged to reach out to me at president@kwgranite.com.

A boundary I have put in place is that while I am curling on Mondays and Thursdays, I am not there as the President. Unless it is urgent, please contact me by email during this time.

Ashley Falconer
2024/2025 KW Granite Club President



Upcoming Events

CurlION Refresher Clinics

November 16

Skills Analysis 9 – 12 am

Stick Delivery 1 – 4 pm

Each clinic is limited to 24 participants

[Registration and details](#)

Jingle Bells Jitney

November 30, 1 – 7 pm

Looking for a volunteer to organize this event.

Contact info@kwgranite.com for more information.

Anything you want to share?

Please contact [Matt Brouwer](#) or [Katie Hitchman](#) if you have content or ideas for the Written in Granite newsletter.

RINK IN THE PARK

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Staff

General Manager: John Thomas

Board of Directors

Executive:

President: Ashley Falconer

VP Admin: Brad Lushman

VP Curling: Katie Hitchman

Secretary: Matt Brouwer

Treasurer: Matt Wilkinson

Committee Chair:

House and Property: Lindsey Schmalz

Directors at Large:

Marty Bell

Oliver Campbell

David MacTavish

Sean Orsborn

Dan Polischuk

Lindsey Schmalz

Tracy Suerich

Tuesday Night Social League: Last year's winners are this year's co-coordinators. We have lots of events planned for this year including a couple of pub nights, a euchre tournament, and a turkey shoot at Christmas (That's right a turkey shoot!!!) Our league is more than just curling - it's a family, and we look forward to a lot of fun times together this year.

Trevor Leslie

Around the House

As of Oct 15, our membership stood at 720 members, which is significantly higher than last season when we had approximately 626 members at this point in the season. Many leagues are full this year, so the convenors are busy people. All the work they do is greatly appreciated!

Daytime

Men

John Scott, Brian Black, Brad Tucker, Paul Carter

Women

Nancy Tippin, Carolyn Zenger, Kathy Braun, Eve Charest-Jeud, Barb Tucker

Wednesday Afternoon Mixed

Marcus Baker and associates

Evening

Monday Open

Jason Beierling, Ashley Falconer

Tuesday 5pm Social

Trevor Leslie

Tuesday Mixed

Steve & Katie Hitchman

Wednesday Men

Brian Belfry

Thursday Women

Leanna Kuntz

Thursday Men

Marc Joyce

Friday Mixed

Michael Greenwood

Youth

Junior

Kurt Rahnenfuehrer

Little Rocks

Will Hamilton

Weekend

Saturday Nouveau League John Thomas

Saturday Out on the Ice Alex Turner, Abby Weagant

Rental Leagues

Friday Social

Merlin McRae

City of Waterloo Support

Thank you to C of W for the many recent upgrades to our facility!

- New roof over the ice shed, curling lounge and changerooms (City of Waterloo, Province of Ontario and Federal Government).
- Boardroom renovations after years of water damage from the leaking roof.
- Parking lot lines upgraded to orange to make our area more easily distinguishable for all
- New Accessible Parking Spaces signage coming
- One new fan motor for the roof related to the refrigeration system
- 4 new trees on our boulevard area

Banner raising for Team MacTavish



On Oct 9, the Ontario U18 2024 Championship banner was presented to Team MacTavish by CurlOn rep Kathy Ryan. Team: Tyler MacTavish, Evan Madore, Nathan Kim and Colsen Flemington. Coach: Brent Madore.

Team MacTavish having a great start to the season!

U18 Team MacTavish won the U18 Phoenix Slam held from Sept 8 – 10 at the KWGC!



Team MacTavish (Tyler MacTavish, Liam Rowe, Alec Symeonides, Connor Elkins and coach Sam Steep

Team MacTavish also won the Stu Sells U18 Tankard event in Oakville held Oct 11 – 14!



Sam Steep (coach), Tyler MacTavish, Liam Rowe, Alec Symeonides, Connor Elkins and Stu Sankey of Stu Sells

Inclusivity at KWGC

Did you know that the KW Granite Club has an inclusivity committee? We are a dedicated team of members who are passionate about making your club a welcoming and safe community. We look at everything from physical accessibility, to celebrating the diverse lived experiences of people in our club and supporting the needs of members and visitors. Changes include more food and beverage options to suit various dietary needs, and creating spaces and participation opportunities that are inclusive for all genders.

At the beginning of the season, we launched our new [club code of conduct](#) for members. At a high level the code is there to remind everyone that you are responsible, in part, for the experience of the people around you. As a member, that means that you have a responsibility to try to make that experience a good and welcoming one. You can do that by:

- looking out for and taking care not to threaten the physical or emotional safety of others,
- refraining from foul or abusive language,
- not indulging to the point of intoxication at the club,
- taking care of the Granite Club, our property and equipment, and
- following safety guidelines on the ice

Did you know that some common practices in curling can be barriers to participation for some people? For example:

- Shaking hands in some cultures is not acceptable, particularly between members of different gender groups.
- Buying a drink after the round can cause stress for some living on a limited income or for those of various religious groups or someone fighting for their own sobriety.
- The curling schedule itself can be an impediment for those of some religious groups with daily prayer practices.

The culture of curling is something that many of us hold dear, and it isn't necessarily going to change any time soon. Let's take pause and see if we can enjoy the best that curling has to offer while being open and mindful to how others may experience these traditions.

Over the course of this season, we will be talking with members about your experiences in the club, the traditions you hold dear and how we can hold on to what is so valued in curling while trying to remove some of these barriers. Together, we can find a way to make curling more inclusive and enjoyable for all.

Tracy Suerich
tracysuerich@gmail.com

KWGC Learn to Curl & Tim Taylor

Some members may not be aware of the excellent organization and quality that Tim Taylor brings to our Learn to Curl program. This is certainly one of the best in our area if not in southern Ontario. I recently assisted in the first LTC on October 5 and sent the following e-mail to Tim on Oct. 5.

Hey Tim:

I simply wanted you to know how impressed I was with the organization and quality of the program you run. Today, as the first of six, was flawless – the participants were eager, the instructors friendly and knowledgeable and the over-all experience, literally an outstanding example of what a truly wonderful program you have designed at the KW Granite.

This is simply the “premier” instructional program of its kind in our area and it is ALL thanks to your organization, dedication and incredible (pardon the expression) “being a good guy”.

If this were a major league “last minute need a home run” you knocked it out of the park. While you cannot do this on your own, you are the king pin to its development. You should be extremely proud of what you accomplish with this program and I, as a club member and occasional instructor, am hugely appreciative of all you do.

*With Respect,
Scott Allen*

Inclusivity Improvements

Improvements made at the KWGC before the start of the season include:

- Gender neutral washrooms near the banquet hall
- New power assisted door opener for ice shed access
- New ramp to ice surface for wheelchairs.

A Wheelchair Team Curling Camp was held Sept 16 and 17. The accessibility upgrades were noticed and appreciated.



Curl Math

Most of us don't intend to play slow, but it's more often than not we're looking at the clock to see if the last rock thrown was done before the clock says we can't play any more ends. Often times it's the little things that we never think about that add up over the course of the match that gets us into a game running behind. Here's how time management shakes out:

- In an eight end game, there are 128 rocks to be thrown. Our games are two hours long, which is 120 minutes. That is just under one minute per rock.
- Now take into account about a minute at the conclusion of each end to tally the score, clear the rocks and get set for the next end. Now we're down to 113 minutes for 128 rocks.
- Now, assume that for the skip's rocks, there is extra time for making decisions and travel time for the skip to get from the far house to the hack... about 30 seconds. For eight ends and four skips' rocks each, that 16 minutes. We're now down to 97 minutes for 128 shots... about 45 seconds per rock.
- Then, if each shot averages 20 seconds (less for takeouts, more for draws), that leaves only 25 seconds for each rock for: 1) the opposing team to clear out of the way, 2) the skip to make a decision, 3) the shooter to get / clean the rock, and 4) to set themselves up to take the shot.

Still with me?

- Now, take into account that we're not pros and we all have tiny bad habits that might waste a “mere” five seconds or so each shot... that adds up to 10 or 11 minutes over the course of the game.

It's easy to see how a game can run long if we're not mindful of the little things that add up.

More [Tips for improving speed of play](#)