



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2009-10 Board of Directors

Executive

PresidentDave Hunter
TreasurerDenis Martel
SecretaryKathy Adair
Past-President..... Bruce Brown
Vice-PresidentLyle Tallon

Directors

House & Properties Mark Peebles
MembershipHolly Hutton
Ice & Ice AllocationPhil Zerr
BarRichard Guenette

Appointed Members

Rookies RockBrian Gatenby
WebmasterDavid Adair

Ex-Officio

Manager.....Denise Hoekstra

Division Reps

Day Men Tim Weir
Evening MenEugene Thibault
Day LadiesSue Biscope
Evening Ladies ..Heather McBrien
Weekend MixedElfrieda Bock
Open FixedPaul Wolfe
Bantam / JuniorTrevor Baillie
Little RocksMike Adair

By the time you read this letter you will have received your new Club Directory and all the new members will be wearing their new name tags. Thanks to Denise for expediting this process. Our total membership this year is sitting at about 580 including Social Members. Many thanks to all existing members in making the new members feel welcome to the Granite.

Over the past weeks we have been able to hang up some of the pictures in the Lounge and sit in the new very comfortable furniture. Some of the old furniture is getting re-covered and has joined the new furniture. Thanks to Carol Anderson and Pat Scrim for making all the key decisions and on the furniture and location of pictures etc. They had help from Jean Waddell, and both Day Ladies and Evening Ladies. A special thanks to Lyle Tallon for arranging the hanging of the pictures of past Lady Presidents in the Ladies Locker Room. We also must thank the Day Ladies for the Christmas decorations in the lounge. It now looks very comfortable and ready for the holiday season.

Thanks to some donations, we now have three flat screen television sets for the convenience of the members and we will be making some program changes so that we receive all the Sports Channels in HD format. New small bulletin boards have been purchased along with appropriate easels, and will be located at various places around the club so that the different leagues can post items of interest to their members. Larger permanent bulletin boards will be up soon on the walls by the coffee machine so that we do not need to place anything on the newly painted walls.

Your Board will be discussing the next phase of our renovations so if you have any ideas, please let the executive know. The House and Property representatives from the past few years have met to discuss the necessary improvements to the physical plant, and these will be incorporated into the renovation plans for the coming year.

Once again, I have to thank Mark Peebles and Lyle Tallon for their support and efforts in getting all these little jobs accomplished. And while I am at it, many thanks to all the League leaders for getting the club off to a smooth and roaring start.

Dave Hunter – President

Spring Registration: April 30th

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MANAGER

I want to thank Pat Scrim and Carol Anderson for all of their hard work in finding the beautiful furniture we now have in our lounge area. These women saw the inside of numerous furniture stores from one end of the city to the other and found the best pieces for the best price. Their excellent eye for detail and decorating has made our lounge area a welcoming place to be. Also, they are ones responsible for the beautiful Christmas decorations that adorn the room. Thanks again Girls!

I would like to acknowledge and thank Lawrence Tapper for his generous contribution to the Club. This donation along with the donations of various leagues and other individuals, made the acquisition of our new furniture and televisions possible.

Lawrence made his donation through the CCA and received a deductible tax receipt. If you are interested in making a donation to the club by this manner, I have the information in the office.

The Club is interested in pursuing some advertising opportunities in the future. I would like to know if there is anyone in the membership who has graphic design experience and could volunteer their time and talent to help produce the high resolution formats required.

Holly Hutton, our tireless Membership Director, had out done herself again by putting on some great events at the Club. If you missed the Opening Spiel and most recently The Murphy Mixed, you missed a great opportunity to mix and mingle with members from all the different leagues. If you didn't know, we're a club of 580 very interesting people. That's a lot of people to get to know. Don't miss your opportunity.

That was a pre-amble into the next couple events happening at the club. The Presidents Wine and Cheese is on Sunday December 13, tickets are \$7.00. Our annual Turkeyspiel will be December 20th. Sign up at the Club. Once our Champions have been crowned, we will have a draw to the button contest using a frozen turkey. It will be \$2.00 for the chance and the money will be donated to the food bank.

The Club will be closed December 21 till January 4th. I would like to wish everyone Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!

Denise Hoekstra - Manager

HOUSE AND PROPERTY

ONGOING:

- Carpet in the ice shed has been repaired and the carpet mismatch issue in the lounge area will be addressed in the spring.
- The front door has been looked at by 2 contractors so far and estimates are forthcoming.
- The furnace air intake system has been looked at by Ideal Combustion and they believe it can be greatly improved; a quote is also forthcoming.
- The storage area under the men's stairwell has been cleaned and reorganized for storage. The furnace room is now clear of all flammable items and is being reorganized into a tool storage/shop area.

PENDING: There have been requests for:

- 220v outlet in the compressor room to enable the use of a special scraper.
- 2 cameras over the east inner rings - image to be displayed on monitors.
- Men's bathroom door is to be removed to allow better access.

We'll be looking for a work detail of volunteers to help with finishing touches around the club (such as: heater cover installation, moulding installation, installation of plywood on the back of the trophy case in the entrance way, etc.).

Mark Peebles - Director, House and Property

ICE AND ICE ALLOCATION

Ice conditions have greatly improved this year compared to last, thanks to the installation of new carpeting in the entranceways and lounge area and to a new sticky mat at the ice area entrance. Thanks also to all users of our facility who value clean ice and take care to clean their footwear properly before stepping on the ice. One ongoing source of concern, however, remains old and worn grippers used by some curlers. "Shredding" by worn grippers degrades the ice surface and is a major factor in causing

Annual General Meeting, April 11 (7:00pm)



rocks to "tic". Grippers should be replaced every couple of years and a supply in various sizes is available for purchase at the bar. If you speak nicely to Denise she may even give you a "deal" on one! Good curling!

Phil Zerr - Director, Ice and Ice Allocation

MEMBERSHIP

It seems like only a few weeks ago that the curling season began but here we are in mid-December planning multiple Christmas banquets! Membership has had many positive initiatives this year. A new daytime Rookies Rock program is underway on Monday mornings and the response has been excellent. All of the evening leagues are running at capacity and there is the promise of new teams entering the Weekend Mixed from the Sunday Rookies Rock program.

We have many events running from the start of the season and are always looking for volunteers to help. The Open House, Opening Clinics, Opening Bonspiel & BBQ, and Murphy Mixed Bonspiel are the main club-wide events but each league has other events they need you.

The 2009 Murphy Mixed Bonspiel has just come to a close, and with it my time as bonspiel organizer. This is not one of the responsibilities of Membership Chairman so consider taking the reigns for next year. The work is quite manageable for a couple of people with the help of a couple extra volunteers. Call me for more details.

Have an excellent holiday season!

Holly Hutton - Director, Membership

LITTLE ROCKS

Little Rocks needs you!

Do you have children or grandchildren in the 7-12 age range? Come and join us Saturday in the Little Rocks program for a fun morning of curling and making new friends. Instruction is provided for all levels from novice and up and all children have the chance to earn an OCA Skills Award program badge.

Up next in our program is the annual Christmas Hot Shots competition and party on Dec. 19 and we have the Granite Little Rock Bonspiel scheduled for March 6, 2010, which is already full.

Our enrollment is currently at about 14 so we have lots of room for new curlers. I would especially like to hear from any parents that might be interested in running the Little Rocks program next year.

Mike Adair - Director, Little Rocks

BANTAM/JUNIORS

In the Junior/Bantam program, we are having a banner year. We have about 35 Junior/Bantam members - almost twice as many as last year. Three teams are keen on the competitive route - two Bantam and one Junior.

The weekly session (from 10:30 to noon on Saturday) is made up of drills and a game as usual, and this year we have added a short challenge to reflect the requirements of the Bronze designation. Testing will take place sometime in the New Year.

We are holding the first "Granite Rock Hop" on December 12 - a more formal game in the noon to 2:00pm time period on Saturday. This involves a number of Granite members and also includes members from external OVCA clubs. Invitations have been sent to Pembroke, Thurso and Navan as they previously expressed interest.

Trevor Baillie - Coordinator/Coach



DAY LADIES

Congratulations! **Betty Macdonald** on becoming an Honorary Life Member at the Granite.

Isabel Fox, Past President, welcomed and presented Granite pins to 7 new Day Ladies at the Harmer tea. (Maureen Broder, Nicole Cormier, Pat Gauthier, Sandra Hession, Gail Laroque, Anne Marie Meagher, Pat Turner).

96 ladies attended the opening luncheon. Louise prepared another delicious luncheon. This was the 7th time she has done it. Her committee was: Ursula Anderson, Cynthia Cowan, Monique DesRosiers, Doreen Dickie, Pat Finnigan, Betty Macdonald, Vivian McAlpine, Marilyn Sloan, Marilyn Thompson, Danielle Weir. Helen Lanoue, great job of selling the 50/50 tickets.

Curling Events

Opening Fun spiel winners were:

- 9 a.m. - Joyce Garinther, Carol Anderson, Sue Biscope, Pat Turner
 - 10:30 a.m.- Marilyn Zerr, Elizabeth Holmes, Anne Moran, Anne Marie Meagher
- Leads & Seconds and the Millennium and the Murchison Medals are still underway.

Fall Draw - Winners of the October/November 2009 draws were:

Jamieson Shield

- Winners - Pat Brigham (Skip), Helen Brown, Barbara T-Walker, Sue Biscope
- Runners-up – Catherine Burnside (Skip), Jan Inniss, Ursula Anderson, Joyce Code

Harmer

- Winners - Maureen Broder (Skip), Pat Sherar, Joy Rotchell, Jean Kohli
- Runners-up– Marilyn Zerr (Skip), Anne Hagborg, Constance Hudak, Mary Lu Beaupré

Out –of Club Winners

- **LCA - Centennial Mary McGuire** - Semi-finalists were:
 - Donna Tallon (Skip), Carol Ermanovics, Barbara Martin, Margaret Meredith
 - Fran Olson (Skip), Eunice MacLeod, Beverly Prentice, Dianne Cooley

Interclub Event: Hope Beddoe - Granite had 10 teams in the Hope and 2 in the Beddoe

- **Beddoe Event - Edythe Huston Winners:**
 - Monique DesRosiers (Skip), Louise Cournoyer, Ursula Anderson, Doris Reed
- **Hope Event – Runners-up:**
 - Vivian McAlpine (Skip), Evelyn Garnier, Sylvia Shortliffe, Anne Marie Meagher
- **Silver Salver Event – Runners-up:**
 - Heather Dufault (Skip), Wendy Faas, Mari Wellman, Susan Thomson

Upcoming Events

- Christmas Fun spiel and Luncheon is on Monday December 14th.
- Day Ladies curling will resume on Monday, January 4, 2010. The sign-up sheets for January 2010 curling (Pat Ward Rose Bowl, Murchison Medals and Leads and Seconds) have been posted with a closing date of December 11, 2009.
- Ladies Invitational –Pat Riddell Memorial Bonspiel is on Wednesday, January 13th, 2010.
- The mixed Valentines Spiel is on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

Day Ladies Instructional Activities

- Individual Friday afternoon instructional sessions provided by Mary Betts and Monique DesRosiers have been much appreciated. These are available to any league member learning to curl or wishing to improve her game.
- We are also grateful to Barbara Thompson-Walker who has begun practice sessions with the teams that will be competing in the LCA Stanley-Gauthier bonspiel, which is for curlers with five or less years curling experience. Three Granite Day Ladies teams plan to enter this bonspiel.
- Other instructional initiatives for Day Ladies undertaken this fall included *Coaches and Coffee* and Hope practices. *Coaches at Coffee* was ten-minute presentations during the post-game coffee periods after Harmer and Leads and Seconds games. Topics included Courtesy in Curling, Time



Management, Shot Execution (Rock Rotation, Weight, Hits and Rolls), Sweeping (Judging Weight and Brushing Technique) and the Importance of Team Positions (Lead and Third). Thanks to our guest speakers: Pat Brigham, Andy Broder, Denise Hoekstra, Eunice MacLeod, Glenn MacLeod, Eileen Wilson and Beverley Prentice.

- Willing volunteer coaches also spent Monday and Wednesday afternoons working with the Hope teams on ice for eight sessions. They helped with shot execution, strategy and team communication. Thanks to our volunteer coaches: Denise Hoekstra, Bob Brien, J.J. Drolet, Dave Long, Glenn MacLeod, John Sherar and Craig Skochinski who helped on many occasions.

Thank you's

- There has been excellent feedback from the Day and Evening Ladies on how pleased they are with the Photo Gallery now located in the Ladies area downstairs. Lyle Tallon did an excellent job!
- Barbara & Dave Hunter made a lovely green cover for the shuffleboard.
- Joy Rotchell, you did an outstanding job of painting the 3-Day Ladies lockers.
- *Carol Anderson and Pat Scrim*, you outdid yourselves. You have dedicated many hours and we really appreciate all your efforts. We cannot thank you enough for all the work you did on selecting the furniture, having the chairs upholstered at Rockland Textiles, and buying complimentary accessories. Great selection on wall hangings in the lounge.

Sue Biscope - Day Ladies President

DAY MEN

The Day Men's Invitational was held November 25 and was, again, a tremendous success. 16 teams participated from as far away as Kingston. The Granite entry this year was skipped by Larry Marion. The evening banquet featured prime rib roast of beef prepared by Bob Hodgins. Special thanks are extended to Peter Scarlet who was the event convener this year.

Preliminary discussions have begun to establish a crossover event between the Wednesday and Friday Leagues. The overall winner would be declared Granite Day Men's Champion for the year and that team would earn the Granite entry into the following year's Invitational.

Membership numbers are in and the news is – fair. The total number of Day Members is 94. Of that, 29 are Social members. In terms of on-ice participation, the Wednesday and Friday leagues are full. Tuesday and Thursday leagues average three sheets each and Monday averaged two sheets this Fall. Please remember that you, our members, are our best ambassadors. Try to promote the Granite to your acquaintances at every opportunity.

Of particular note is the success of the daytime Rookies League. A core group of around a dozen newcomers have been attending the clinics since they began in October. There is every reason to expect these curlers will graduate into regular league play. Credit for these excellent results go to coaches Denise Hoekstra and Dave Long who designed and implemented the program.

Finally, a reminder that the Day Men's Christmas Luncheon will be held Friday, December 11. Be sure to attend this very popular event that will, again this year, feature roast turkey with all the fixin's.

Jim Weir - Day Men President

EVENING LADIES

The Evening Ladies' Leagues are well underway this year, and have just started the second round in both the fixed and draw leagues. The Tuesday and Thursday fixed league is full and there are 9 teams in the Wednesday draw league.

Our annual Christmas banquet will be held on Wednesday 9 December, with cocktails starting at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. We are looking forward to starting the holiday season by celebrating with our fellow curlers!

Annual General Meeting, April 11 (7:00pm)



I hope everyone is enjoying the curling season. On behalf of the Evening Ladies' Executive, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Heather McBrien - Evening Ladies President

WEEKEND MIXED

"Congratulations!" to our Round 1 Winners and Runners-Up

Division "A"

Winners – Pierre Sigouin, Holly Hutton, Leon Jang, Danielle Gagnon

Runners-Up – Kristine Baker, Ken O'Byrne, Monique Chaumont, Ralph Brendler, Penelope Turton

Division "B"

Winners – Elfrieda Bock, Steve Sansom, Pam Hedderson, David Maxwell

Runners-Up – Rick McMullin, Louanne Provost, Rob Lowe, Shelley Lowe, Scott Graham, Julie Dickson

Division "C"

Winners – Mark Wigle, Erin Carter, Jason Green, Debbie Thompson

Runners-Up – Terry O'Byrne, Beatrice O'Byrne, Gordon Yasvinski, Christine Karlsen

Christmas Food Drive - The Weekend Mixed is coordinating Ottawa Food Bank donations – to help "fight community hunger". ***Please share with your community and contribute.*** There is a box for donations next to the Christmas tree. A list of most-needed items has been posted on the Weekend Mixed board (next to the kitchen).

We're always Looking for Spares - The sign-up sheet is posted on the Weekend Mixed Board (next to the kitchen); or you can send an e-mail to weekendmixed@ottawagranite.com

Week-End Mixed Executive - e-mail us at weekendmixed@ottawagranite.com

- President: Elfrieda Bock
- Past-President: Josh Allen
- Draw: Leon Jang
- Treasurer: Marlita Perrault

We are looking for members to volunteer for the Executive – enthusiasm and willingness to participate are the only requirements. Previous experience is not required – we'll mentor you. Please contact any Executive member if you are interested.

Elfrieda Bock - Weekend Mixed

ROOKIES ROCK

We currently have over 40 eager curlers in our Rookies Rock Sunday evening group. Our Monday morning Rookies group has 12 more. They are all learning quickly and having fun too. Some are already looking to fill spaces in other leagues. Keep your eyes open for new names on spares lists and in leagues around the club. When you see them, please offer them a smile and warm welcome.

Brian Gatenby - Coordinator/ Coach



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2009

December 16 Day Ladies Christmas funspiel and lunch
December 20 Turkeyspiel
December 21 – 31 Club closed – Christmas and ice maintenance.

January 2010

January 1 Club closed – New Year's Day
January 13 Senior Ladies Invitational
January 17 Board Meeting
January 18-20 OCA Masters
January 21-24 OVCA Mixed City of Ottawa
January 31 Club closed ice maintenance

February 2010

February 4-7 Crystal Heart
February 13 Lady Tweedsmuir - Governor General Finals
February 14 Board Meeting

March 2010

March 6 Little Rocks Bonspiels
March 16-21 OVCA Ottawa Men's Bonspiel
March 21 Board Meeting
March 23-24 MacDonald Patterson Roy

April 2010

April 11 Annual General Meeting
April 13 Evening Men's Banquet
April 14 Day Ladies Closing Lunch
April 15 Evening Ladies Banquet
April 21 Day Ladies Closing Banquet

Granite Curling Club of West Ottawa
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Annual General Meeting, April 11 (7:00pm)