



# STROUD CURLING CLUB

Fall 2016

[www.stroudcurling.com](http://www.stroudcurling.com)

September 2016



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**Registration Dates:  
September 11<sup>th</sup> 12-4pm  
September 12<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm  
September 13<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm**

**Fall  
General Meeting  
Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> at  
9:00pm**

**Look for these 'need-to-know'  
boxes throughout the  
newsletter to find important  
information, dates & events**

## President's Message

It is tough writing about curling when the humidex is 41°C.

However, the curling season is approaching and the ice plant will be starting up in about six weeks. Registration is only four weeks away.

As we look forward to another fun curling season there are four things I would bring to your attention.

First, a new 10 burner gas stove and double oven has been ordered for the kitchen to replace our 41 year old electric unit. The gas supply and fire control system should be installed in August. Thanks to the kitchen committee for committing to raising the funds for this very significant upgrade. Thanks also to Colin for his advice and help in procuring the stove.

***Second, the Town of Innisfil commissioned a consultant to develop a master plan for recreation in the Town. The section on curling was very poorly done and none of the clubs in Innisfil were approached for input. Your board made a vigorous presentation to the Mayor, our councillor and Town recreational staff and had a discussion with the consultants. Hopefully, some corrections have been made but the concern remains that the Stroud Arena could be turned into a "warm event" facility, the ice equipment moved to Lefroy and the curling club left out in the "warm". A copy of my letter to the Town is attached to this newsletter.***

I encourage all of you to have a look at the draft master plan by going to:

[https://issuu.com/townofinnisfil/docs/2016\\_06\\_10\\_parks\\_and\\_recreation\\_dra/1](https://issuu.com/townofinnisfil/docs/2016_06_10_parks_and_recreation_dra/1)

The reference to curling is on pages 54-56 Parks and Recreation draft.

Third, the strength of our club is in our members. Our financing is primarily through annual membership fees. It stands to reason that the more members we have, the stronger our club is and the lower the cost for each individual to curl. Let's talk up curling in our community. I am sure that there are many who will enjoy curling if they give it a try!

Fourth, our bottle drive at registration last year raised over \$700. We are going to repeat this year. Bring your empty beer, wine and liquor bottles to the club at registration. A Comco one ton van will be parked in the lot. Let's fill it!

See you at registration.

Gord Thompson, President

## Treasurer's Report

I hope your summer has been terrific and you are looking forward to the upcoming curling season. I would like to begin by thanking Randy Flegel for his many years of service as the treasurer at the club. He will continue to be assisting as I learn my role as your new treasurer.

Your Board of Directors have been hard at work to provide a Budget for the upcoming curling season. The Board have chosen to leave the registration dues unchanged for the 2016-17 curling season. The Board and members will have to work towards increasing membership numbers. Increased members will increase revenues as the club is used by more curlers. The Board have chosen to increase Bar Prices by 5% for the 2016-17 season. Let's all get the word out that "Curling is the Sport for Life" and now more affordable than before in Stroud.

The Financial Statement will be presented at our Fall General Meeting Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. We are ready for the upcoming season of enjoyable curling.

Signed: *Jennifer Allan, Treasurer of Stroud Curling Club.*

## Message from Your Facility Manager

Greetings everyone, Hope you had a great summer. Time to get ready for curling and it starts with the sign up. Bring a friend/neighbour and come to the Curling Club on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> for registration. Be sure to please fill out your forms in FULL, including address/phone & email. Also don't forget to contact your league reps to join any league.

Please keep us in mind for ice/wall advertising as our bonus offer for members is still in play. Call me for pricing and details at 705-436-1473 or 705-718-3346.

Bert Johnson

## Board of Directors & League Organizers for 2016-2017

Facility Manager & Ice.....	Bert Johnson
Seniors.....	Len Hills
Monday Men's.....	Chris Hoegy Terry Quinn
Ladies President..	Ashley O'Rourke
Tuesday Ladies	
Board Liaison.....	Carolyn Alksnis
Sunday CYOL.....	Randy Flegel Lynne Flegel Bob Armstrong
Friday Night.....	Sarah Picton Dan Veitch
Bonspiels.....	Bob Grayer Terry Quinn
Special Events....	Andrew Thompson
OCA Reps.....	Andrew Thompson Sarah Picton Dan Veitch
Membership.....	Bert Johnson
Junior & Family....	Al Beauchamp
Little Rockers.....	Andrew Thompson
Fundraising.....	Sarah Picton Andrew Thompson Carolyn Alksnis

## New Website!

If you've been to our website [www.stroudcurling.com](http://www.stroudcurling.com) over the summer you'll notice we've had a face lift! If you haven't – be sure to check it out! We have moved to a new website that we're pretty excited to share with you! The new website has a lot of features that we hope will further enhance your membership experience.

New this fall is our first year of **online registration** and the option to pay online for your membership via credit card or PayPal. You'll have access to the **member's only area** which will allow you to update your information easily, see your curling schedule, and so much more!

As with anything new, there will be a learning curve, but we are very excited about the new features and hope you'll enjoy and make use of them! If you have any questions or need some help, please contact Lynne Flegel or Sarah Picton.

## Membership News

September is here again and it's time to think about registering for the new curling season. With implementing the new website and online registration we have tried to simplify membership fees. Therefore the 2016-2017 membership fees are listed below.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

\$375 – One league/week (includes sparing)  
\$475 – Unlimited curling (includes free locker)  
\$275 – 1/2 Season (includes sparing in your half)  
\$100 – Learn to Curl League (includes 6 weeks of curling from Nov. – Dec.)

You can choose to register online, mail in your registration form along with payment (cheques payable to Stroud Curling Club) or you can come to the club on **Sunday, September 11th, 2016 between 12:00 and 4:00 pm** or **September 12th and 13th from 7:00 till 9:00pm** and drop off your forms in person. Registration is open to all new members wishing to join the club. We look forward to having all of you back curling this year.

Good Curling!  
Bert Johnson

## Volunteer of the Year Award Sponsored by the Stroud Curling Club Junior Program

Congratulations to **Sue Jessup & Edith Schultz** for being selected as the **Stroud Curling Club's Volunteers of the Year** for the 2015 - 2016 curling season. Thank you Sue & Edith for all of your hard work and dedication!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Like Us on Facebook!



Stroud Curling Club is on Facebook! If you are too, please take some time to like our page and you'll have a great way to keep up on what's going on around the club! Just search "Stroud Curling Club" in your Facebook search.

## The Extra End Newsletter

Each month the Board of Directors will be creating a one page newsletter to notify the membership of important information and upcoming events around the club. This will be posted at the club and sent out via email. Stay tuned for the first edition of the season coming out soon!!!!

## How YOU can make \$100

In an effort to keep rates affordable and attract new members, Stroud is again offering this great incentive!! If a current member refers a **new full season** member to the club they may be eligible to receive a \$100 rebate. However, for this rebate to take effect the **new member must** identify who referred them on their registration form, no exceptions.

A **NEW** member **must** fill out the referral portion on the registration form with the current member's name in order to be eligible for the \$100 rebate. \*Applicable to only **new full season** membership sign ups.

**Increasing membership is the responsibility of all members**, so get your friends & family involved in curling, it is a sport for life!

## Bottle Drive Fundraiser

We hope you've enjoyed your beautiful summer! It sure was hot! We will be collecting your empty liquor, wine, and beer bottles/cans again at registration this year! Please drop them off to Gord Thompson in the big truck that will be in the parking lot of the curling club. Thank you for supporting our junior curling program!

Bottle Drive Fundraiser taking place during registration on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 12-4pm, and Monday/Tuesday September 12-13<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm.

## Silent Auction Club Fundraiser

We are gearing up for the next amazing year and auction. Last year we were able to raise just over \$3000 in revenue. Our auction showcases items from local artists, crafters, and businesses that are from our community. We are appreciative to accept new or vintage items and service vouchers from sponsors. Our first auction will run the duration of the 1<sup>st</sup> half season October to December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9pm. Items will be claimed in time for Christmas. Please contact Carolyn Alksnis by email at [calksnis@rogers.com](mailto:calksnis@rogers.com) or by phone at 705-458-0748 for more information or for donation pick up.

## Intro to Curling Clinic

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30 new (or experienced) curlers are invited to the Intro to Curling Clinic. This is an opportunity for people to come and give curling a try before leagues begin. Has your neighbour or co-worker always been interested? This is a great opportunity to invite them to come and see what it's all about for free! Please BRING (don't wear) clean indoor running shoes, wear comfortable/stretchy warm clothing, bring gloves or mitts, and we highly recommend a form of head protection. Please R.S.V.P. by October 4th to Carolyn Alksnis [membership@stroudcc.com](mailto:membership@stroudcc.com) or Sarah Picton [secretary@stroudcc.com](mailto:secretary@stroudcc.com) to ensure we have enough instructors on hand.

Come out Tuesday Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm to give curling a try and/or brush up on your skills. Bring a friend and have some fun!

## Kitchen Committee

You are invited to our first event of the new season . . .

**A WELCOME BACK PASTA DINNER** at the club on Saturday, OCTOBER 22, AT 6:00 pm

**Pre-register by Sept.16<sup>th</sup> by calling (705) 294-0127 or e-mail Sherry at [bsarmsr@gmail.com](mailto:bsarmsr@gmail.com).**

**Come out early and enjoy watching your league representatives curl in the Tournament of Champions.**

In addition to the Tournament of Champions the Kitchen Committee will be handling the food services of the Sleeman Cash spiel from October 16-19 and the Open Senior/Master Spiel on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

The first objective of the Kitchen Committee this year will be to continue with the upgrades in the kitchen especially the purchase of a new range. When the upgrades are completed and paid for we will be offering our events as fund raisers for leagues. If a league provides a few volunteers we will provide the kitchen expertise and offer a meal. This is a great fund raising opportunity for your league!

For the last two years we have operated with basically the same people helping each time. We would certainly like to expand our volunteer base so if you can give us some help – only an hour or two please contact Sherry. We are always looking for servers, people to help set up, make coffee/tea or clean up. The new dish washer makes our job so much easier but so would extra hands.

We could not have accomplished everything without YOUR HELP so thank you for attending our events and for donations.

See you at the club.  
The Kitchen Committee

## Learn to Curl League

Have you ever wanted to learn to curl? It can be intimidating to jump in and join a league, trying to learn what's going on, why, and how to do it as you go. New curlers are invited to join the Learn to Curl League this fall at the Stroud Curling Club. This league will start with the basics and work each week to develop confidence, skills, and build good habits. Join us Sundays in November and December from 3:00-4:30pm for 6 weeks. For only \$100 you'll get experienced instructors, plenty of on-ice time, and access to curling equipment you can borrow. All you need is warm stretchy clothes, CLEAN indoor running shoes (please bring them, don't wear them), gloves, and a great attitude! We recommend you wear head protection of some sort as well. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity – register early as limited spaces are available!

## Stroud Bonspiels

Spread the word about these two great bonspiels at the Stroud Curling Club!!! These events are a fun way to get your curling friends from other clubs up for the day.

### **OPEN TURKEY BONSPIEL**

Sat. December 3, 2016

Three 6 end games  
Lunch, Dinner & Prizes  
\$200 per 4 person team  
Registration Deadline – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>

### **VALENTINE MIXED DOUBLES SPIEL**

Sat. February 11, 2017

Lunch, Dinner & Cash Prizes  
Limit of 24 teams  
Guaranteed 3 games  
\$100 per two person mixed team  
Registration Deadline – Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>/16

To register for either of these bonspiels please contact Bob Grayer bobgrayer14@gmail.com at 705-431-6951 or Terry Quinn at 705-721-3347. Registration & payment can be mailed to 3 Oak Court, Innisfil, ON. L9S 1M4. Please make cheques payable to Stroud Curling Club. Registration forms are available on our club website: [www.stroudcurling.com](http://www.stroudcurling.com)

## Senior/Master Open One-Day Bonsel

The Stroud Curling Club is pleased to offer the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Senior/Master Open Bonsel on Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**All players must be at least 50 years of age.** Entry fee is \$180 per team with a limited of 20 teams. Fee covers coffee and morning muffins, lunch and dinner.

To register or for more information contact Robert Armstrong (705) 294-0127 or [bsarmsr@gmail.com](mailto:bsarmsr@gmail.com).

## Special Events Report

### **Rescheduled Tournament of Champions**

*October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016*

We have rescheduled last season's Tournament of Champions which was not played out due to the ice storm. All league champions will be playing off October 22<sup>nd</sup> to finalize who the "top dog" of the 2015-2016 season will be!! Lunch will be served by the Kitchen Committee followed by our Welcome Back Pasta Dinner. So come on out to enjoy a celebration of last year's top teams.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Comco Cash Spiel**

*November 10 – 13, 2016*

Come out and watch some of Ontario's top curlers play in your home club. Admission is free and the entertainment value is terrific! Volunteers are always welcome, so please speak to one of your Special Events Co-ordinators if you're interested in pitching in some time on that weekend. Thanks to Gord Thompson and the employees of Comco for continuing to sponsor this great event which has been beneficial for our club!

### **Ron Deane 1-on-1 Competition**

*December 27 – 28, 2016*

This popular 2-evening holiday tradition continues to provide curlers with a fun way to keep the rust off over the holidays, and provides spectators (wizards behind the glass!) with hours of entertainment. It is

inexpensive to play (only a \$2.00 entry), although big money can be spent on the Calcutta and at the bar if you so choose. Look for the sign up to reserve your spot around Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> as we are limited to 64 curlers.

### **Tournament of Champions**

*Saturday, March 25, 2017*

A great way to wind up the season as a club! All leagues are represented to see who can claim bragging rights as "top dog" ... mainly lots of fun, though. Three six-end games throughout the day for teams who qualify, followed by a terrific (and subsidized for members) meal. All club members are welcome for dinner and awards. Tickets will be available at the bar beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Andrew Thompson

## Upcoming Events at the Club

**SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 12:00-4:00 PM**  
REGISTRATION AT THE CLUB

**SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
7:00-9:00 PM REGISTRATION AT THE CLUB

**BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER –**  
DURING REGISTRATION DATES

**OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> INTRO TO**  
CURLING CLINIC 7:30-8:30PM

**OCTOBER 15-18<sup>TH</sup> SLEEMAN**  
CASH SPIEL

**OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> TOURNAMENT**  
OF CHAMPIONS 2015-2016 –  
RESCHEDULED FROM LAST  
SEASON

**OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> WELCOME**  
BACK PASTA DINNER

**NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> SENIOR/**  
MASTER OPEN ONE-DAY  
BONSPIEL

**NOVEMBER 10-13<sup>TH</sup> COMCO**  
CASH SPIEL

## Junior Curling Award

This year the Junior Curler Scholarship Award was given to Mikaila Hunter. A cheque for seven hundred dollars was presented to Mikaila by the Ladies President Ashley O'Rourke and the Treasurer Sharon Mark.



Mikaila has been curling out of Stroud for the past eight years, starting in our Little Rocks Program. She also curled for her high school - Nantyr Shores winning MVP for the past two years. Mikaila hopes to continue to curl while attending Western University in the Food and Nutrition Studies Program. We wish her all the best for the future in her studies and in curling.

## Ontario Curling Report

Last year Stroud continued to shine in zone, region, and provincial competitions!! It was another successful competitive curling season and we are looking forward to what this curling season will bring!

This fall we will have the great pleasure of hanging another provincial banner in the club which was won last year by the team of: Terry Archer, Kent Cheesman, Al Beauchamp, & Stu Green at the Fairfield Marriott Challenge! We had our banner presentation ceremony at the Tournament of Champions dinner last spring, which was a great success. Be sure to look for the newest banner hanging from the rafters this fall when the ice is in. Congratulations again to team Archer!

We encourage club members to consider entering OCA competition

– even if you have never done so before. Playing against curlers from different clubs will help you develop new friendships, appreciate the strengths of your own club, and make you a better curler. The OCA has made significant changes to the competitions this year after undergoing a competition review last year. You'll notice zone competitions are either eliminated or combined with another zone. Some changes to who can enter competitions are in the process of being finalized which will help ensure the competitors at that event are appropriate for the type of event and the level of competitiveness. The OCA's goal is to increase participation and make events accessible to ALL levels of competition.

To enter competitions, please do so online at [www.ontcurl.com](http://www.ontcurl.com) by following the "Competitions" link. Under competitions you will find the rules for that particular competition, as well as the registration link. Be sure to have a credit card handy for the payment portion. Please ensure you note the closing date for entries in any given event and make sure you meet the set deadline! A reminder - ALL OCA competitors must sign a waiver before going on the ice for any OCA competitions. The waiver is available to print on the OCA website, for online declaration after you sign into your OCA login, or there are some paper copies available at the club. If you need any guidance with your entry or waiver be sure to see one of the club representatives.

Your OCA club representatives for 2016-2017 are:

MEN – Andrew Thompson  
aethompson5@hotmail.com

WOMEN – Sarah Picton  
gable20@hotmail.com

JUNIORS – Dan Veitch  
danveitch@rogers.com

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please get in touch with one of us. We would be happy to assist you in any way we can.

Stroud is excited to be hosting one event in 2016-17, the Intermediate Men's zone 9 & 10 competition from January 13-15. Come out and cheer on your home teams!

Good curling to all entries this season  
– Do Stroud proud!

## Welcome the World

Wow! We had always hoped that Welcome the World would continue to grow...well it has definitely happened! We had a great week in Cleveland in March with 26 participants. Thank you to the Mayfield Curling Club, home hosts, meal hosts, curlers and drivers for making us feel so welcome. Special thanks to Cheryl Drake for coordinating the event and for the many people who helped her.

Twenty-nine participants will take part in the Welcome the World Scotland event from September 18-24. Our bags are repacked and the schedule looks fantastic with plenty of curling, touring and fellowship. Special thanks to Bill and Mary Radcliffe (two of our first participants in Welcome the World) for hosting this event with the Errol Curling Club. They have recruited Michael McCreadie (two time WTW participant) to be on their committee so we are looking forward to a wee visit with all of them!

In 2017 Albert and Colleen LaVoie and the Candle Lake Curling Club in Saskatchewan will host Welcome the World in November. They already have their program in place and we will have the unique opportunity of curling in four different communities (Rosthern, Prince Albert, Christopher Lake and Candle Lake). Bob and I have been members in two of these clubs so we are looking forward to seeing some old friends. Registration does not open until January 1, 2017.

In 2018 the Esbjerg Curling Club in Denmark will be hosting Welcome the World. Curt and Lisbeth Holm will head up this committee. Esbjerg is fortunate to have its own dedicated curling club and that same year they are hosting the World Championships. We are looking forward to this opportunity.



Curling WA the curling association in Perth Western Australia will be the host of the 2019 Welcome the World event. Bob and I are members of this association and we curled the last five months in their first ever curling league. They are an enthusiastic group with a mixture of former Canadian and Scottish curlers as well as 60 new to curling members. We look forward to being your hosts in Australia.

In 2020 Welcome the World will return to its original home at the Stroud Curling Club. What a celebration this will be!

It has become necessary to develop registration guidelines and policies to ensure that we continue to grow while still guaranteeing spots for past participants. I do not think any of us ever foresaw that we would have this pleasant problem!

Sherry Armstrong

### **Simcoe Super Seniors**

The Simcoe Super Seniors meet every Friday at either Stroud, Bradford or Barrie Curling Clubs. Curlers play two six end games with lunch in between. After several years of declining numbers our numbers were slightly higher this year. This curling option is open to any senior male curler who belongs to one of the three clubs. The cost of \$6 is very reasonable for a day of curling and fellowship.

If you would like to be part of this curling opportunity next season please contact either Dave Carson or Bob Armstrong.

### **Clif Thompson Senior League**

OK I've had enough heat and I'm now ready to start thinking cool. It's that time of year to get ready for another year of curling. If you are 50 years young and are free Monday and Wednesday mornings the Senior League is right for you.

We have two draws A and B. The A draw happens on Mondays at 9:00 and Wednesday at 10:30 and the B draw takes place Monday at 10:30 and Wednesday at 9:00.

The men can participate in the Super Seniors which is a travelling spiel on Fridays. This involves two games with a lunch provided (at your cost). We play our games using a jitney format and compete for great prizes each week. The women also have a once a month travelling spiel. This is a fun time and you meet other curlers in the area. Check with us once curling gets going for more details.

The Clif Thompson Curlers have a mini spiel normally on the last Wednesday of each month which consists of two games and a lunch. This is an opportunity to curl and associate with the curlers on the opposite draw.

Come to the club to check out the Welcome the World events happening this fall and next spring. This a chance to get to curl with other curlers from around the world. I try not to miss these events as I have met some of the nicest people through Welcome the World.

The executive will try to provide a time that will warm your heart and exercise that will keep it working if it doesn't kill you first.

Your executive consists of:

Len Hills	Chair
Chris Crockford	Vice Chair
Kerry Emms	Treasurer
Bob Grayer	Secretary & Club Board Rep.
Sue Jessup	Social
Linda MacKay	Social

We will be electing a new board to represent you the curlers in Nov. so please consider having your name and talents be represented on the Clif Thompson Board of Directors.

Have a great curling season.  
Len Hills

### **Little Rocks**

Our Little Rock Curling Program has grown significantly over the past several years. While it has presented some logistical challenges as we co-ordinate so many kids, it is gratifying to see the level of enthusiasm they bring each week. They are the future of our great sport!

Once again, the program will run on most Sundays (subject to other events going on in the club) from 10:00 – 11:30a.m. and is geared to children from 7 through 11 years of age. A full schedule for the season will be made available by the first week of play October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cost for the season is only \$50.00, and the only equipment required is layered clothing, a clean pair of running shoes, and a helmet.

If you know of young people interested in learning to curl, please have them contact me for more information or have them visit the club during registration.

Andrew Thompson,  
aethompson5@hotmail.com

### **Junior Curling**

Welcome Juniors and family to the 2016-2017 Curling Season. The Stroud Junior curling program continues to be a great developmental league for the new curler ages 12-19, looking to develop their skills and learn the game with new friends, as well as for the more competitive curler, looking to compete in OCA events.

The junior program runs on Sundays, after the Little Rockers, with a draw from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Once again, we will be having skill development and practice starting at 11:30 am for all curlers. We look forward to returning curlers to continue their mentoring role and make new members feel welcome and comfortable on and off the ice. Our new and younger curlers will benefit greatly from your knowledge.

Stroud continues to be represented by juniors who are very active in school and OCA events throughout the year. We will look to coordinate junior curlers who wish to play Bantam and Junior Bonspiels for the upcoming year.

The junior program will continue to have our weekly games, fun bonspiels, and opportunities for skill development. We will look forward to seeing you at our registration dates for the club in September. Please register early, as spots may fill up quickly. Remember to bring your parents and neighbors' beer and liquor bottles to registration for our bottle drive to raise money for the junior curling program.

We are looking to have a kitchen committee this year to coordinate food and snacks for the season; please let me know if you are interested in helping out. If you have any questions or suggestions for the upcoming year, please feel free to contact me, Alan Beauchamp at al-lee@rogers.com. We look forward to another great year!

Alan Beauchamp

### **Monday Night Men's League**

I hope everyone has had a great summer so far and are eager to get back to curling.

In June, the Men's League hosted our annual golf tournament at Big Cedar Golf and Country Club with the team of Gord Thompson, Dave Thompson, AJ Johnson and Glenn Briden winning it. Congratulations guys!

We're looking forward to another full schedule in the first draw. Last year we had 11 teams, and hope to have more of the same this year. Our winners from our first draw last year was Team Armstrong. In the second draw, it was Team Ford that was victorious.

I'll plan to schedule the team draft with the skips following registration. A date will be confirmed shortly. Enjoy the last bit of the summer and see everyone in September at registration.

Chris Hoegy

### **Ladies Tuesday Night Curling**

Welcome back ladies; I do trust that you all had a wonderful HOT summer!!! Last season we introduced a league fee for the ladies League – this year we will be doing away with that and just having a one-time year end dinner fee if you wish to join us for our annual year end dinner hosted by the kitchen committee. All Stroud Ladies are welcome to attend at the cost of \$20, the date is TBA– please see a Ladies Board Member for tickets throughout the year if you wish to attend.

Our Annual Welcome Back Pot Luck will be held once again this year and is open to all Stroud Ladies Members; the date will be announced shortly.

The ladies league will once again be hosting two bonspiels this season; one in the fall on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and our Diva Spiel on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>. Stay tuned for more information!!

Looking forward to another great curling season.

Ashley O'Rourke  
Ladies League President

### **Friday Night Mixed League**

Friday night is a fun and social night that consists of six ends of curling. We welcome curlers of all skill levels to come and join us. Typically curlers sign up with their partner and are paired up with another pair for the schedule, but if you are a solo curler don't let that stop you!

Last year we enjoyed fun times on and off the ice and we hope you'll come back and join us again! Bring a colleague or neighbour to give curling a try this year in this social and stress-free environment. It is a great way to kick off the weekend and a fun group of people. We will again be charging a \$10/schedule/person social fee this year to cover the costs of prizes, food etc. We hope to see you at registration where you can sign up at the Friday night table – or please email Sarah at gable20@hotmail.com if you cannot make it to registration.

Sarah Picton & Dan Veitch

### **Sunday Choose Your Own League** ***Sponsored by Catering By Colin***

Welcome to the 2016 – 2017 curling season!!! Last season the league was comprised of 9 teams up one team from the previous year. It is our hope to get a full draw of 10 teams for the upcoming season. We will be in contact with the teams from last year to see who will be returning. However, if you have a new team, are an individual that would like to play in this league, or would like to be put on

the spare list, please see us at registration.

Last year's winners were team '6 Pack & A Coke Chaser', which consisted of Andrew Thompson, Paul Gilder, Al Beauchamp, and Jason Tizzard. Congratulations to them and to all the teams that participated in the league. We would like to thank Catering by Colin who provides sponsorship to this league through supplying the final dinner and wine to all of the curlers. Please feel free to ask any of your committee members if you need anything throughout the season! We thank you for your continued support and participation in this fun, but competitive league. See you all in September!

Randy & Lynne Flegel, Bob Armstrong

## Copy of the Letter sent to the Town



July 18, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Stroud Curling Club in response to the Town of Innisfil Parks and Recreation Master Plan Final Draft. Concerned members of the Stroud Curling Club, which has been operating for approximately 105 years (including 41 years in our present facility), have some very serious reservations about misinformation contained in this document. Proceeding with a plan as erroneous as this will have negative long term ramifications for all residents of Innisfil.

Quite frankly, we cannot believe that a Master Plan, prepared on behalf of Council by the Steering Committee and the Consulting Team has reached the final draft stage with so many inaccuracies. The hours spent preparing a document of this magnitude should have been countless. For a project which was initiated in April 2015 and said to have passed through important stages such as background research, community and staff engagement, inventories and site visits, facility and park assessment, and service delivery assessment, we feel it should have been more meticulously prepared. The residents of Innisfil deserve better.

Section 4.3 of the report on Curling Facilities (pp. 54-56) is inadequate, and does not provide a true reflection of where we are at, or where we need to go with respect to planning effectively. While we cannot speak to other areas of the document since we are not as familiar with all of the other facilities around the Town, we sincerely hope information in the report for those other facilities was better prepared.

First of all, some over-generalizations have been made under the subheading for **Market Conditions**. While true, there have been numerous curling clubs across the GTA which have closed their doors permanently and very few new facilities that have been built, no mention is made of these closures and openings with respect to specific location and their relative sizes to remain viable in their localities. Comparing smaller curling facilities in a growth area such as Innisfil to much larger curling facilities in downtown Toronto where urban withdrawal is taking place, is not a like comparison. Perhaps closer examinations of municipalities within a one or two hour radius of the GTA would be a better comparative.

The Master Plan also makes mention that among benchmarked communities, Innisfil is the only one to own a curling facility. Obviously Orillia and King were not used as benchmarks, but perhaps should have, given they have demographics and locations similar to that of Innisfil. Both of these municipalities own and operate the curling facilities, and, interestingly, both are among the newest curling facilities built in the area.

There was also negative mention that curling participation appeals to an older segment of the community, alluding to less demand for curling facilities. Admittedly, there seems to have been a trend in recent years toward most adult curling members falling into an older age category. However, the overall Canadian population is living longer. Data provided in your own document supports this, and suggests the expected growth rate in this age bracket to be the largest in Simcoe County. The Town has a responsibility to ensure people among the older population have recreational opportunities that help keep them active. Typically, many of the people in this age bracket do not wish to travel far, and prefer to engage in activities which are local to them. Amalgamation of facilities would have an adverse effect in this respect. The Stroud Curling Club is the closest facility to retirement communities such as Sandycove Acres, which helps provide a strong nucleus of curlers who participate in our vibrant senior curling league which boasts some 80 members.

There is also no mention made of under 20 youth curling participation. We can assure you that it is a healthy and growing part of the Stroud Curling Club with over 70 curlers, ranging in age from 6 to 20, who participate on a weekly basis. Approximately one-third of these youth curlers are under the age of 12 and do count in your membership data cited in the Master Plan. These youth curlers are the future of the sport and deserve access to quality facilities.

The **Facilities** subsection of the document is laughable. It lists the number of curling sheets in Stroud as 5, Cookstown as 3 and Churchill as 2. In all of your background research and assessments, and especially site visits, one would think an accurate count could have been made. For the record, the Cookstown Curling Club has 4 sheets of ice, bringing the total to 11 – not the reported 10. Basic oversights such as these do not lend well to residents having a lot of faith in the information being presented, particularly that of a so-called final draft.



Under the **Needs Analysis** subheading, metrics like one sheet of ice for every 100-125 members/active participants are cited. According to this metric, the Stroud Curling Club would be fine with 2 sheets of ice. Clearly, the people applying these metrics are unfamiliar with the sport of curling. We are not sure where this “common metric” came from, but it is completely unrealistic and requires some education into the sport. A sheet of curling ice can only accommodate 8 curlers at a time in a game situation, which typically lasts for about 2 hours. This information (combined with the above metric) means that approximately 14 games per week could be played on a sheet of ice, assuming each participant only played once per week.

Since recreational participation among youth and working members of the community normally occur on weekday evenings and weekends and only retired senior curlers can play during weekdays, there are some serious logistical challenges to your metric. For reference, on an average week of use the Stroud Curling Club has approximately 50 regular league and rental games to accommodate from Sunday to Friday, plus an additional 10 to 26 games (depending on the size of the event) on Saturdays. Perhaps a different metric that acknowledges our sport and how it is played is in order.

The report states that the Stroud Curling Club should target 400 participants, but that we have only 220. This demands a response. Our club utilization is as follows: regular and senior members – 188, junior and little rockers (under 12) – 76, Simcoe County Major League curlers – 60 (of these, 12 would be included in the regular member count), and Innisfil Industrial League – 40, for a total of 352. In addition, the club annually hosts two Ontario Curling Tour cash spiels, one or two Ontario Curling Association play down events, two club fun spiels, several charity fund raising spiels and several private spiels which, on average, add another 40 people per week. That does not include high profile events such as the Welcome the World Senior Curling, which Stroud has been proud to host on multiple occasions where we showcase curling and our community to other countries, including Scotland, Denmark, Croatia, and the United States. When we consider all of the relevant participation numbers, we get very close to the consultant’s objective, and yet the Stroud Curling Club remains targeted for closure when the Stroud Complex is converted to a warm activity facility.

Lastly, and most importantly, the **Utilization** subsection of the Master Plan states, that “... *data for the various local curling clubs was not available at the time of writing as they are all operated independently.*” In over a calendar year of time spent collecting background research, engaging staff and community members, performing inventories and site visits, and assessing facilities and services, that is the only statement that could be included in the Master Plan in what is undoubtedly the most important subsection? As a minimum, we would have expected the consultant to contact a member of the executive of each club to ensure that any data used was accurate. We can assure you that we would have made ourselves available. How facilities are utilized is the very essence of assessing their viability to a community. This section is horribly inadequate and reads like a report that needed a quick finish before a deadline.

In closing, we are very disappointed and discouraged by the inherent lack of effort and unreliable information presented in your Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Curling Facilities. We sincerely hope that a more responsible and informed analysis is presented prior to the final revisions stage of the process, and before this plan is put into action.

Sincerely,

Gord Thompson,  
President – Stroud Curling Club