



Annual Newsletter 2024/25

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
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Welcome Back!

A Message from the President

The Deep River Curling and Squash Club (DRCSC) is off to a great start for the upcoming season with the news that the Ontario Trillium Foundation approved our \$108,000 grant application which allows us to make much needed replacements of key components of our ice plant! Bill Shorter is leading the project and almost half of the work will be completed before we start up this fall with the balance of work to be performed next spring.

Last season was successful in terms of our operations with curling and squash participation up and a very successful Bonspiel. We did have some unexpected expenses with our rink heaters both being replaced.

We will be having our traditional Wine and Cheese/sign up night/Fall General Meeting on Friday October 4th at 7 PM. We also have an open house planned for potential curlers and squashers on Friday Oct 25 and Saturday Oct 26 – times to be announced. With many new people in town over the last few years we are hoping to widely publicise this event and attract interest in our club. With Junior Curling and Squash programs and our Adult Learn-to-play both Curling and Squash we ask our members to invite friends and neighbours to try our sports out on those dates.

As far as registration is concerned you can either email and e-transfer your membership, use snail mail or come to the wine and cheese Fall Meeting on Oct 4th. We plan to start the ice making on Oct 7th and with a little luck it should take about 2 weeks to have playable ice!

Chris Knight

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Facility

In August, the club was informed that its application for a capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for \$108,000 was successful. The OTF is funded by the Government of Ontario. The grant provides funds to replace three ageing (40+ years) ice plant components: the ammonia compressor, the ammonia condenser and the ammonia receiver. The replacement of the compressor will be completed prior to ice plant startup this fall. The condenser and receiver will be replaced following the conclusion of curling season in the spring of 2025. The work is being carried out by our long time ice plant contractor, AC Mechanical of Ottawa. With the completion of this work, all major components in the ice plant will have been modernized, significantly extending the life of the curling facility.

Ice plant startup is tentatively planned for the week of October 7th with the ice expected to be ready for regular curling near the end of October.

Club Finances

The club continues to enjoy a healthy financial position, finishing the year with over \$59,000 in liquid assets. We did however, run a planned deficit last year as we had maintained membership fees at 2020 levels and spent down some of our surplus. The principal capital expense, replacement of both ice shed heaters, was only partially anticipated. Thankfully, we had retained a significant reserve that resulted from the many Covid relief grants received over the last few years. The club also continues to benefit from the donations of many generous members and last year we received a Deep River Community Grant of \$5000 to help support our programs.

The club executive has approved a modest 5% increase in membership fees for FY 2024/2025. This small increase does not make up for our escalating expenses but we will continue to search out further sources of income.

Payment of Fees

Fees can be paid by cheque or e-transfer. For e-transfer, send payment to the Treasurer, chris.moore4245@gmail.com. Members who pay by e-transfer should send their completed **Membership Form** in a separate email along with the answer to the security question to chris.moore4245@gmail.com. The Waivers that were completed previous years will remain in force. For new and returning members who have not joined since we introduced waivers, please include a completed copy of the **Waiver** with your registration forms.

The parent/guardian of all juniors and any member under the age of 26 years are required to review concussion awareness resources on an annual basis. Links to the age appropriate resources and forms are available on our website under the "**Rowan's Law**" tab.

We ask that registrations be completed and sent by October 14th to allow time for processing (5 days sooner if sent via Canada Post).

Bar Operations

Due to a change in regulations, SmartServe now has a 5 year expiry. As the bar relies on volunteer bartenders with a valid SmartServe certification, if insufficient members re-certify this will have a significant impact on our ability to operate. As such, the club continues to encourage members to obtain SmartServe training and recertification. To assist with scheduling while members obtain SmartServe training, the membership form will have a field to identify whether you have a valid SmartServe certification.

Evening Curling

Another September is upon us, and it won't be long before we are throwing rocks again! Soon it will be time to dig out your curling gear and make sure that it, and you are ready for the 2024/25 season.

The Club will offer opportunities to curl on every weeknight this year.

The Monday and Tuesday League will consist of balanced teams. As we have done for the past four seasons, we will try to schedule a single 8 end draw on both nights. Scheduling for this season will depend on the level of interest expressed by the membership for these two nights. When signing up for this League, please indicate which evening and/or evenings you are available to play on your registration form. The season will consist of three (3) draws with the opportunity to meet new members and reconnect with past teammates.

The "doubles" league will return on Wednesday evenings. Doubles curling requires each team to throw 5 rocks per end, with each game taking less time to play than conventional curling. Scheduling will depend on how many people express interest in playing doubles. Last year saw a growth to eleven teams and two draws. Doubles is an excellent way of enhancing your skills for both new and more seasoned players!

Also on Wednesday nights, the Club will run a "Learn to Curl" program. This is a great chance to learn the game. This program runs for 10 weeks and is taught by several experienced curlers in the Club.

For the Thursday League, members will be able to enter a set team (or partial team) at the start of the year. If you wish to enter a team, please list your team members on your membership form. Please note that team entries will only be accepted after the start of the season if it can be done without disrupting the league. Members are also able to sign up individually for the Thursday League and will be placed on a team. Last season, The Club had ten teams playing on Thursday nights.

Friday night will operate on a drop-in basis for members and non-members. This is a great time to introduce your friends to the game. Social members, guests and "Once per week" members can play on Friday with payment of a \$15 fee.

Morning Social Curling

For those interested in curling during the day, games are played every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. This league operates on a drop-in basis, so there is no team commitment. Each game is normally 6 ends. The monthly mini-spiels occur with daytime curlers who volunteer in organizing this event.

Learn to Curl Program

We will be offering a LTC program this season. It will be on Wednesday evenings 7 PM to 9 PM for 10 sessions starting in November. The price is \$199 and includes a free broom. If you know of someone who is interested please have them contact Chris Knight (knightcurler@hotmail.com) or Bill Shorter (tbshorter@sympatico.ca).

Little Rocks and Junior Program

Our junior program this year will take place on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 PM. We will be offering the Little Rocks (7-10 year olds) and Junior Curling (11 and older) programs together at 4:00 pm.

If you are interested in assisting us throughout the season, safety is our top priority and you need not be an experienced coach or curler to be of great help in running the program, please contact Mike Moore (michael.christopher.moore@gmail.com) or Wendy McCauley (wendy.mccauley@hotmail.com)

Squash

Last season Squash saw a rise in overall participation including an increase in court usage over the summer.

For returning members this coming season we will offer a Squash Ladder, Social Squash events and opportunities to improve your game including rules clinic and drills sessions. Adult Learn to Squash courses will be offered again this season.

Teen programming will be offered this season offering a combination of instruction and reserved court time. Teens are invited to join the Squash ladder.

Youth members will have the opportunity to join us for a combination of instructional sessions and fun game days. Details are to be decided in the coming weeks based on registration and interest.

To get involved in Squash please contact Mike Moore (michael.christopher.moore@gmail.com).



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