



THE ROYAL MONTREAL CURLING CLUB

News...from the Hack!

February 2020

Special General Meeting to be held January 30, 2020

At a meeting of the Board of Management of RMCC on January 13, 2020, a motion was unanimously passed to hold a Special General Meeting of all members on Thursday, January 30th at 18h00. The purpose of the meeting is to approve The Big Chill project this coming summer to replace key components of the Ice Making Plant. A Capital Campaign was launched in December 2019 and donations and pledges received to date total \$221,500. The goal is \$350,000.

Members will be asked to make a one-time donation or multiple-year pledges of up to five years.

For curling members unable to make a donation or pledge, an additional proposal will ask these curling members to make a **voluntary contribution** of \$20.00 per month for six months per year for four years. Members will have the option of opting out of this program. Donation receipts will be available through Curling Quebec.

The meeting agenda is below:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Review of the ice plant project, "The Big Chill" (Glenn Rourke, Ron Gallant, Frits Beran)
3. Capital campaign update (Andy Shatilla, Jim Robb, Giovina Rogers)
4. Motion to proceed with The Big Chill project, Summer 2020
5. Proposal to have a voluntary monthly charge on the accounts of curling members who are unable to make a one-time donation.
6. Transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
7. Motion to adjourn

Tartan party

These dapper gents, Jim Mathewson (left) and David Hanna were on hand to celebrate the RMCC's Founders' Day and Robbie Burns.



More photos may be found on the last page.



Super Bowl Party, slated for February 2, is CANCELLED

"Foot fair, draw to a hair. Your stone being well directed. You'll hit your aim and win your game. If you miss, be not dejected."

President's message

As we enter the decade of The Roaring Twenties, RMCC is poised to continue its growth and success. Membership is increasing at a healthy pace, most leagues are at or near full participation and the prospect of a renewed ice plant is getting closer to a reality. But we still need new members, so try to introduce a friend to The Club.

I am particularly encouraged by the involvement of our younger members. They have injected great enthusiasm and a willingness to participate in the RMCC experience.

I hope that every member will make an effort to attend The Special General Meeting scheduled for January 30th. You will not only learn about The Big Chill ice plant project but you will get to see how RMCC is flourishing.

See you there, *Andy Shatilla*



Andy Shatilla (right) recently played in the Centenary. Here he is with Francois Vary (centre), Past President of The Governor General's Curling Club), and Yvan Roy (left) who was a teammate of Andy's in Scotland for the Strathcona Cup 2018 tour.

RMCC Social Calendar

Note: some dates have changed

- ❖ March 12: Pub Night (dinner, dancing)
- ❖ March 28: Kurling 4 Kids
- ❖ April 4: Wine appreciation night
- ❖ April 17: Closing Dinner and Awards Banquet, with live music



*** Also note that the Super Bowl Party, slated for February 2 is CANCELLED

What did the football coach say to the broken vending machine? Give me my quarterback! *** What do you call a Jacksonville Jaguar at the Super Bowl? A spectator. *** Why don't the Detroit Lions have a website? They can't string three "w's" together. *** Which football team cooks gourmet meals together? The Kansas City Chefs. *** What did the football say to the punter? I get a kick out of you.

RMCC at Newell 50th fete

The Country Club in Brookline, MA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Newell International Mixed Bonspiel Jan 23-26.

This annual bonspiel, now in its 50th year, combines curling on four sheets of excellent ice with a mix of evening entertainment in the superb setting of The Country Club. Friday night is the banquet dinner dance and Saturday evening is old fashioned skating on our pond followed by a casual supper in the Pondhouse.

Players from the RMCC included those in the photos below, plus Bob Percy and Marie Béland.



(l to r): Tracy Johnstone, Luc-André Girard, Grace Shatilla and Andy Shatilla. This foursome won the "Mixed Nuts" trophy, meaning they came out on top in the C Division. Well done nutters!



(l to r): Michel Caie; Francoise Gerbault; Paul Adamson; Esther Wearing

Membership update

As reported at the January 13 RMCC board meeting:

- ❖ 40 new members which includes 12 new members converted from L2C group of 25 participants
- ❖ 31 resigned members
- ❖ 24 L2C participants registered for Winter session





Details about January 29 Wednesday Speaker Luncheon

Topic: Early Cycling in Montreal by Malcolm McRae

At the Centennial World Fair in Philadelphia in 1876, the exhibition of the Penny Farthing Bicycle created a sensation across North America. These new machines, with a large front wheel, although difficult and dangerous to ride, were capable of going one hundred miles in a single day!

Soon after the Fair, bicycle clubs sprang up all across the continent. Montreal's club was one of the first. Its three original members were familiar with the Penny Farthing even before the world's fair and via the club helped create the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association. This bicycle club rode a world-wide wave known as the Cycling Craze, which culminated just as Montreal hosted the highly successful 1899 World Cycling Championship. However during the 20th century, the bicycle in North America was supplanted as trolleys then cars dominated the continent's streets. By the 1960's the bicycle was regarded as little more than a child's toy.

Today with a growing interest in sustainable transportation, the bicycle has enjoyed a resurgence, with many new paths being built in Montreal. In 2017, this new wave of interest in cycling inspired a modern incarnation of the original Montreal Bicycle Club.

Malcolm Mcrae, who founded the modern Montreal Bicycle Club, is a retired engineer and has an interest in cycling and in history.





KURLING FOR KIDS KORNER

Event Date: Saturday March 28, 2020

RMCC Goal: \$30,000

Raise \$ for Sainte-Justine & Montreal Children's Hospital....4 ways to help!!



Register as a curler for March 28 and put together a team:

- We have space for a maximum of 12 teams
- You'll play two 6-end games during the day
- Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, prizes – it's a really fun day!
- Cost is \$50 pp (\$75 after March 15, 2020)
- Teams are expected to raise a minimum of \$1000 (which is really easy to do through raffle ticket sales and online donations!)

• Contact [Tracy Johnstone](#) to reserve your team and then register online:

<https://k4k.akaraisin.com/ui/KFK2020/pledge/registration/start>



Register as a (non-curling) fundraiser – sell tickets and/or solicit donations online:

- Everyone can do it – and there are great incentive prizes to be won!
- Set up a page on the K4K site and reach out to your contacts via email or social media
- If you prefer – pick up up a book or two of raffle tickets and sell them to friends, family and colleagues. Tickets are \$5 each and there are incredible prizes to be won, including 2 roundtrip tickets anywhere WestJet flies!

Request ticket books: [Tracy Johnstone](#), [Jim Mathewson](#) or pick up at the RMCC bar

Register as a (non-curling) fundraiser (free):

<https://k4k.akaraisin.com/ui/KFK2020/pledge/registration/start>



Coordinate a corporate sponsorship:

Do you own a business or work for a company that might want to get involved?

- There are a variety of sponsorship packages available
- Program advertising available
- Consider organizing a corporate event

Speak with [Tracy Johnstone](#) and she will put you in touch with the K4K corporate chairperson for more information or check here:

<https://kurlingforkids.org/support-k4k/corporate-opportunities/corporate-opportunities/>



Volunteer to help out with the planning and/or on Saturday March 28:

- Promote the event and fundraising to your leagues
- Gather small prizes for the prize table or track down a bigger prize that we can raffle
- Bake – we welcome any dessert donations for lunch and dinner!
- Donate your time on event day to help serve breakfast, lunch, dinner or assist with registration, photography and other off-ice activities

Contact [Tracy Johnstone](#) and let us know what you'd like to do!

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These RMCC'ers attended the Kurling for Kids launch party January 22 at the Montreal Children's Hospital. From l to r: Anatole Manniste; Cachou, the Kangaroo mascot for the Sainte Justine Foundation; Dory Reimer; Caramel, the mascot for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation; Giovina Rogers; Ryan Maliska; Sara Johnson; and Afiqah Yusuf. The *Hack* is told that K4k has raised \$3.7million so far and will break \$4 million this year. The 2020 theme is Superheroes!

Not to name names....

...but the office has asked that new members remember to pick up their name tags, on the bulletin board.



Member suggestions

There's this box on the right hand side of the foyer with a plaque that says "Suggestion box". Fill it up.



Coin toss decides 2020 War Memorial winners



After all the rocks were played on January 5th, two teams were tied for first place with 18.5 points each. A coin toss determined that the team comprised of Andy Shatilla, Francoise Gerbaulet, Ron Gallant and Sara Johnson (left side of the photo from l to r) would get their names engraved on the trophy. Coming second in the toss: (right side of the photo, from l to r) Doug Brown, Marie Béland, Zac Campbell and Michel Caie.

LCA's Gillies-Wallingford competition looking for curlers

A Ladies Curling Association event is approaching and is an opportunity for female curlers playing in the evenings to sign up. Marie Béland, the RMCC's LCA representative, urges all interested to send her a note or sign up on the sheet posted in the ladies lounge, as an individual or team, as soon as possible. She advises those interested to not wait for the deadline of February 14th as the bonspiel will have been filled by then.

If the response is good, a play down may be necessary within the RMCC to determine who will carry the RMCC name to this competition.

Details Gillies-Wallingford competition: (Center 6 Evening Ladies)

Cost: \$60 per team

District Playdowns: Montreal West Curling Club. February 29th, 2PM and 5PM

District Finals: Lachine Curling Club. March 8th, 2PM.

Championship: Buckingham Curling Club. March 28th, 1PM (luncheon before)

2020 Centenary results



First place:
Whiskey Point
From l to r:
RMCC President
Andy Shatilla;
Nicholas
Backman (lead);
Rob Phillion
(2nd); Marc
Phillion (Vice);
and Alex Hall
(Skip)

Second Place:
Rosemere 1
From l to r:
Terry Derynck
(lead); Al Kuntz
(2nd); Frank
Mule (Vice);
and Josée
Verreault (Skip)



Third place:
Rosemere 2
From l to r:
Yvon Bruneau
(skip); RMCC
President Andy
Shatilla; Mario
Deschenes
(Vice); Carlo
Schembre (2nd);
and Martine St.
Amand (lead)

Welcome to Steve, our new Accountant



Stephen (Steve) R. Jones

As an accountant who worked for various non-for-profit organizations for the past 25 years, I count it as a privilege to be part of the RMCC team.

I hope to bring in fresh ideas to make RMCC the best club ever. My hobbies include shopping & traveling with my wife, reading and doing individuals' taxes for friends of mine. I do look forward to meeting each and everyone of you!

Strategy session Feb. 2nd

Club Pro Rahul Majumdar will host a workshop on Sunday, February 2, regarding the "5-Rock Rule Free Guard Zone Strategy".

The session will take place from 11h30-13h30.

Stay tuned for a signup sheet on the bulletin board, \$10 to participate.

Curling etiquette Q&A

Q. I put the score up one end and got a funny look. Why?

A. Were you posting the score for your own team? Were you playing third? No funny looks warranted if you've met these two criteria.



Q. What did the flame say to his buddies after he fell in love?
A. "I found the perfect match!"

Curling & lobster – how does it get any better?

Curl Moncton has posted its dates for the **Surf & Curl** event: August 21 to 23, 2020. Details below:

Where else can you get all this for \$70/person???

- ❖ Mussel Bar (and other goodies) Friday night
- ❖ Lobster Dinner (or prime rib roast) Saturday night
- ❖ Lunch on Saturday and Sunday
- ❖ Live Entertainment Saturday night
- ❖ Three games of curling guaranteed
- ❖ Cash prizes
- ❖ And a whole lot of fun!



Weekend food package for non-curling guests: \$50.00 (incl Sat. banquet)

Saturday night banquet for non-curling guests: \$25.00

The registration form will go on-line at curlmoncton.ca by March 1, 2020 or interested curlers may contact Sherril Minns at sherril506@gmail.com directly.



RMCC LADIES' BRANCH ALUMNI

**Cordially invites all Active, Social, Associate
Members and Morning Mixed Players to their**

Valentine's Lunch & Bridge

Thursday, February 13th, 2020

Drinks at 12:00 ■ Lunch at 12:30 ■ \$22 tax incl.

RSVP by Friday, February 5th, 2020

Marilynn Gillies ■ 514-932-2026

marilynn251@gmail.com

or on sign-up sheet on RMCC Bulletin Board

Baillie Competition moves to semi-finals

Match-up #1

Skip:	Jaime Hutchison	vs	Luc-André Girard
Vice:	JP Picard		John Rolland
Second:	Guy Gagnon		Francoise Gerbaulet
Lead:	Carrie Rose		Anna Faraggi

Match-up #2

Skip:	Chris Foote	vs	Tim Lapin
Vice:	Michel Caie		Tracy Johnstone
Second:	Sara Johnson		Ron Gallant
Lead:	Bruce Lindsay		Marcelo Bassani de Freitas

Baillie History

RMCC President John Baillie created this trophy to encourage curling with granites and to promote the RMCC's performance in competitions outside the Canadian Branch. The Baillie was first played in 1915, with two sets of granites, while all other competitions continued to be played with irons.

Member profiles

The Hack asked these folks to complete the following phrases:



Bruce Lindsay
2018



Cynthia Lulham
2017

I joined the RMCC because:

being a city boy, it was so convenient. But now I come here to enjoy the people and the club's vibe.

We (husband David Hanna and I) joined the RMCC after we tried a "Learn to Curl" on our **second** date!

When asked what I do for a living, I reply:

I compose music, but everybody knows you can't make a living doing that, so let's just say I'm retired.

I work as an urban planner for lands in proximity to railway operations and have been a City Councillor in Westmount for 24 years.

The most exciting thing I do in the off season:

visiting my daughters in far away places.

Garden - we planted a small orchard on our property in Vermont last year! I love rocks and dirt!

A piece of advice to my younger self:

Beware of popular wisdom and preconceived ideas.

the love of your life is a man named David Hanna - go find him!

Lady Tweedsmuir results and other LCA news



RMCC women have been busy competing in several LCA competitions:

Above, these two teams advanced to the District Finals of the Lady Tweedsmuir competition, playing January 19 in Lachine. Their run ended then and there, but fun was reported nonetheless. L to r: Suzanne Pitre, Joanne Dubé, Françoise Gerbaulet, Marie Béland, Alison Bowie, Laura Somerville, Sarah Leask and Giovina Rogers.

In other competition news:

- ❖ on January 12th, 2020 at Glenmore, two RMMCC teams played in the **McCallum Filly** (players with 7 years experience or less). Even though neither RMCC team advanced to the finals, the experience was very valuable for those competing outside of the RMCC for the first time.
- ❖ on January 16th, 2020 at RMCC, team RMCC won in the Ted Thompson Challenge against Lacolle and is advancing to Game 2 on February 6th.

Speed-of-play pointers

- ❖ While the opposition's rock is in motion, the next shooter should be cleaning their rocks and getting ready to shoot the moment the opponent's rock comes to a stop.
- ❖ AFTER AN END: Only the Second and Third should push the Rocks to the boards, THE LEAD grabs their numbered stone and gets ready to shoot.
- ❖ DO NOT SORT THE ROCKS, simply push them to the corner, and everyone grab their own numbered rock when it's their time to shoot. Do not waste time sorting rocks in sequential order.
- ❖ Only the SKIP and THIRD should be discussing strategy, the Front End should move to the Delivery Hack and pull out their Skip and Third's rocks to save time.



RMCC Colts team B side winners in latest competition



Team Bean participated in a Colts tournament at Rosemere Curling Club over the weekend and came away with a win in the B final. Ron Gallant reports that the team had a tough semi-final game against a Rosemere home team that went down to the last rock, and then won the B final against a team from Glenmore. Above, l to r: Josh Levy (skip); Matt Bean (Vice); Ron Gallant (2nd); and Marcelo Bassani de Frietas (lead). All the players were happy to have participated in a very well organized event run by the local club and were especially happy to put their hands on a bit of prize money!

Lakeshore Bonspiel 2020 deadline January 31, 2020

Just a reminder about the Lakeshore Bonspiel Feb. 15-16 and Feb. 22-23, 2020).

- ❖ You get to curl at 5 other clubs.
- ❖ There are six clubs participating in the bonspiel this year.
- ❖ 4 games guaranteed, more if you win
- ❖ Lunch or snacks after each game.
- ❖ Big brunch on the last Sunday for all playoff teams - 4 per division, 6 divisions.
- ❖ Great prizes for winners and runners up.
- ❖ \$40 per player.

Register your team at www.lakeshorebonspiel.ca

Winter Learn 2 Curl session gets underway



There were 19 participants on Saturday, January 18 for the first of six Learn 2 Curl sessions in the RMCC's Winter class. Above Club Pro Rahul Majumdar leads the group in some off-ice training, emphasizing that curling is a fun, safe and lifelong sport.

Two RMCC teams to help fete Royal Kingston Curling Club

The Royal Kingston Curling Club is celebrating its 200th anniversary with a bonspiel on Feb.7th & 8th. Two RMCC teams will attend:

- ❖ Tim Lapin, Suzanne Pitre, Chris Kovalchuk and Marie Béland.
 - ❖ Scott Hill, Lyne Laganiere, David Kyba and Yvonne Kyba
- Good curling to all!



Q: What is the most romantic city in England?

A: Loverpool.



Q: What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day?

A: A hug and a quiche.

Q: What do you call two birds in love?

A: Tweethearts.

I've been curling for six years and I still get assigned to play lead for my teams. When do I move up?

(This article has been adapted from the Instructor's Corner, Utica Curling Club)

New curlers somehow inappropriately assume that the positions on a curling team are assigned by skill level, with the lead the least skilled member of the team, and the all-powerful skip as the most skilled member of the team. Those new to the game might reasonably arrive at this conclusion because novices are often assigned to play lead for their teams.

Curling is a team sport

Curling, unlike many sports, is a true team game. In baseball, for example, much of the play revolves around the pitcher, catcher, and batter. However, in curling, every player on a team participates 100% in controlling the outcome of every shot from beginning to end. In such a sport, every player has to be skilled, and perform their roles to perfection in order to be successful. No player gets to "sit out" a shot, or choose not to be involved.

Each curling position requires a different skill set

The four positions in curling have distinctly different required skills.

Leads have to be adept at draws: setting guards and coming around them for cold draws and freezes. Takeouts are not a staple, but in today's game throwing accurate tick shots are becoming more important.

Seconds will typically throw many clearing shots, since when it is their turn it is the first opportunity to remove guards from play. Seconds will throw all kinds of shots, including draws and freezes, but takeouts are often a staple shot for seconds. The front end must be superb sweepers and judges of weight, as well as adept at reading the ice for running speed. Thirds must be the most versatile shot-makers: the scenarios they see are quite varied, and many of the shots they are called upon to play will require a great deal of precision.

Thirds must also be excellent and experienced strategists, both to understand team strategy, but also to assist the skip if necessary in making strategic decisions.

Skips, of course, have to be master strategists, and have tremendous resilience and patience. Ironically, skips may not typically have the most difficult or precise shots to throw, but those they do throw must be made consistently, because they score is totaled when they are done. Skips must have superb command of draw weight and be able to hit and stick consistently anywhere on the ice. Skips also have to be able to memorize ice topography and keep track of changing conditions in order to ice shots properly. Skips and thirds both need good team leadership skills.

Continued from previous page: When do I move up?

To excel, each team member must relish their role

A competitive team requires skilled and dedicated players at each position. And each player must be enthusiastic about their role.

To be a good lead, master the activities that make for a good lead: making precision draws and sweeping teammates rocks to perfection. T

o be a good second, become consistent at throwing hits, and of course be a consummate sweeper and learn to read the changes in the ice with your lead.

Thirde and skips need to be comfortable with strategy, and skips especially need to employ a game strategy that his or her teammates can implement. Skips must master ice reading. Thirde must figure out how to read the ice without the benefit of seeing line for most of the stones thrown during the game.

It is not easy to excel at ANY curling position: and each comes with its own peculiar challenges.

Find your best role

So why do new curlers get asked to play lead? It's not so much that leads don't need much skill (au contraire!); it's that leads, because they shoot first when no rocks are in play, have the smallest number of shooting tasks to master. A new curler will probably find lead easier to grasp than playing other positions.

Don't look at playing 2nd or 3rd or skip as a "promotion." It's just the same kinds of shots in a different context. That context may be more important than shot-making. Instead, think about what your best role on a team might be. If you have great draw skills and are an accomplished sweeper, your skills might be wasted at skip or third. You might make a great lead. On the other hand, if you can throw heavy weight peels and takeouts, you might find your role among seconds or thirds. If you are a strategy geek, can make routine draws and hits, and have an excellent memory for reading ice, skipping might just be for you. Every team needs four players who can fill four different roles.

Which one are you?

Sign-up now for single knockout cribbage tournament



Anyone interested in playing a little cribbage in a single knockout cribbage tourney? If so please respond back to the office, by email or sign-up in person by January 29th and we will send out the first round soon after.

Good curling (and cribbage).

John Morris

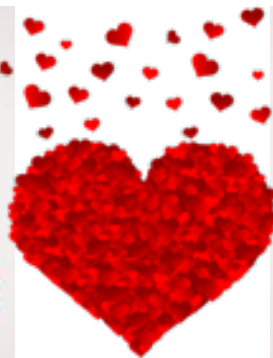
How many RMCC curlers does it take to hang a clock?



The clock that Ron Gallant donated to the RMCC (see January 2020 newsletter) found a new home on the 2nd floor recently. Photo courtesy of Suzanne Coté.

Q. Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A. No, they had an apple!



Did you hear about the bed bugs who fell in love? They're getting married in the spring!

Memories from Founders' Day and Robbie Burns' dinner



Above, Dan Holmes and Laura Somerville (toastors to the "lassies and laddies"). Left Piper Jeff McCarthy and Jane Allan and the guest of honour: the haggis. Below a table of guest-of-honour eaters!

