

The Hack & Back



Official newsletter of the Fergus Curling Club, the oldest continuous curling club in Ontario since 1834

January, 2022

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Newsletter

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Club's Float in Fergus Santa Clause Parade



The wind was howling at the A.O. Smith parking lot, bitter cold, however Katrina and Scott Gordon had their float there early and despite the wind were able to get started with the decorations. They were first in the starting site and wondered where the other floats were. Were they even in the right spot? Eventually the other floats started to come and only then did they know Santa was waiting for them. The banners from Brian Clark were hung proudly on each side, there was no doubt as to who we were! The volunteers showed up right on time, along with the young curlers who would be riding the float, along with some of their parents and club members. Katrina did an amazing job with the decorations, having lots of help from the Little Rockers and Jrs. and their parents, as well as club members producing her designs which made the float look amazing. Many thanks to all of them for their participation in this year's Santa Claus Parade.

Well done, and Merry Christmas to you all!

By Lynda Waterhouse

Another photo on page 5

www.ferguscurling.ca

The Bulletin Board

With the recent announcement from the Province of Ontario, we are forced to push back our re-opening date to Wednesday, January 26.

As noted, this will come with changes to some of our procedures in order to meet government regulations and reduce transmission among our club users, staff and the community. Due to the rapid changes the Omicron variant has presented us, we will update you on our latest protocols once we are certain of our reopening date.

As you all know, ongoing changes to the COVID landscape can make these changes a moving target, and there is a chance of additional changes before we get back on the ice. We thank you for continuing to be adaptable during this unpredictable time.

We understand that we have members who may not feel comfortable returning to play on Jan 26th. If this includes you, please feel free to contact membership@ferguscurling.ca and let us know your intentions. We will then notify the conveners of the league you were signed up for so they can make other arrangements for your team.

We are a small volunteer run club, and your Board is just an extension of all of you as members. Apart from the issue of safety, another priority is our financial health. A significant amount of our revenue is derived from bonspiels which are non-existent and our bar receipts have been reduced and are now paused. Our hope is that we can remain financially cohesive through this historic unsettled time and return to play in a few weeks.

If you have personal belongings in your locker that you would like to retrieve before January 26, please contact membership@ferguscurling.ca to make arrangements.



Season Opener Fun Spiel 2021



The winners of the day were L to R: Rick Marshall skip, Chris Laitar vice-skip, Dawna Laitar, Second and new curler Liam Beacock.

Coming in second place were L to R: Paul Hudson lead, new curler Marc Jagt vice-skip, new curler Judy Boddam second and Chris Krupicz skip.



On November 27th 8 teams made up of 2 rookies (under 5 years experience) and 2 experienced curlers were piped on the ice by Mark Cripps of the Fergus Pipe Band (just like the Brier!) for the opening Bonspiel of this season.

The objective of this spiel is to encourage new curlers in our club to get out and enjoy a bonspiel experience, an objective that indeed was met as 14 out of the 32 curlers were from this year's Curling 101 program. Thanks to all our rookies and "oldies" who made the day a great success.

Format for the day was two 6-end games with morning coffee and muffins (thanks Chris) and a great meal in between games provided by Linda, Denny, Sheila, Kathy, Gerry, Ann, Matilda, Betty and Linda in the kitchen. Our bartenders Lorne and John and our Icemakers Andy and Jim took good care of us.

I watched our 101'ers with pride as I saw how much they had improved over the 6 weeks of working with them. Winners of the 2021 Season Opener were Rick Marshall, Chris Laitar, Dawna Laitar and Liam Beacock (our youngest recruit). Congratulations!!!

Covid 19 challenged us but we feel that our Bonspiel Season is off to a successful start in this year that will involve many changes. Don't miss out on this event next year be sure to sign up early for a great time. Thanks to everyone involved for a job well done.

By Chris Taylor

Krazy Curling Costumes



PUNK CURLER



It's a Young Man's Game Now

HIGH SCHOOL CURLING IN CANADA

By KEN WATSON

OVER 17,000 of the 30,000 curlers in Manitoba are school boys. What accounts for this rapid growth of the number of devotees of the "besom and stane?" Outside of the natural attractions of the game which provides sociability as well as competition, there are three important factors. First the national interest aroused by the Canadian Curling Playdowns held early in March each year, when the champion rinks of ten Canadian provinces meet to determine a national winner. Second, the tremendous public interest in recent automobile bonspiels where the prize of four new automobiles was spectacular enough to cause even the uninitiated to wonder what the game was all about. Third, last and most important, the recent establishment of a National Schoolboy championship, which has captured the imagination of the younger generation to such an extent that thousands are substituting the broom for the hockey stick and dreaming of becoming provincial or national sports figures through their skill on the ice lanes.



Let's see!

STAY
TUNED

Coronavirus Restrictions



There will be more in the next few weeks regarding restrictions to the covid-19 pandemic. So keep watching the Hack & Back, the website and all other means of communication on the computer for all up dated news. A new restriction seems to take place every hour so it is imperative that you keep up to date.

Very important

We must abide by these rules folks to keep ourselves safe and to keep others safe from this virus.

Greeters will be an essential part of the New Year. In the event no one signs up conveners have been asked to pre-arrange an alternative bartender and greeter from a curling team.

Very important

(See page 2)



Little rocks have an annual turkey shoot which is a lot of fun for the youngsters. This year's winner was Lorynn Marshall who has in turn donated the turkey to the Centre Wellington Food bank. Her heart is as big as a curling stone in helping the underprivileged. Congratulations.

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Look at the Brooms they used



Here is another photo of the club's float in the Fergus Santa Claus parade by Lynda Waterhouse.



CURLING
WHAT ELSE IS THERE?



Here are some photos that Lynda Waterhouse sent me to show off the kids in the Little Rocks program. Look at the form on the little tyke in the photo below. Do we have a future pro curler here??? These kids made the signs for the Santa Claus parade under the direction of Katrina Gordon.

