

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ORILLIA CURLING CLUB

# HURRY HARD



DECEMBER 2025 | [ORILLIACURLINGCLUB.CA](http://ORILLIACURLINGCLUB.CA) | ORILLIA, ON





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*Orillia Curling Club*

*Est. 1873*

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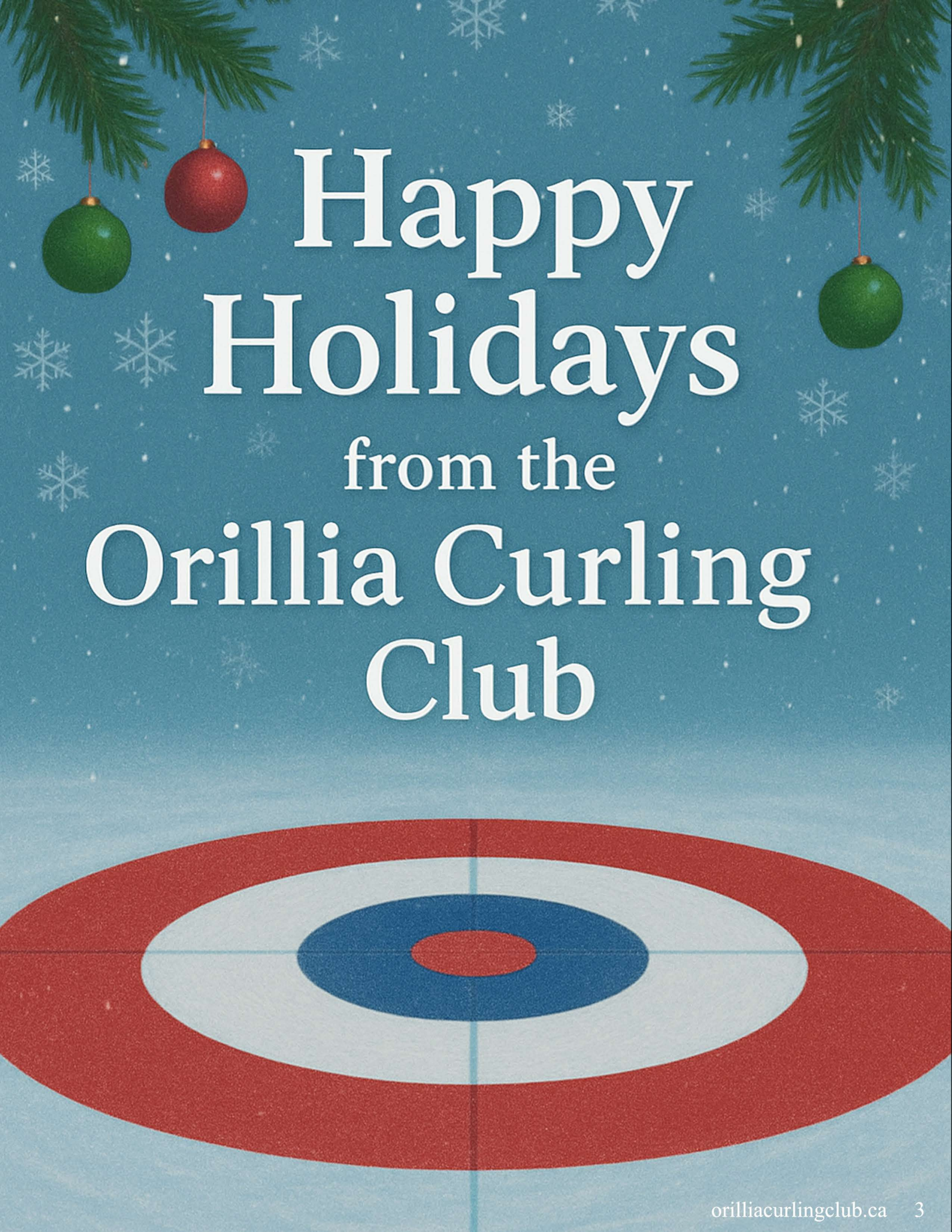
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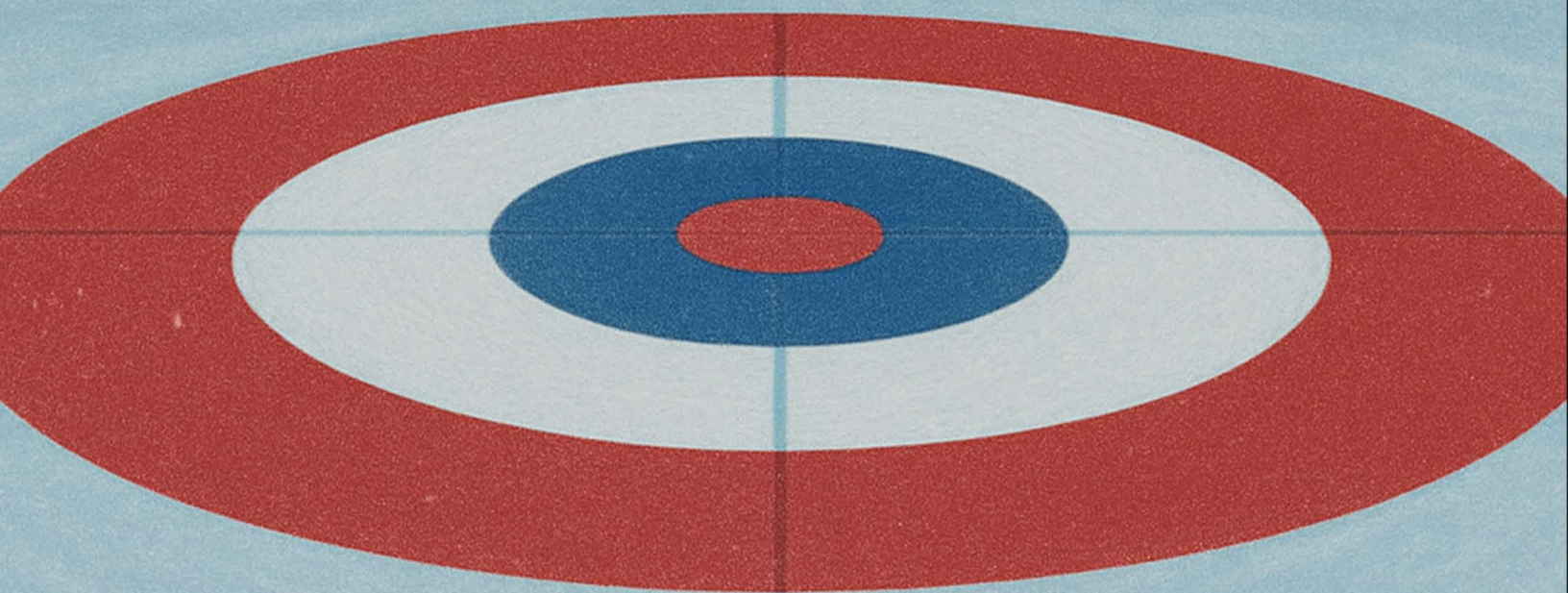




# Happy Holidays

from the

# Orillia Curling Club







# OCC President's Message

Before my monthly newsletter I just wanted to provide an update to members about the board's ongoing discussions with both the restaurant operators and the City of Orillia. We've been working diligently to find an arrangement that supports everyone's needs and ensures a strong partnership moving forward. At this stage, the ball is with the City, and we're optimistic that continued collaboration will lead to a solution that benefits our members and the community. Our goal is to have an agreement in place before

the winter draw begins, and we'll keep you informed as progress continues. We understand that this represents a bit of an upheaval compared to the stability of the past 20 years, but like any new relationship, it takes time and discussion to finalize the details. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Tim Kent or any member of the Board of Directors.

As we wind down another great month at the Orillia Curling Club, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on just how much fun—and momentum—we've had on and off the ice.

November gave us three fantastic spiels, kicking things off with the Newbie Spiel, where it was great to see so many new faces learning the game, laughing lots, and jumping right into the spirit of the club. This spiel is always a reminder of what makes curling special: camaraderie, mentorship, and a warm welcome for everyone.

Next came our inaugural Hewitt's Farm Market Meat Spiel, and wow—what a hit. Great curling, great food, and fantastic prizes made for a memorable day. A huge thank-you to Hewitt's Farm Market for supporting the event and helping us launch what we hope becomes a long-standing OCC tradition.

We wrapped up the month in true holiday style with the Santa Spiel. From festive outfits to plenty of Christmas spirit, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the season together. Events like this really showcase the heart of our club—fun first, friendly competition second, and, memories always. A big special thanks to Doug and Jane Langman, Don Ruggles, and Tony Baker for running the Spiel, as well as Doug Langman and Century 21 for Sponsoring!

Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for Connor's upcoming newsletter, which will include photos and highlights from all three spiels. Seeing these moments captured really helps tell the story of our club.





# OCC President's Message

I do want to share—while keeping things positive—that spiel registration has been a bit lighter than usual this season. That said, we're heading into January with lots of optimism and energy. Registration is now open for January's Nuts & Bolts Spiel, and we'd love to see strong participation as we kick off the new year.

Off the ice, we also hosted our first Euchre Night on the 29th, and what a success! Huge thanks to Darryl Moland for organizing a fantastic evening. Highlights included: A fun lei giveaway for a lone hand, a very happy 50/50 winner walking away with \$260, great cards, great laughs, and even better community. If you missed it, don't worry—keep an eye on the club website for details on our next Euchre Night in January.

As we head into the holiday season, I want to thank every member, volunteer, sponsor, and organizer who makes the Orillia Curling Club such a special place.

On behalf of myself and the Board, I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and all the best for a safe and joyful New Year. We look forward to seeing you back at the club in January.





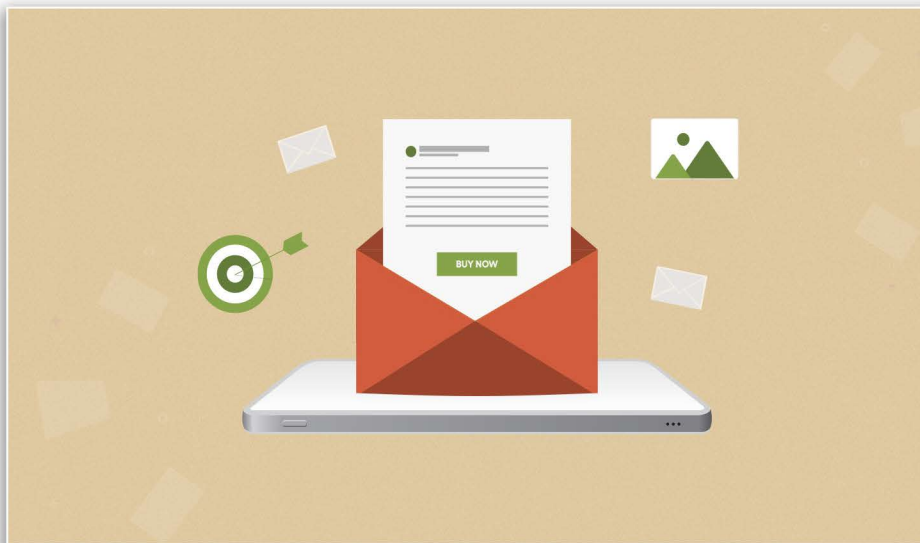
# EMAIL NOTICE!

As of December 15, 2025, any Orillia Curling Club Newsletter content sent to my personal email address (con981@gmail.com) will no longer be accepted, as this email will be changing.

Starting December 15, 2025, please send all Orillia Curling Club Newsletter content to the following email going forward:

**orilliacurlingclubnewsletter@gmail.com**

Thank you.





# OCC Santa Spiel

Article by: Jane Langman

40 curlers took to the ice Saturday in their festive attire for our annual Santa Spiel.

A great time was had by all as participants enjoying lunch, laughter, and camaraderie throughout the day.

Santa (Joe Fecht) even made an appearance handing out candy canes.

This year's bonspiel was proudly sponsored by Leah Cavanaugh and Doug Langman of Century 21, B.J. Roth Realty Ltd. We are grateful for their continued support.

Big Winners for the day were:

First Place: Team Gillespie - Lori Gillespie, Scott Bolt, John Van Laar and Mireille Robert

Second Place: Team Langman - Doug Langman, Tony Baker, Don Ruggles and Jane Langman

Third Place: Team Quigley - Jim Quigley, Janet Mitchell, George Sutherland and Lynn Abernethy

Best Costume - Sandra Furzacott winning a Homan Empire Hoodie

50/50 Draw - Scott Bolt





# OCC Santa Spiel – Photos





# OCC Newbie Spiel

Article by: Sandra Furzecott

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A small but enthusiastic crowd of 24 came out for the first bonspiel of the 25-26 season. The Newbie Spiel paired new curlers with more experienced mentors for a day of fun, laughter, and learning.

The first 6-end game followed regular rules, while the second game mixed things up—curlers switched positions after each end, giving everyone the chance to play every role. It was a fantastic opportunity for participants to experience the sport from a new perspective.

A delicious lunch was generously provided by Bayside Restaurant, and a great time was had by all!

1st place - Greg Irvine, Sandy Furzecott, Jan Toebes, Sarah Toebes

2nd place - Kevin Bennett, Dan Timbers, Nathan Garrett, David Ray

3rd place - Paul Stewart, Pauline Stewart, Rena Parno-McClung, Brenda Jenkins

Team that made the most friends - Mark Booth, Renate Booth, Richard Kwezi, Trev Scheffel





# Hewitts Farm Market Meat Spiel

Article by: Tim Kent

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The Hewitts Farm Market Meat Spiel was a great success, with curlers enjoying a fun and competitive day on the ice.

First place was won by Team Bob White, an impressive rink that came together through single sign-ups: Bob White (Skip), David Best (Vice), Margo Moulton (Second), and Eileen Fitzpatrick (Lead).

Second place went to Team Jim Quigley: Jim Quigley (Skip), Ken Shamehorn (Vice), Gordon Holmes (Second), and Don Ruggles (Lead).

Third place honours were claimed by Team John Bouwhuis: John Bouwhuis (Skip), Chris Davis (Vice), and John Van-Larr (Second).

A special thank-you goes to Karma Hepburn and Jen Woolhouse for volunteering to form a three-person team when one team was unable to attend, and to Paul Ross for stepping in at the last minute to help out.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

- 1st place – T-bone steaks
- 2nd place – Chicken schnitzel
- 3rd place – 1 lb of bacon

Everyone had a fabulous day of curling, sportsmanship, and great fun!





# Twin Lakes Curling Sweeps into Action

Article by: Charlene Ley

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Twin Lakes Secondary School is thrilled to announce the return of its Curling Program, proudly sponsored by the Orillia Curling Club. With the ice ready and spirits high, the 2025–2026 season promises excitement, camaraderie, and plenty of sweeping action.

Led by dedicated teachers Susan Flores and Elaine Armstrong, along with student teacher Mary Hutchinson, the program is supported by a passionate team of club coaches including Tom Ormsby, Charlene Ley, Paul Stewart, Brian Peterson, Kole O'Connor, and others who bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the rink.

This season, Twin Lakes will feature:

A competitive boys team

A competitive girls team

A recreational group for students who want to curl just for fun

The program welcomes four new curlers and celebrates the return of twelve seasoned athletes, all eager to hit the ice. The season kicks off the first week of December and runs through February, with matches scheduled against teams from Barrie, Midland, and other clubs across the county.

Whether you're aiming for the button or just learning to throw your first stone, the Twin Lakes Curling Program offers something for everyone. Stay tuned for match updates and highlights as our teams sweep their way through the season!

Group Photo:

Back Row: Elaine Armstrong, Campbell MacLennan, Marty Hutchinson.

Middle: Mason Demuth, Anna Bigelow, Jaxon Bigelow, Harrison Turner, Matthias Angel, Luc Savoie, Susan Flores, Tom Ormsby.

Front: Ava Medarak, Evelyn Medarak, Karli Fair.

Abscent: Joey Szijarto, Josephine McNiven





# Grade 7/8's excel at first curling outing!

Article by: Erin McWhirter, SCDSB

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As part of the Grade 7/8 Curling Program offered by the Orillia Curling Club, Mrs. McWhirter's class of 26 students attended their very first Learn to Curl Session on November 18th, from 11:45–1:15 p.m.

Joining the students on the ice was Principal Matt Cillis, who assisted alongside curling instructors Tony Baker, Jerene Edghill, Charlene Ley, Randy Ley, Brian Peterson, Don Ruggles, and Paul Stewart.

From warm-ups to sliding drills, the class embraced every part of the experience with enthusiasm. Instructors noted that the students were exceptionally polite, attentive, and eager to learn—a pleasure to coach on their first day at the rink.

The Orillia Curling Club is already looking forward to welcoming the class back for their next session on January 13th, 2026.

After returning to school, Mrs. McWhirter surveyed her students about their experience. Below is a selection of their reflections—honest, funny, thoughtful, and full of the energy that made the day so memorable.

## Student Reflections

Tadhg:

“When I heard we were going curling I was anxious... it was my first time on ice and there were rocks being slid across it. But after a few drills it turned out to be the best first time on the ice for me. If I could change anything, I'd make groups of four because I got separated from my friends.”

Rider:

“Dear curling, it was mid mustarddddddddddd 67.”

Kasper:

“I had a GREAT time! I was worried about slipping, but sliding across the ice and throwing rocks was awesome. I even did a barrel roll when I slipped—no injuries, just laughs! I still wonder where you get all the graphite from.”

Leah:

“As my first time curling, the instructors made it very enjoyable and I learned lots! My favourite thing was sweeping.”

John:

“I liked curling. It was fun learning how, but after a bit it got boring. Overall pretty good experience.”



Scarlett:

“Curling was a fun experience. I’ve been getting better at kicking off the wall and sliding farther. I would love to go back.”

William:

“Dear curling team: thank you so much for letting us come. Thank you for teaching us how to curl. It was really fun and interesting. Everyone was nice and patient. I hope we see you again.”

Lachlan:

“I liked how even though most of us didn’t know how to curl, we all got compliments from the instructors. They were all super nice.”

Marcus:

“I had a fun time curling with my friends and the instructors. Brian and the others did a great job teaching. I was thankful they let us eat in the restaurant. Overall, a pretty good time.”

Campbell:

“It was fun because every one of the instructors was nice.”

Evelyn:

“I really enjoyed curling! I didn’t think I would, but I did.”

Goodness:

“Curling was ok. I thought it would be boring but in the end it was pretty fun. And I liked my instructor—I think his name was Don. Thank you so much!”

Alyssa:

“I had a great time. It was really fun even though I had no clue what I was doing.”

Oreva:

“I learned a lot about curling thanks to the instructor. I never thought I’d ever do curling in my life, and I want to thank Ms. McWhirter for the opportunity.”

Avery:

“I didn’t think I’d like curling at first but it was actually really fun. My group was supportive and our instructor gave helpful feedback. I learned how to throw stones, sweep, keep score, and use in-turns and out-turns. I’d love the same group and instructor next time.”

Ryann:

“At first I expected it not to be fun, but I had an awesome time! My group was fun and supportive and my guy...”

(comment unfinished but included as provided)



Miyka:

“I love curling and the instructors being so nice made it even better. I enjoyed playing games and getting to throw rocks at my friends—it was really, really fun. Thank you!”

Ben:

“I had a lot of fun. It had wabi sabi 🍷👉.”

Eli:

“10/10 perfect. Staff was the best and I will always come back.”

Ericka:

“At first I wasn’t excited for curling, but when I tried it, I really enjoyed it! I also enjoyed having a kind gentleman”

Harrison:

“I really enjoyed curling. The instructors were great at demonstrating the exercises, and the bus was great transportation from place to place.”

A Final Note

It’s not every day a kid is encouraged to throw rocks at their principal. 😊

The Orillia Curling Club looks forward to seeing Mrs. McWhirter’s class back on the ice in January for their next curling adventure.





# Orillia Secondary School Curling

Article by: Elizabeth Botman, Orillia Secondary School, SCDSB

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Orillia Secondary School is excited to once again partner with the Orillia Curling Club.

We are fortunate to have the support of dedicated curling volunteers, especially our community coach Margie Hewitt, whose commitment and guidance continue to make this program successful.

This season, two teams will compete in twelve regular-season games combined, traveling to Midland, Stroud, Barrie, and Alliston when not playing home games at Barnfield. Our mixed team includes one experienced player joining the roster, two students who are new to curling, and three returning players. The girls' team is also making its return, featuring two returning players and two new athletes eager to learn and compete. Additionally, it is important to note that three of our athletes are Grade 9 students this year and will hopefully provide a strong foundation and a stable lineage for the future of curling at OSS. This month, we shine the spotlight on the girls' team, who have shown incredible progress after just three practices. They have developed a strong rapport and learned to play to each other's strengths, resulting in an impressive 10–1 victory in their first home game. With Kylie as skip and Catelyn as vice, the team is spearheaded by the Hewitt sisters. Genevieve and Leah join them as first and second, rounding out a lineup that is both talented and determined. The team looks forward to their upcoming matches, including more home games at Barnfield and one away game in Alliston. We look forward to a fantastic season filled with growth, teamwork, and sportsmanship.





# Upcoming Important Dates

## December 2025

***December 23, 2025 - January 4, 2026***

Orillia Curling Club CLOSED for the holiday season.

## January 2026

***January 10, 2026***

Nuts N' Bolts Bonspiel

Orillia Curling Club | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## February 2026

***February 7, 2026***

Ladies February Fiesta

Orillia Curling Club | 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Wishing you & yours a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!







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