

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ORILLIA CURLING CLUB

# HURRY HARD



# 2026

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



JANUARY 2026 | [ORILLIACURLINGCLUB.CA](http://ORILLIACURLINGCLUB.CA) | ORILLIA, ON





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**Communications**

**Evan McCrae**

**Head Coach**

**Brian Peterson**

*Orillia Curling Club*

*Est. 1873*

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500 Atherley Rd., Orillia, ON | orilliacurlingclub.ca



# Men vs Women for the Lighthouse Charity Bonspiel

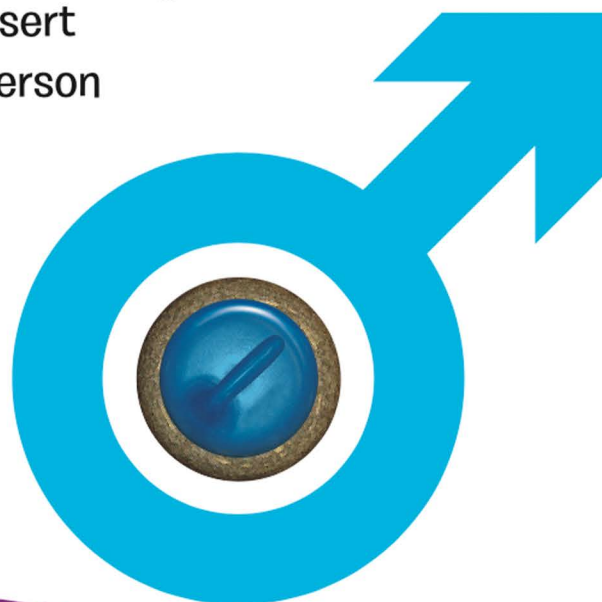
Orillia Curling Club • Saturday, January 31, 2026

## Gals Teams vs Guys Teams



**Format:** 2 Games  
Team Draw the Button Challenge  
Lunch with dessert

**Cost:** \$30 per person



**Includes:**  
Steam Whistle Swag  
Team Prizes • Door Draw Prizes  
50/50 Draw

**All monies raised go to the “Coldest Night of the Year” Charity.**

**When you register**, please designate your skip and the position you are playing. More details about game format and scoring will be sent to participants by email.

**Spectators welcome - come out and cheer for your friends.**

**Join in the fun!**





# OCC President's Message

Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with good food, great company, and (hopefully) a bit of rest and recharge time. As we roll into January, it's been fantastic to see familiar faces back on the ice and feel that unmistakable buzz that comes with the curling season. As always, thank you for being such an engaged and welcoming community — whether you're throwing

rocks, cheering from the lounge, volunteering behind the scenes, or all of the above.

## Things to Watch For in the Coming Months

The next couple of months are shaping up to be a busy and exciting time at the club. Keep an eye on the club calendar (and your inbox) for registration details for our upcoming spiels and social events. We've got a great mix of competitive, fun, and just-for-laughs events planned. All the below events have registrations open and are listed on the website under the "event registration" tab found under "Events".

### The Lighthouse Fundraiser Bonspiel - January 31 st (Curling Day in Canada)

This is a last-minute Bonspiel to give back. A way for the club to give back locally, all proceeds from this bonspiel & 50/50 will go back to the Lighthouse. This bonspiel will be Guys vs Gals comprised of 2 games as well as a draw to the button challenge and will include a lunch of: Chili, buns, and Salad. Coffee and Muffins for breakfast during registration times.

### Family Day Spiel – February 14th

Bring your friends and family and have an enjoyable day of curling: delicious lunch, 50/50, and family-friendly games.

### More Off-Ice Fun

Euchre nights and other social gatherings are back — these have been a huge hit and a great way to connect with curlers and non-curlers alike.

January 24 th – Lasagna Dinner - 530-10pm

February 28 th – Dinner TBD – 530-10pm

Hammer Draw – We've made our first draw of the year and had our first two winners! Congratulations to our \$50 winner, Jim Hoover & \$75 winner, Brian Hare.







# OCC President's Message

Social Media - The Club is looking to get more engagement and followers on social media through Facebook and Instagram. The club's facebook can be found [here](#) and the Instagram can be found [here](#). If you had any photos from events that you would like posted to the club's social media accounts please email them to the club along with a description to [orilliacurlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:orilliacurlingclub@gmail.com).

## Speaking

Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing are coming to the Orillia Curling Club in September. Tentatively scheduled for September 12th, so save the date!! Update to follow with full details, but so far the bar will be open and there will be a 50/50 Draw. If you haven't read her book "Rock Star" it's a pretty good read, bring your copy to get it signed after the event.

## Photos, Recaps Club News

Watch for Connor's newsletters, website updates, and photos capturing all the action on and off the ice.

Thank you again for everything you do to make our club such a special place. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you around the club in the weeks ahead — whether it's for a draw, an event, or just a pre-/post-game chat.

Here's to a fantastic January and an even better rest of the season!

Warmly,  
Tim



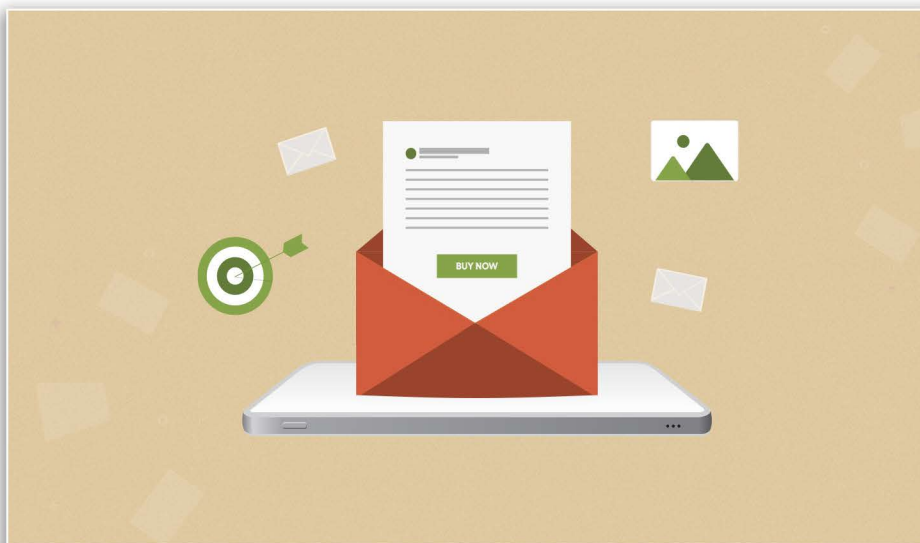
# EMAIL NOTICE!

A reminder that any Orillia Curling Club Newsletter content sent to my personal email address (con981@gmail.com) will no longer be accepted, as this email has changed.

Please send all Orillia Curling Club Newsletter content to the following email going forward:

**orilliacurlingclubnewsletter@gmail.com**

Thank you.





# SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for **September 12, 2026**, and join us from **2:30–6:00 pm** at the **Barnfield Point Recreation Centre** for a very special Afternoon Chat with Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing.

Charlene Ley and Donna Arnold are thrilled to bring this unique opportunity to Orillia. Attendees will get up close and personal with one of Canada's most celebrated curlers as Jennifer shares stories from her life both on and off the ice, alongside Brent. The afternoon will include an open-mic question period, giving guests the chance to ask their own questions, as well as opportunities for selfies and autographs.

Tickets will go on sale in mid-February, with early access for Orillia Curling Club members. Sales will then open to the general public following the Day of Champions.

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** We are pleased to offer sponsorship opportunities for this event. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Donna Arnold at [donnaarnold15@hotmail.com](mailto:donnaarnold15@hotmail.com).

**ORILLIA  
CURLING CLUB  
PRESENTS**

*Afternoon Chat*  
WITH  
**JENNIFER JONES AND BRENT LAING**

**September 12, 2026**  
**2:30–6:00PM**  
2:30–3:30 check-in

**Barnfield Point  
Recreation Centre,  
Tudhope Park, Orillia**

**BRING YOUR COPY  
OF ROCK STAR  
FOR BOOK SIGNING**

**Tickets \$30 at OrilliaCurlingClub.com**  
Food donations to **Sharing Place** appreciated



# OCC Team Heads the to Provincial Grandmasters

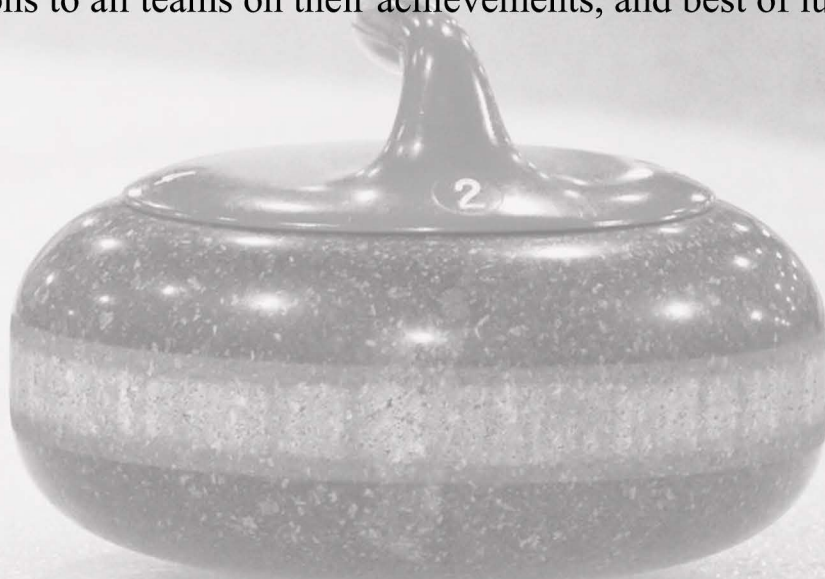
Article by: Brian Peterson

The rink of Brian Peterson (skip), Jim Quigley (vice), Pete Speedie (second), and John Bouwhuis (lead) took to the ice in Midland on December 1st and 2nd, competing in a three-game event against strong opposition from across the region.

The team opened the competition with an impressive win over a Collingwood rink. Their second game proved to be a challenge, resulting in a loss to a skilled Newmarket team. Showing determination and focus, the squad rebounded in their third game with a well-earned victory over a team from Leaside.

With a two-win performance, the team finished among the top four of seven teams, securing qualification for the Provincial Grandmasters Championship. The provincials are set to take place in Leaside from March 19th to 21st and are expected to feature 16 teams from across the province.

Congratulations to all teams on their achievements, and best of luck at provincials in March.





# Friday Night Mixed League

Article by: Lori Gillespie

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Congratulations to the Friday night mixed league champions, who have earned their place in the upcoming Day of Champions. The winning team featured Ron Pigeon as skip, Martin Cordell at vice, Barb Pigeon playing second, and Logan Miller at lead.

Adding to the excitement of the evening, congratulations go out to Steve Donald, who took home \$129 in the 50/50 draw.

The season is off to a fantastic start, marked by friendly competition, great sportsmanship, and plenty of laughs shared during after-play refreshments. A heartfelt thank-you goes to our convenor, Kevin Bennett, for the time, dedication, and effort put into organizing teams and schedules and helping make the league such a success.

Here's to a great season ahead both on and off the ice! 🥳





# Youth Learn to Curl Fall Season Wrap Up

Article by: Kristen & Abby Keown

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Our Sunday Youth Learn to Curl fall season has come to a successful close! Throughout the season, the kids learned the basics of curling, including how to throw the stone, sweep, and keep score. Most importantly, they had a lot of fun while developing new skills, confidence, and teamwork on the ice.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone back for the Winter season, which begins January 11, 2026!





# Sunshine Rockers in Gravenhurst Spiel

Article by: Barb Horne

A great time was had by all as Orillia teams took part in the Gravenhurst spiel, enjoying both strong competition and a fun day on the ice. Team Chamberlain delivered an excellent performance, finishing in second place and earning well-deserved recognition.

Orillia 1 was represented by Dennis Chamberlain, Evan Pittam, Alicia Hawton, and Alex Larmant, while Orillia 2 featured Bill Fritzley, David Pratt, and Branson Mahler.

A sincere thank-you goes out to the coaches and drivers who helped make the day such a success: Paul Stewart, Ralph Mahler, Barb Horne, and Paul Larmant. Their support and dedication were greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to both teams on a terrific showing at the Gravenhurst spiel—you should all be very proud!





# OSS Rocks the House!

Article by: Elizabeth Botman/Orillia Secondary School - SCDSB

The Orillia Secondary School (OSS) Mixed Curling Team is kicking off the season with a blend of returning talent and fresh faces. With all players in Grades 9 and 10, this year's roster represents not only the present of OSS curling, but a promising future with ample time for development, teamwork, and many seasons of memories ahead. This year, we welcome back three returning athletes whose experience and dedication will help anchor the team. Kirel steps confidently into the vice-skip position, ready to take on greater strategic responsibility while continuing to refine her own rock accuracy under pressure. Alongside her, Max returns as the sub-vice, bringing reliability, and a readiness to support the team in any role he's placed in. At lead, Finley continues to shine with strong opening stones that set the tone for each end.

OSS is also excited to welcome two new athletes to curling team Caleb and Ryker who are friends both on and off the sheet. Making their debuts as first and skip both players are stepping into the sport with enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and the drive to contribute to the team's growth. Their early progress has already shown that they'll be key players to watch as the season unfolds. As a seasoned curler Ben rounds out the roster in the skip position and a team first attitude make him an invaluable presence on the ice. His openness to feedback and commitment to helping his teammates grow highlight the supportive, collaborative spirit of curling and of the OSS team culture.

With such a young roster, the team is entering a season filled with opportunity. These athletes are building not only their skills but also the trust, communication, and sportsmanship that define curling. As they continue to develop together, there's no doubt that this group will create lasting memories and set the stage for many years of success at OSS. The future offers many opportunities for the OSS Mixed Curling Team and this season is just the beginning.





# Nuts and Bolts Bonspiel

Article by: Rob Town

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The annual Nuts and Bolts Bonspiel, held on January 10, was a well-attended and thoroughly enjoyable event from start to finish. The day began with a morning draw featuring two four-end games, with the traditional break in between for a “shot” of enthusiasm.

New this year was a burger and fries lunch, followed by 24 hands of euchre. Thanks to the expert card players on hand, the euchre wrapped up surprisingly quickly — in about 45 minutes.

Players then returned to the ice for two more four-end games, with a final tally determining the day’s champion. Adding a fun twist, participants had the option to purchase a “mulligan,” allowing them to re-throw one rock after a missed attempt. (In at least one case, the mulligan proved less successful than the original shot!)

This year’s winning team was Derek Cox, Rhonda Thanasse, Karen Semple, and Gord Semple, narrowly edging out Greg Irvine, Lynn Abbott Lennox, Dave Thanasse, and George Sutherland.

Andrea Town put together a fantastic prize table featuring vouchers from local restaurants — businesses well deserving of our support. A variety of draw prizes, along with a \$217 50/50 win (congratulations to Calvin Dempster), brought the day to a successful close.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this great event.





# Nuts and Bolts Bonspiel





# Grade 7/8 Learn to Curl Success Continues

Article by: Charlene Ley

Curling instructors Tony Baker, Jerene Edghill, Charlene Ley, Tom Ormsby, Brian Peterson, Don Ruggles, Pete Speedie, and Paul Stewart recently had the pleasure of hosting Mrs. McWhirter's class from Notre Dame on January 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., for their second visit of the curling season.

For some students, this marked their fourth time on the ice over the past two years—and it certainly showed. The group demonstrated impressive skill development, along with outstanding attentiveness and politeness throughout the session. Adding to the fun, one lucky team was joined by a special guest curler: Notre Dame principal Matt Cillis, who jumped in to round out the teams.

While this was Mrs. McWhirter's class final visit for the season, discussions are already underway for the next curling season.

"I love the opportunity for students to get to learn a game they probably wouldn't try on their own without schools being invited. It is free and incredibly educational. It is fun for them to compete at something where they are all at the same point in their learning curve. The instructors are so helpful and patient. It really brings a class together when they get to do this. We feel truly fortunate to get to participate. Thank you!" said Erin McWhirter.

Of Note: A high school curling coordinator shared that at Twin Lakes Secondary School, several students attending the Grade 8 orientation night asked about high school curling programs. The students had previously participated in the Orillia Curling Club's Grade 7/8 Learn to Curl Program. This is wonderful news and a great testament to the impact of our youth curling initiatives.





# Upcoming Important Dates

## January 2026

### ***January 31, 2026***

Men vs Women for the Lighthouse Charity Bonspiel

Orillia Curling Club | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*\*All proceeds raised go to the "Coldest Night of the Year" Charity*

### ***January 24, 2026***

Euchre Social

Orillia Curling Club | 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM (approx.)

## February 2026

### ***February 7, 2026***

Ladies February Fiesta

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

### ***February 14, 2026***

2026 Family Day Fun Spiel!

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

### ***February 20-22, 2026***

Ontario Winter Games Curling

Orillia Curling Club | time and game schedule unknown at this time

## March 2026

### ***March 5, 2026***

Simcoe Ladies Interclub Bonspiel

Orillia Curling Club | 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM





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