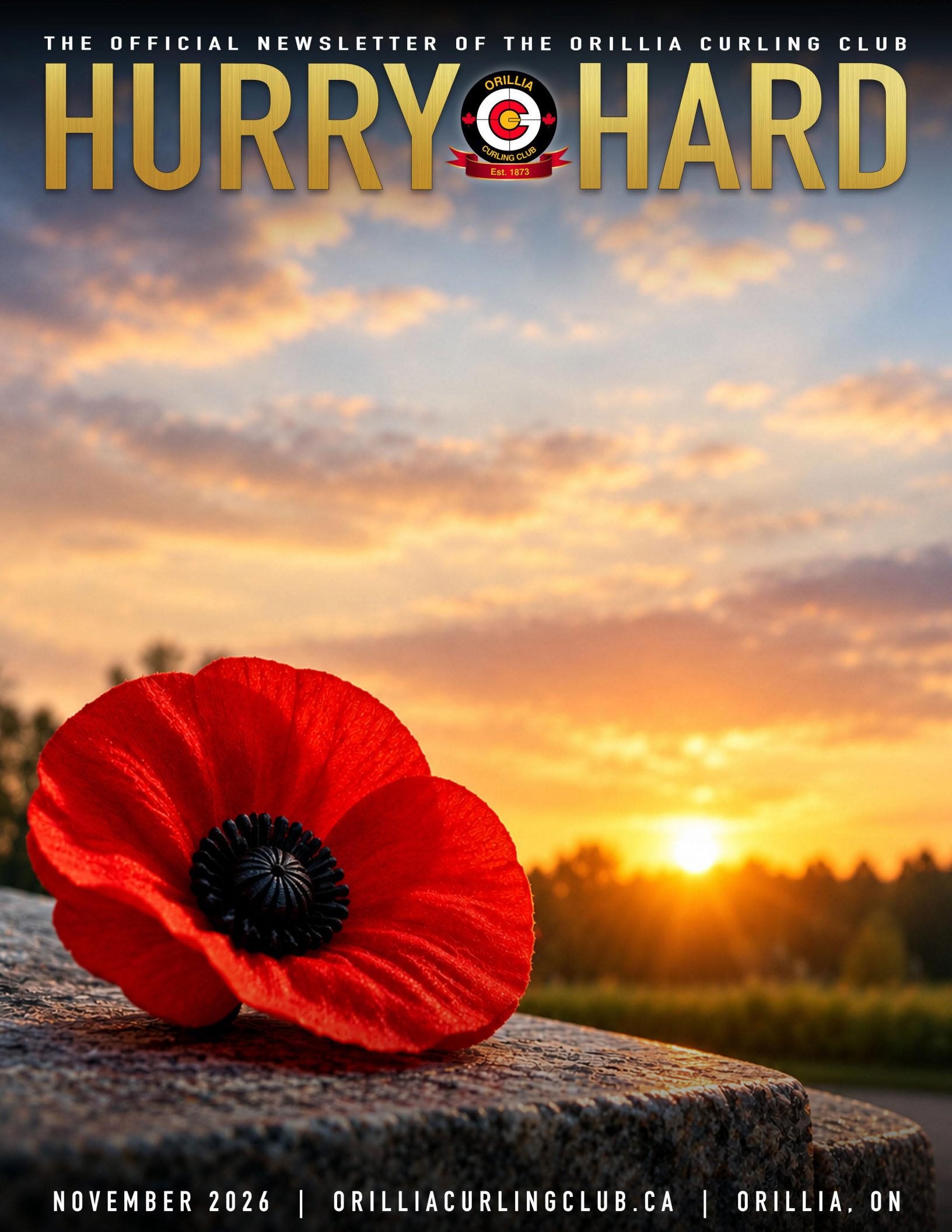
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ORILLIA CURLING CLUB

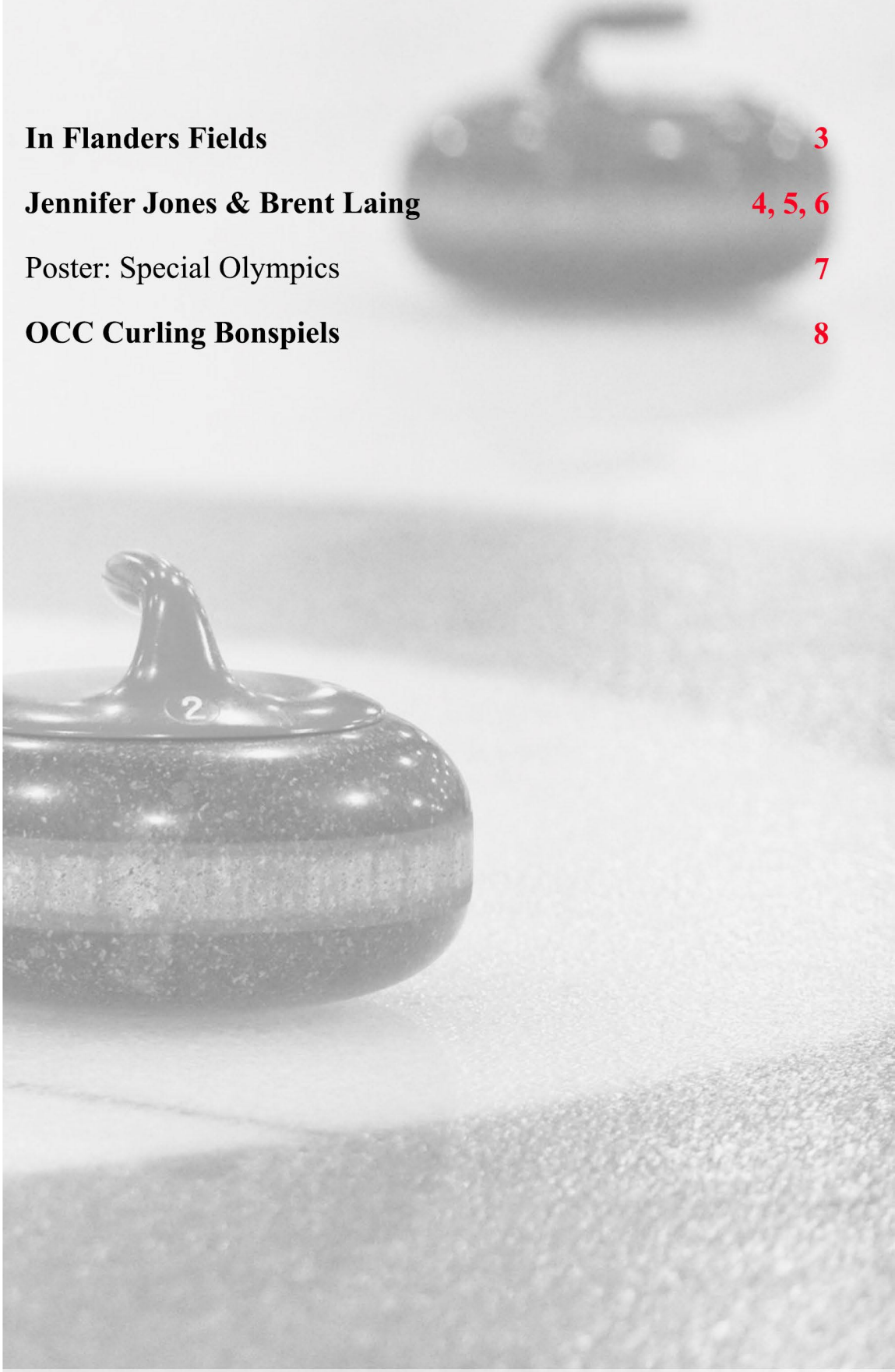
HURRY HARD



NOVEMBER 2026 | ORILLIACURLINGCLUB.CA | ORILLIA, ON

in this EDITION

In Flanders Fields	**3**
Jennifer Jones & Brent Laing	**4, 5, 6**
Poster: Special Olympics	**7**
OCC Curling Bonspiels	**8**



Preseident
Tim Kent

Vice President
Vacant

Past President
Don Kinzinger

Treasurer
Liz Ross

Membership
Greg Irvine

Secretary
Cathy Gould

Registration
Gail Borutski

Director at Large
Vacant

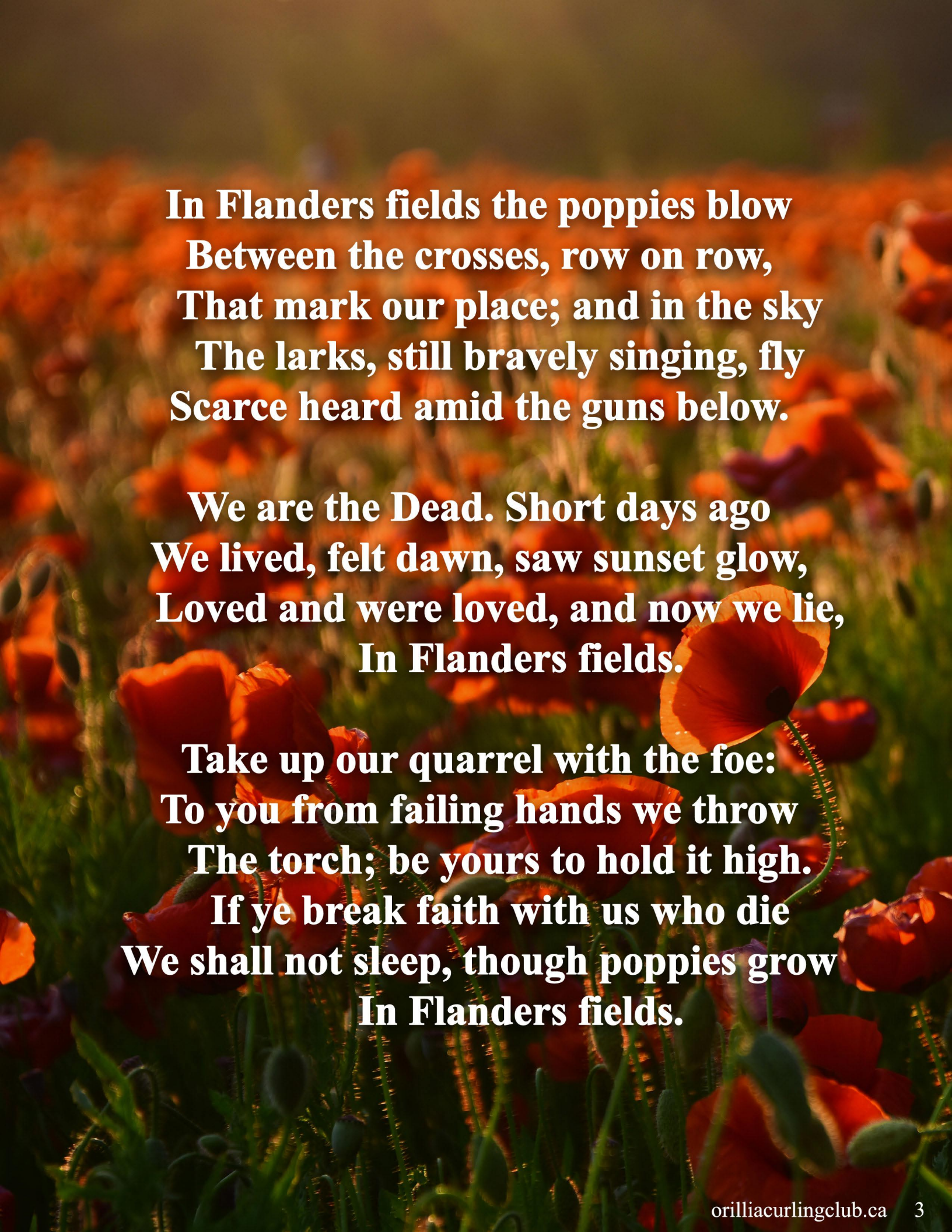
Draw Master
Amy Heitzner

Newsletter
Connor Earl

Communications
Evan McCrae

Head Coach
Vacant

Orillia Curling Club
Est. 1873



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

JENNIFER JONES & BRENT LAING AT OCC

Article by: Charlene Ley

A relaxed afternoon with two Canadian curling legends leaves 73 guests smiling

Seventy-three curling fans and community members walked through the doors of the Orillia Curling Club on September 12 hoping for an entertaining afternoon with Canadian curling legends Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing — and they certainly weren't disappointed.

The Afternoon Chat with Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing offered guests an opportunity to see the two accomplished curlers in a much more relaxed setting, sharing stories, answering questions and providing plenty of laughs along the way.

The afternoon opened with a land acknowledgement from Chief Ted Williams, Chief of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, who acknowledged the land that we have the fortune to share.

From the beginning, the audience was engaged. Questions flowed freely, and Jennifer and Brent offered a humorous and candid look at life as elite athletes — including the highs of winning major championships and the disappointment of losing games that mattered most.

They also shared some of the behind-the-scenes realities of competing at the Olympics, reminding everyone that the experience isn't always as glamorous as it may appear on television.

For Lynn Abbott-Lenox and her sister-in-law Marion, the afternoon was especially memorable. Marion, a huge curling fan, had travelled from Kingston specifically for the opportunity to see Jennifer and Brent.

"We have been to the Brier, the Scotties, some Grand Slam of Curling events, and we even saw Jennifer play in Vegas at the Continental Cup a few years ago," Lynn said. "It was an interesting and informative talk, with much fun mixed in. Marion was absolutely overjoyed when we were driving away."

Another attendee said the pair were "as comfortable off the ice as on."

"It was informative and interactive, with a lot of excellent questions from the audience," the attendee said. "And finally, the two curlers were very gracious with their time, signing books and interacting with all members of the audience who stayed to meet them after the chat. All in all, a great day."

Brent's mother, Jane Laing, who attended with George Laing, agreed.

“I know I’m biased but it was very entertaining. I even heard a few stories I hadn’t heard before. Beautiful facility at the Orillia Curling Club,” she commented on Chief Ted Williams’ Facebook post.

Chief Williams also shared his appreciation for the event, describing Jennifer and Brent as “Canadian Curling Legends” who entertained the audience with curling and family stories.

“The event arranged at the Orillia Curling Club by Charlene Ley and Donna Arnold was a treat for local curling fans,” he wrote. “What a great couple/family, Jennifer and Brent make us better! Miigwech!”

The fun continued after the formal chat when Jennifer and Brent helped with several prize draws, including Goldline curling items, a beautiful charcuterie board created by longtime curling club member Peter Speedie and the event’s 50/50 draw.

For the prize winners, there was an unforgettable bonus — a photo with Jennifer and Brent and the opportunity to wear Jennifer’s Olympic gold medal, won at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The afternoon wrapped up with an autograph and selfie session. Jennifer and Brent stayed to sign books, pose for photographs and chat personally with attendees.

One of the club’s youngest aspiring curler, Spencer Johnson took the opportunity to ask Jennifer what advice she would give to someone hoping to make it big in curling.

Jennifer’s message was a reminder to never lose sight of why you started playing in the first place — because you love the game. She encouraged him to maintain that passion, work hard, practise with purpose and never be afraid to lose. For Jennifer, the greatest satisfaction came from pushing herself to be the very best she could be. The medals, she explained, were simply the “cherry on top.”

She also emphasized the importance of finding three other players who share the same passion, work ethic and commitment, and then nurturing that relationship as a team. When you surround yourself with people who are on the same page and genuinely enjoy the journey, great things can happen.

It was perhaps the perfect message for an afternoon that celebrated not just championship medals and elite competition, but the enjoyment, friendships and community that make curling such a special sport.

Charlene Ley and co-convenor Donna Arnold would like to thank everyone who helped make the event possible, including sponsors and supporters Steer & Stop, Ness Law, Joe Watt Trophies & Engraving, Wes Brennan Construction, Bayside Family Restaurant, Tiffin’s Creative Centre, Goldline, Connor Earl Productions and Manticore Books.

Special thanks to Connor Earl who is an expert with the audio visual side of things. The event certainly wouldn't have been as polished without his talents.

As well, Wes Brennan for installing lights in the Trophy case last winter with Kole O'Connor assistance. This was greatly appreciated along with Ann Kennett and Lynn Abernethy for making sure our prized trophies were nice and polished for the event.

They also extend their appreciation to the Orillia Curling Club Board, volunteers, ticket purchasers and everyone who attended.

For the guests, it was an afternoon filled with laughter, stories, questions, photographs and a little Olympic magic — a chance to discover that two of Canada's greatest curlers are every bit as engaging and personable off the ice as they are on it.

















Orillia's Special Olympics Curling Team is headed to the 2027 Provincial Winter Games in North Bay in January!



Thank you for supporting our athletes on their journey to the games!

Donations can be made using the QR code to the left

For more information, please email orillia.coordinator@specialolympicsontario.ca



November 21, 2026 - Newbie Bonspiel
- $40/per person, includes lunch
- Two 6 end games
- Teams are made up of 2 newbies and 2 experienced curlers

December 12, 2026 - Century 21 Santaspiel
- $50/per person, includes lunch and morning coffee
- Prizes for best costume
- 50/50 draw
- Two 6 end games

January 9th, 2027 - Nuts and Bolts
- $50/per person, includes lunch and snacks
- Register as an individual teams are drawn on the day



Copyright, Orillia Curling Club, 2026.