

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ORILLIA CURLING CLUB

HURRY HARD



in this EDITION



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Orillia Curling Club

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Cover Photo: Orillia Curling Club via Facebook
Back Cover Photo: Submitted by OCC club member

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



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.



TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Afternoon Chat with Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing

Date: September 12, 2026

Time: 2:30–6:00 p.m.

Location Barnfield Point Recreation Centre

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.

The poster features a central photograph of Jennifer Jones and Brent Laing, both wearing blue and white curling jackets, kneeling on an ice rink and holding a large, ornate trophy. The background is a light blue, textured surface resembling ice. At the bottom of the poster, there are images of curling equipment: a blue brush, a red handle, and several cans of food.

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**

JENNIFER JONES
ROCK STAR
MY LIFE ON AND OFF THE ICE

**Tickets \$30 or Ticket with book \$55 at
OrilliaCurlingClub.ca**

Food donations to **Sharing Place** appreciated

RARE: First 8-End-er in 39 years!

Article by: Connor Earl

A rare and historic moment took place at the All Ontario Farmers Bonspiel as a team from the Orillia Curling Club delivered an elusive eight-ender — the first time the feat has been recorded at the event in 39 years.

The milestone end was scored by the Orillia rink skipped by Jon Woolhouse, with Glen Dorsey at vice, Scott Dorsey at second, and Neil Thomas leading the team.

An eight-ender, one of curling's most celebrated achievements, sees a team score all eight possible points in a single end and is a testament to exceptional shot-making, strategy, and teamwork.

The accomplishment sparked excitement throughout the arena and will be remembered as a standout moment in the storied history of the All Ontario Farmers Bonspiel.



OCC Welcomes Scotties Competitor

Article by: Charlene Ley

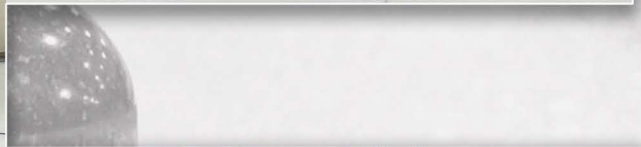
I had the pleasure of welcoming Rachel Steele to the club on January 20 for a Pay to Play practice session. Rachel, who is currently in the area completing an Occupational Therapy placement at RVH and staying in Orillia, reached out to see if any practice ice was available during her stay.

Rachel is now heading to Mississauga, where she will be competing alongside her Ontario teammates — Skip Hailey Armstrong, Vice Grace Lloyd, and Second Michaela Robert — at the Scott Tournament of Hearts, running from January 23 to February 1.

We were delighted to provide some ice time for Rachel and wish her and her team the very best as they chase the Canadian title. We'll be cheering them on!



Wednesday Tag Draw - Photos!



Silver at the Ontario Senior Winter Games

Article by: Charlene Ley

Orillia was proudly represented in the 65+ Curling event by the team of Brian Peterson, Rhonda Thanasse, Gary Molnar, and Charlene Ley at the recent Ontario Senior Winter Games held in Huntsville, Ontario from February 3–5.

The experience began in style as the team picked up their accreditation badges at Deerhurst Resort before heading to the Canada Summit Centre for the Opening Ceremonies. The event welcomed over 1,000 athletes from across the province and featured a special live skating performance by 4-time World Champion figure skater and HomeEquity Bank Ambassador Kurt Browning, alongside his wife Allisa Czisny, a two-time Skate Canada champion. They were joined by the talented skaters of the Huntsville Skating Club for an entertaining and lighthearted show that celebrated all of the Ontario Senior 55+ winter sports. The crowd enjoyed plenty of laughs as the skaters humorously acted out events such as Alpine Skiing, Badminton, Curling, Duplicate Bridge, Hockey, Nordic Skiing, Prediction Skating, Table Tennis, and Volleyball – all on skates!

Competition got underway on Wednesday and Thursday at the South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club, where eight teams from across Ontario competed in two pools in round robin play. Playing on very fast ice, Team Peterson battled through three close games to earn a spot in the Gold Medal Final on Thursday afternoon.

In a hard-fought championship match against a strong team from Collingwood, the Orillia rink came up just one point short, proudly capturing the Silver Medal. Despite the narrow loss, the team was quick to congratulate Team Sinclair, noting that they played with excellent sportsmanship and followed all the rules and etiquette that make curling such a respected game. It was a pleasure to compete alongside them.

Adding to the excitement, the medals awarded at the Games were truly special – uniquely designed by local artists and sure to be treasured keepsakes for years to come.

The team would like to extend sincere thanks to the Huntsville organizing committee and all the dedicated volunteers for hosting a very successful Ontario Senior Winter Games. A special shout-out also goes to the South Muskoka Curling Club for their outstanding hospitality and for making the Orillia Curling Club representatives feel so welcome.

Congratulations to Team Peterson on an impressive performance and for bringing home Silver for Orillia!



Guys vs. Gals Charity Bonspiel

Article by: Doug Langman

It was wonderful to see curlers from the various leagues come out for our Men vs Women Lighthouse Charity Spiel on Saturday, January 31st. It was extra special as Saturday was Curling Day In Canada. The day was filled with great shots, lots of laughs, and the fun of playing with -- and against-- people you may not usually meet on the ice.

Despite the ladies donning war paint and going to "battle" in the second half, the men ultimately claimed the overall win. However, the women dominated the skills competition with some very impressive throws to the button.



Dale Rowe, Executive Director from the "Lighthouse" gave a very informative talk at lunch time. Because of the Curler's participation in the bonspiel and on-line donations we will be donating \$2,600 to the Lighthouse. If you would like to make a donation go to the following link.

Congratulations to the Winners

Men's Division

First Place

- Skip John Willemse
- Ron Johnston - Vice
- Ted Devine - Second
- Rob Town - Lead

Second Place

- Skip Brian Peterson
- Don Kinsinger - Vice
- Paul Stewart - Second
- Joe Fecht - Lead

Ladies Division

First Place

- Skip Rhonda Thanasse
- Claire Gingrich - Vice
- Sue Crawford - Second
- Jane Langman - Lead

Second Place

- Skip Lori Gillespie
- Merry Lynn Fleming - Vice
- Cathy Gould - Second
- Nancy Bowers - Lead



Congratulations as well to Cheryl Devine and Peter Speedie for winning the 50/50 draw.

Thank you to Bayside Restaurant for donating the starters and a delicious lunch and Jason's No Frill's for donating the dessert.

Also, a big thank you goes out to FPO for printing our display signs Steamwhistle, M & M's and Jimmy McMillan, Heads up Brush Heads for the prizes for our winners. Our prize table was full with donations from Leacock Retirement Lodge, Carson Funeral Home, Chuck's Road House, Home Hardware, Giant Tiger, Karen Szijarto, Mark's Work Wearhouse and Costco and Food Basics.

A special thank you also to Lori Gillespie for selling tickets and taking pictures.

Pay to Play - Feb 8

Article by: Charlene Ley

The Orillia Curling Club welcomed another enthusiastic group of participants on February 8, 2026 for its popular Pay to Play program.

Curling instructors Paul Stewart, Barb Horne, and Charlene Ley hosted 15 participants for an afternoon of learning, laughter, and friendly competition. The Pay to Play sessions continue to be a great way for newcomers to be introduced to the sport while giving returning participants more opportunity to build on their skills.

A highlight of the day was welcoming Darryl Moland and four guests who came out to experience curling for the first time. After receiving instruction, the group quickly took to the ice for a fun game alongside Brian Dewolfsmith and a regular Pay to Play participant. One of the new curlers, Ky Pruesse, shared this feedback: “We had a great time learning to curl with our group. I found everyone very friendly and patient with a novice. I’m looking forward to coming back.”

The remaining eight participants were mostly returning Pay to Play customers who brought along family and friends to introduce them to the game. Everyone caught on very quickly and was able to get into several ends of play. The Duncan/Schlichter family enjoyed a spirited match against the Hannah/Ramer team, and it was clear that some very skilled curlers are already developing.

Another participant, Nancy, summed up the experience perfectly: “The Orillia Curling Club has created a space where all ages and skill levels can come together to learn and enjoy a truly Canadian game. The instructors are professional and patient. They encouraged us and provided great feedback and tips to help us improve. This enabled us as a group to feel more confident and aware of our positioning, which helped with balance and accuracy. Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our time on the ice and it has ignited a real passion for the game. We will definitely be back!”

Rob added: “My teenagers were not keen to come for their first session, but our patient teaching team clearly made an impact – they both said it was fun and they would come again. Thanks for your tips and tricks, Charlene!”

Steph added: “Love it Charlene! We had a blast! It can be intimidating for the first time, you and the team made the environment so welcoming. Looking forward to returning.

Butt down and hurry hard!! :) Thank you for making me a curler”



Ladies Invitational "February Fiesta"

Article by: Karen Strain

The Orillia Ladies Invitational Bonspiel 2026 was once again a success! Themed "February Fiesta", teams from Coldwater, Oakville, Cookstown, Elmvale and Orillia curled on Saturday February 7, 2026 competing for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Teams were creative with incredible costumes, sombreros and colourful outfits such as Matadors, the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Wholly Moly Guacamole, the Piñatas and more. The day was fun filled with corn hole and curling games and crazy piñata curling!

1st place – Team Rhonda Thanasse from Orillia (skip-Rhonda Thanasse, vice-Sue Crawford, second-Jane Langman, lead-Fiona Piestras)

2nd place – Team Dianne Kenney from Elmvale (skip-Dianne Kenney, vice-Mary Lynn VanderWielen, second-Joanne Downey, lead-Sue Henry)

3rd place – Team Janet Scarrow from Oakville (skip-Janet Scarrow, vice-Barb Horne, second-Francis Laking, lead-Liz Ross)

Best Costume – Team Janet Scarrow – the Matadors

Games winners – corn hole game–Team Rhonda Thanasse and the curling board game–Team Cathy Dowd and Crazy Piñata Curling – Jen Woolhouse.

50/50 draw winners – Anastazia Sampson and Linda Burton, each taking home one hundred and twenty dollars each.

Special thanks go to the Bayside Restaurant for providing a Mexican cuisine lunch, our sponsors Wes Brennan Construction and Tiffin Creative Centre, Liz Ross for the 50/50 tickets & draw and bonspiel committee Janet Orser-Madigan, Karen Strain, Vivian Nicholson and Lorraine Bergeron.

.... photos on the next page.



A Gleaming Surprise at the Club!

Article by: Charlene Ley

I was greeted with a wonderful surprise after getting off the ice today following a curling instruction session with students from Rama Simcoe Shores School.

While the focus had been on teaching the great game of curling and sharing time with an enthusiastic group of young students, the day was made even brighter upon discovering Ann Kennett hard at work polishing the trophies in our display case.

Ann took on this project entirely on her own initiative — without being asked — and what a tremendous gesture it is. Our trophy case is home to many historic and cherished awards that reflect the pride, dedication, and accomplishments of our members over the years. When freshly polished, these trophies truly gleam with pride and history.

Of course, tarnish has a way of quietly returning, making this polishing effort at least an annual task. Ann's thoughtful initiative ensures our trophies are shining brightly once again — and just in time for the Day of Champions.

A massive shout out and heartfelt thank you to Ann for stepping forward and taking this on.

Your effort is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Our club shines a little brighter because of you!



Stone Texturing

Article by: Tim Kent

Tim Kent, Kevin Bennett and Steve Donald were at the club conditioning the stones.

Here is a description of what texturing the stones means. We used 80 Grit.

Texturing curling stones, also known as "papering," is the process of creating microscopic grooves on the running band (the edge that contacts the ice) using abrasive sandpaper (like 80-100 grit silicon carbide) to increase curl by enhancing friction with the pebbled ice surface, achieved by pushing/pulling and spinning the stone in a jig to create perpendicular scratches that grip the ice, a maintenance step done regularly as stones get polished by play.

Here is a description of what texturing the stones means. This is what Canada Curling Stone did this summer. We have the Blue Hone Granite installed.

Reconditioning curling stones involves restoring their running surface and striking band to original specs by grinding, re-cupping, and polishing the granite to create a fresh, consistent surface, often using diamond tools, and sometimes involves inserting a new blue hone granite or porcelain disc for worn-out stones, bringing back proper curl and playability. This process corrects flat striking bands, brings back the stone's "swing," and extends the life of expensive granite sets, with specialized machinery ensuring precision. Inserts (for severely worn stones): A pocket is machined into the bottom, and a new disc of high-quality Blue Hone granite is bonded in place



Curling Letter from Notre Dame

Dear Orillia Curling Club,

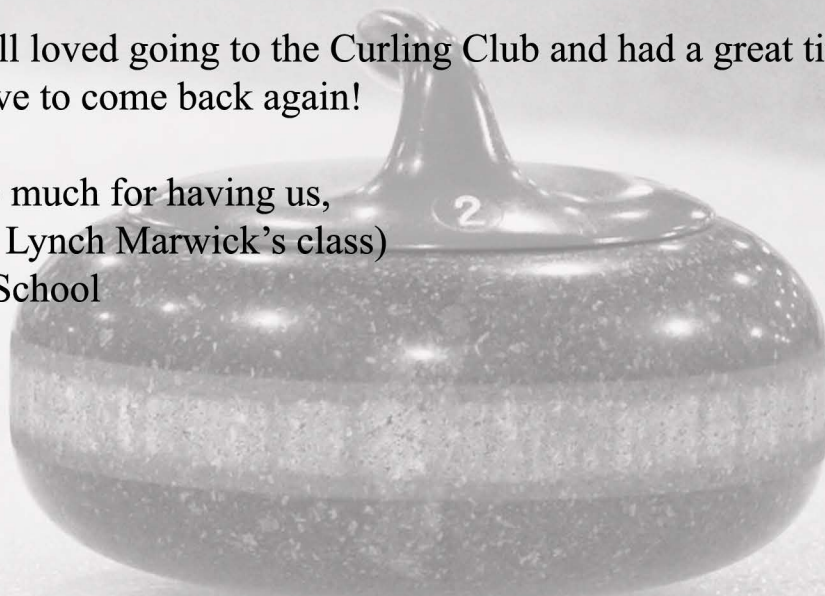
Thank you so much for inviting us to go curling. We had an amazing time, and all of the students really enjoyed our visit to the Orillia Curling Club.

The instructors were awesome. They were very patient, supportive, and encouraging while teaching us how to curl. They didn't rush us at all and took their time explaining the rules and showing us how to play. They were just as excited as we were, which made it even more fun. They also cared a lot about our safety and made sure we knew how to get on and off the ice properly so no one would get hurt.

The staff were also really great. When we arrived, everything we needed was already set up and ready for us. Everyone was very nice, had a great sense of humor, and made us feel welcome. They used the time really well too. Even though we were only there for two hours, they taught us how to play and still had time for us to play a game at the end.

Overall, we all loved going to the Curling Club and had a great time. We learned a lot, had fun, and would love to come back again!

Thank you so much for having us,
Grade 7 (Ms Lynch Marwick's class)
Notre Dame School



Upcoming Important Dates

February 2026

February 20-22, 2026

Ontario Winter Games Curling

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

February 28, 2026

Euchre Social

Orillia Curling Club | 6:00 PM to approx. 9:00 PM

March 2026

March 5, 2026

Simcoe Ladies Interclub Bonspiel

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

March 7, 2026

OCC Doubles Spiel

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

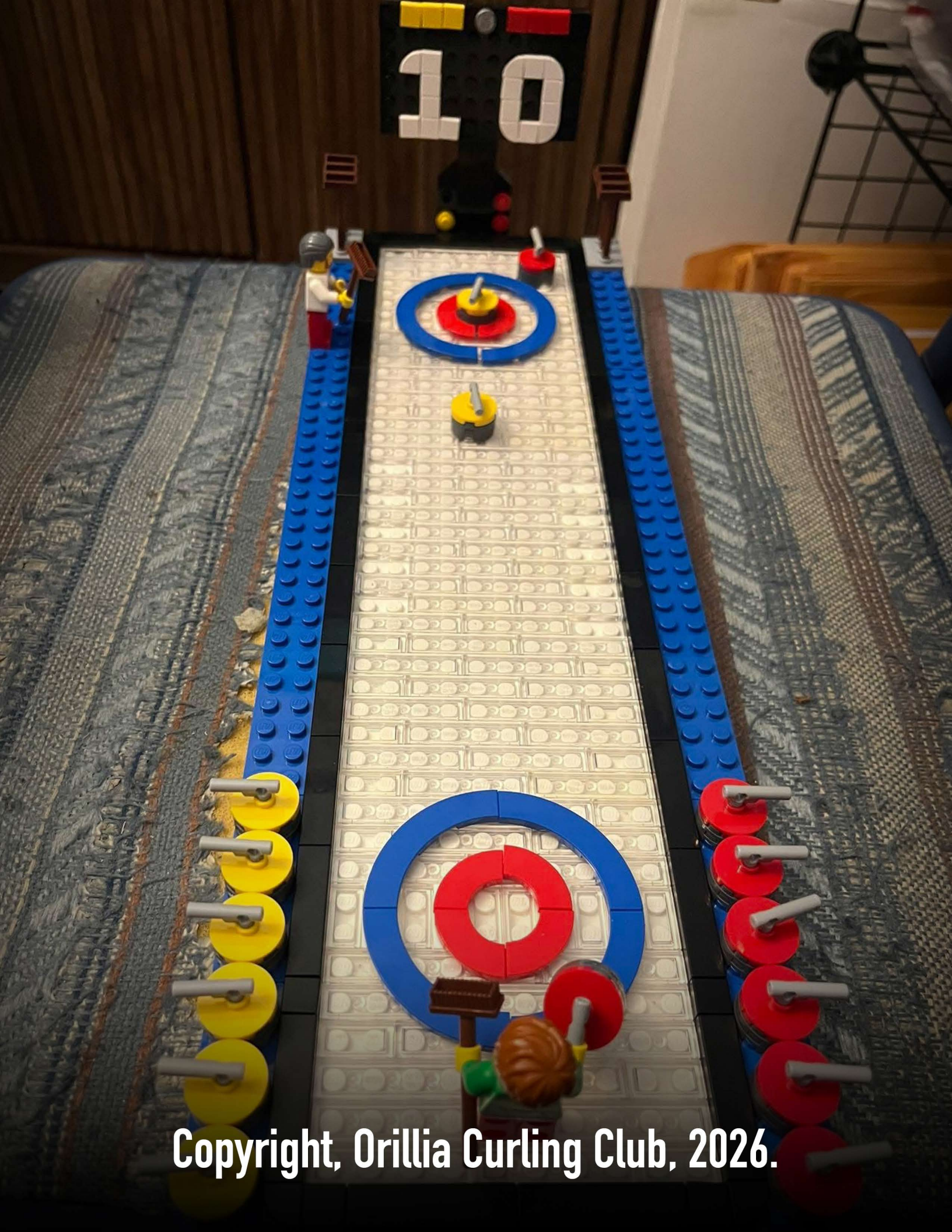
March 21, 2026

Day of Champions

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

March 22, 2026

Orillia Curling Club closed for the season



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