

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ORILLIA CURLING CLUB

# HURRY HARD



*Happy  
New Year*  
2025



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*Orillia Curling Club*

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# Fall Draw Recap: Day Ladies

On Tuesday, December 17th, the Day Ladies section celebrated the end of their Fall Draw with their annual Christmas Bonspiel.

Tuesday Day Ladies top teams:

1st Place - Rhonda Thanasse (skip), Claire Gingrich, Cathy Howes, Colleen Smith

2nd Place - Sandy Becher (skip), Cathy Miske, Deb Rabbitts, Cyndie Timpano

3rd Place - Ildi Connor (skip), Susan Crawford, Deb Glavic, Sharon Beebe

Thursday Day Ladies top teams:

1st Place - Gaby Hart (skip), Claire Gingrich, Deb Glavic, Mary O'Farrell

2nd Place - Ildi Connor (skip), Vera Smith, Irene Heinz, Gail Smith

The main event of the Christmas Bonspiel was the playoff game to determine the overall winner of the Fall Draw. Both Team Thanasse and team Hart were "in it to win it", but the winning team was Team Hart. Thanks to spares Cathy Miske, Vera Smith and Irene Heinz for filling in.

It was a great day of curling for the Hart team, as they also won the Christmas Bonspiel!

The second place winners of the bonspiel were Sandy Becher (skip), Mary Wilson, Pauline Stewart and Merrylynn Fleming.

Committee members Lorraine Bergeron, Ann Ciccini, Ildi Connor, Merrylynn Fleming, Irene Heinz, Jane Langman, Cathy Miller, and Fiona Pietras did an amazing job decorating the lounge for Christmas and organizing this bonspiel!

Many thanks to Jim Wilson Chevrolet Buick GMC for the generous donation!





# Santa drops in to the Orillia Curling Club!

Back in December, Santa dropped in to the Orillia Curling Club on Dec 18 to watch some of the Twin Lakes game against Georgian Bay.

There was quite the discussion going on between the team's youngest supporter and St. Fecht.





# Couchiching Craft Brewing Company takes to the Ice

After a bustling holiday season, the Couchiching Craft Brewing Company team decided to embrace the spirit of winter and unwind with a fun and active post-Christmas celebration. On January 7th, shareholders and staff swapped their usual surroundings for the curling rink, enjoying an afternoon of camaraderie and friendly competition.

The Curling Social, organized by Jennie-May Banks, took place from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and was followed by a cozy dinner at a local restaurant. Twenty-one participants—most of whom had never curled before—formed teams in advance of the event.

To help everyone get started, skilled instructors Tony Baker, Tom Ormsby, Paul Stewart, Connor Earl, Randy, and Charlene Ley provided a crash course in curling basics. Once the lessons wrapped up, the teams hit the ice for some spirited matches.

Both skill and a touch of luck were on display as participants executed their shots, leading to plenty of laughter and a healthy dose of competitive fun. By the end of the day, everyone agreed they'd had a blast learning the ropes of this uniquely Canadian sport.

Who knows? Some may even return to the rink for another go. For now, it's safe to say the Couchiching Craft Brewing Company team enjoyed a well-deserved and memorable break from their busy schedules.







Photos from Couchiching Craft Brewery Company at the Orillia Curling Club on January 7, 2025





Photos from Couchiching Craft Brewery Company at the Orillia Curling Club on January 7, 2025



# Fall Draw Recap: Wednesday Mixed Tag

Santa came to visit the Wednesday Afternoon Mixed Tag league on the last curling day before the Christmas break!

Everyone was on their best behaviour (so as not to be added to the 'naughty' list) and wore their seasonal colours to kick off the holiday in style. Lots of fun was had by all!



Top scorers for the first half of the season for Monday and Wednesday Mixed Tag leagues were as follows:

## LEADER BOARD As @ December 23<sup>rd</sup>



### Monday Afternoon Mixed Tag

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – 36 points Ted Fleming
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 32 points Doug Langman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 31 points Merry Lynn Fleming
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – 28 points Sharon Balkwill
- 5<sup>th</sup> place – 26 points Boris Poredos|

### Wednesday Afternoon Mixed Tag

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – 32 points Dave Boyle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 30 points Doug Langman, Paul Stewart
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 28 points Charlene Ley
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – 27 points John Connor, Greg Irvine, Ken Schamehorn
- 5<sup>th</sup> place – 26 points Vaughn Barry



# Notre Dame Students Return for a Second Curling Session

On January 9th, twenty eager students from Mrs. McWhirter's Grade 7/8 class at Notre Dame braved the winter chill to attend their second curling session. When asked if they were still excited to head out in the cold, their enthusiastic response was a resounding, "Yes, please!"

After traveling via city transit, the students built up their energy with a lunch in the curling club's restaurant. The restaurant staff were impressed with how quiet and respectful the group was, a testament to their excellent behavior.

Once on the ice, the students formed their own teams and refreshed the curling skills they had learned before Christmas. Under the guidance of their instructors, they quickly got into the spirit of competition. All the participants demonstrated enthusiasm, attentiveness, and noticeable improvement in their curling abilities.

The students shared glowing feedback about the session:

"It was really fun."

"The instructors were great, and they were really patient."

"They had really great demonstrations." – Eli

"Curling is definitely better than math." – Noah

"Being the skip is the best role." – Ben

"Curling was fantastic! They were really welcoming, and we appreciated being able to eat in the restaurant when it was so cold."

"They are very generous and nice with their time."

"This was the first time I have ever curled. I had seen it before and it looked boring, but it was actually really fun to play." – Toni

"It made me want to take my family curling because none of them have been before." – Anabelle

The session was such a success that the students are already looking forward to a return visit.

This program would not be possible without the dedication and support of the instructors. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Tom Ormsby, Don Ruggles, Paul and Pauline Stewart, and Randy Ley for their time, patience, and expertise in making the day so enjoyable.

We look forward to hosting the students again and continuing to share the fun and excitement of curling!

– Charlene Ley





# Fall Draw Recap: Tuesday Night Mens

Another Draw has been completed, seems like only yesterday we were trying to locate our curling equipment, to start and now half the season is over.

We had a great first draw, the League was full again this year with 48 players registered to compete, among them were 11 new curlers, or new to our club. Thanks to our clubs ongoing work to recruit and sign new curlers.

The Tuesday Night Men's League had some pretty strong competition during the season. Right up to the last night there were 3 teams tied for 1st place. On the last night these 3 teams each won their final game so the convener had to dig up his slide rule (you young curlers won't know what a slide rule is). The 3 teams were skipped by Jon Woolhouse, Chris Stevenson, and Neil Thomas with 8 and 2 records. Now I should mention here at the half way point of the season, Neil Thomas and his vice, Connor Earl stepped back to play lead and 2nd and elevated Joey Szijarto and Jaxon Bigelow to skip and vice. These two young lads Skip and Vice the Twin Lakes Secondary School team.

The season winner was finally named after totaling all ends won during the 10 game round robin. I should mention here that there was only 4 ends separating 1st and 3rd. The winner was Jon Woolhouse and his team of David Shron, Marty Hutchinson, and Bryson Ley, congrats gentlemen with 8 wins and 53 ends won. In 2nd place Chris Stephenson and his team of Andrew Elias, John Conorton, and John Van Laar with 8 wins and 51 ends won. 3rd place the Neil Thomas's team with 8 wins and 49 ends won. What a close, down to the wire finish.

A few other notable events happened during the season, thanks to Wes Stitt for sponsoring a Turkey Draw in December the winner was Tim Kent who took home a nice turkey and gift basket for Christmas. Congrats Tim.

Also on the last night of our season we had a 50/50 draw raising a total of more than \$750.00 gross. The winner here was once again, Tim Kent. I'm sure he had a great Christmas, Turkey, gift basket and money.

Thanks go to all the curlers in this league for contributing so enthusiastically to our club.

Well that's it for the first draw of our year, the teams are all made up for our 2nd draw to start on Jan 7.

Happy New Year to all.





# Fall Draw Recap: Youth Curling

We are excited to share that our youth league has successfully wrapped up the fall session and we're already looking forward to the start of the winter session! What a fun and energetic time it's been as we watched our young curlers develop their skills and have a blast on the ice.

To cap off the fall session, we held a special Christmas-themed event that brought plenty of holiday cheer. The curlers participated in a fun twist on the game, where each player was challenged to "curl to the rock in the middle of the rink." The goal? To slide their rock towards the center of the ice, and then place a teddy bear on top to mark where their rock landed.

The excitement built as players aimed for the perfect spot! The curler who came closest to the middle rock won a large chocolate Santa as a sweet reward.

With the holiday festivities behind us, we are ready to start the winter session and continue to build on the skills learned in the fall. We can't wait to see everyone back on the ice, ready for more fun and friendly competition!

Many thanks,

Kristen & Abby Keown





# Upcoming Important Dates

## January

***January 18, 2025***

Euchre Social

Orillia Curling Club | 6:00pm - 9:00pm

## February

***February 8, 2025***

Ladies Invitational

Orillia Curling Club | 9:00am - 4:00pm

***February 9, 2025***

Scottish Festival Skate & Curl

Orillia Curling Club | 1:00pm - 4:00pm

***February 15, 2025***

Family Day Bonspiel

Orillia Curling Club | 9:00am - 5:00pm

***February 22, 2025***

OCC Euchre Night

Orillia Curling Club | 6:00pm - 9:00pm

## March

***March 1, 2025***

Doubles Bonspiel

Orillia Curling Club | 9:00am - 4:00pm

***March 22, 2025***

Day of Champions

Orillia Curling Club | 8:00am - 5:00pm





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