

GRANITE GRIPPER



Chatham Granite Club
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No. 2

December 2011

'Message From The President'

The curling season is well on its way thanks to the support of volunteers and members. Many events around the club have kicked off the curling season with overwhelming success. Volunteers have played a key role in some of the changes around the club. League organizers have changed some league formats to improve the curling experience with earlier draw times for the Monday night league and the inclusion of a draft night to the Thursday night league. Volunteers were able to serve almost record crowds at the first Sunday brunch. A new sidewalk was poured at the side of the building prior to the season beginning. These events could not have happened without significant volunteer contribution. Thank you to all who participated.

There are several new members and sponsors around the club this season. I encourage you to welcome new members and encourage them to participate in events outside leagues such as bonspiels, brunches and special events. Company sponsorship around the club has contributed greatly to the overall success of our club. Please take time to thank these companies when you visit their facilities. A special thank you goes out to the organizing committee of the Gala Auction and to those who showed their support. It was a very successful event and the committee achieved their goal of half the cost of a new dehumidifier or condenser. In March, an application for a Trillium Grant will be submitted to cover the remaining costs.

The foundation has been laid for a successful second half of the season. On behalf of the board of directors at the club, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and happy holidays. We hope to see you all in the New Year.

Shawn Winter - President

2011 Gala Auction

On behalf of the Gala Auction Committee, I would like to extend our sincere thank you to the membership and friends of the Club for your support of the Granite Club Gala Auction. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and made this event such a big success.



After all the numbers are in, the Gala Auction raised over \$20,500! Plus we had a ton of fun that evening! This is a great jumpstart on our fundraising efforts for the costs of replacing our ice condenser and dehumidifier.

I would like to personally thank the committee for their hard work and efforts planning this event. Their attitude, enthusiasm and creativity made the night a success!

Rachel Faust – Chair Gala Auction

*Rachel Faust (Chair)
Melanie & Ed DeSchutter
Greg Payne
Chad MacGregor*

*Ben & Julie Curtis
Betsy Buchanan
Bev Dekoning
Grace Patterson*

OCA Bonspiel Events

We need your help fellow curlers and volunteers!!!

We have 3 upcoming OCA events the Chatham Granite Club is hosting and we are in dire need for volunteers. We welcome anyone that would like to raise some money for their prospective leagues (Ladies, Junior's, Senior's or Men's) or if you are just willing to help out! We require kitchen help for Saturday lunches at these events and possible Sunday lunches as well (i.e. Soup & Sandwich).

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated and I know that the players that participate in these events also appreciate having lunch onsite.

The events and dates that we need help with are as follows,

- 1) Colts Zones - Feb 17th - Feb 19th (Lunch on Feb 18th and possibly 19th)**
- 2) Bantam Mixed - Feb 24 - Feb 26th (Lunch on Feb 25th and possibly 26th)**
- 3) Mixed Regions - Mar 24th - Mar 25th (Lunch on Mar 24th and possibly 25th)**

If you are able to support the club and help with any of these events please contact:

Perry Smyth - OCA Rep (519-365-2168) or John Young - Club Manager (519-352-4324)



Spares for Leagues

Any curler who needs a spare for league play is encouraged to look to the spare list posted at the club. Curlers may source spares from outside the club at a cost of \$15.00 per game payable by the skip to John Young. Spares sourced from outside the club may curl a maximum of 3 games only.

Bonspiels

Men's Tier 55

The bonspiel season got off to a roaring success on November 9 as the Granite Club played host the Men's Tier 55 event. Convener Ron Robertson and his committee of Mike Hastings, Jim Steele and George Armstrong worked hard to give the eighteen teams a competitive and enjoyable day.

The early draw was won by Roger Taillieu's Kingsville rink while the late draw was captured by the Granite Club's Ken Chittim foursome which included Bob Thompson at Lead, Larry Wood at Second and Val Duguay at Vice.

The committee would like to thank Hugh's Carpet and Upholstery for sponsoring the event.

We will bring in the New Year with the Granite Club hosting two prestigious events. The annual Mixed Two Day Bonspiel will be held on January 7 & 8 and the long running DeKoning Senior Mixed will be held the following Saturday, January 14. Sign up and play or volunteer to help because it's always fun to be at the Club.

Chatham Granite Cash Spiel

The second running of the Chatham Granite Cashspiel was a huge success this year. Ben Curtis convened the event and managed to get the team participation up to 16 Men's teams and added an 8 team Women's event to round out the weekend. Teams travelled from Ohio to Toronto to participate in this event! The Men's Title was won by Sarnia's Tom Pruliere, and the Women's Title was won by Ilterton's Amy Shackleton. (Honorable mention to our own Melanie DeSchutter and Charlene Haluk-McMahon who played on this team) Congratulations!!! A total purse of \$10,000 was paid out to those participating.

We hope to grow the event again next year, so we will be looking for volunteers to help out!

A special thanks also needs to be extended to those who helped by volunteering at the event. Betsy Buchanan for making all of the delicious food, Julie Curtis and Grace Patterson for helping with the serving and preparing, and Melanie & Ed DeSchutter for helping with keeping scores updated on the OCT Website. Also a big thank you to John Young Jr. and the bar staff for all of their efforts as well.

Holly & Mistletoe Bonspiel

The Chatham Granite Club Ladies' Division hosted 18 teams at their annual Holly & Mistletoe Bonspiel. Teams from London, Leamington, Kingsville, Blenheim, Windsor, Sarnia and Chatham participated. Julie Armstrong's rink from Leamington – Sunparlour won the 1st draw and Helen Lockhart's rink from London – Highland won the 2nd draw. Gayle Annett's rink from Roseland – Windsor had an 8 Ender in their second game.

Once again Stan's Flowers sponsored the bonspiel. They provided beautiful fresh arrangements as well as fruit baskets and live plants with seasonal decorations. Zeona's served a delicious lunch.

Many thanks are extended to an outstanding organizing committee of Faye Geddes, Nora Snelgrove, Mary Lou Wood, and Mary Beth Jackson. Thanks to Larry Wood and Jon Wood who again volunteered their services as draw masters. We would also like to recognize and thank our greeters Jann Parry-Wickett and Helen Campbell as well as Helen Semmler and Glynda Slade who sold tickets for the Penny Sale. Sue Carnell assisted with the morning refreshments and Karen Sich worked in the kitchen for the day. Thank you to all the ladies who once again donated wonderful prizes to the Penny Sale table as well as delicious baked goodies for the morning snacks. Our guests were very complimentary of all our efforts.

Finally we extend thanks to Brenda at the bar as well as John Young who was extremely helpful in making everything run so smoothly. It was a fun day!

Bob Thompson



Chatham Granite Club – League Information

Monday Night Mixed League

Monday Night curling has a couple of new teams for this year, nice to see the interest continue. After a bit of confusion to start the year we are rolling along amidst the 1st draw. The first draw is a round robin format with everyone getting a chance to play each other. This hopefully will add to the social aspect of the league.

Our Christmas potluck was on the 19th and from the attendance I believe it was well received. Two boxes of food and \$40 were collected for the local food bank.

We are always looking for names to add to the Monday night spare list. If so interested, please contact the club, Craig or Rand.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season and look forward to a fun 2012.

Craig Weldon & Rand MacIntosh

Tuesday Morning Ladies

Tuesday Day Ladies league had an excellent turnout for the first draw with eleven teams and one draw at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Four new curlers joined our league this year. Instruction was provided at the beginning and end of the draw to refresh curling skills, and to work on game strategy. Our next draw begins on January 3 in the New Year with nine teams curling on Tuesday morning.

The Eva Granger trophy was presented to the Jill Slaughter team comprised of Mary Thompson, Sandy Rizzetto and Ruth Archibald. Second place team was the Maureen Coleman team made up of Elaine Blain, Cheryl Cooper and Mary Anne Espie. The third place team was Brenda Taylor's team made up of Glynda Slade, Jane Marie Ward, and Carolyn Scoyne. Congratulations to all members of these teams. Well done!

Our first potluck lunch on November 15th was very well attended and the food was terrific. Thank you to all the ladies that helped to organize the meal and who brought all of those fabulous dishes. This was followed by our Christmas luncheon on December 13th organized by Carolyn Waddick who always does such a superb job putting it together. Present curlers and former curlers joined us for a total of 77 ladies who were in attendance at our annual Christmas luncheon. It was wonderful to be able to visit with many of our former curlers.

The ladies have donated \$500 to the club for the purchase of a defibrillator, and they made a commitment to purchase a new coffee machine for the kitchen in the near future.

Maureen Coleman
dcoleman@ciaccess.com

Tuesday Afternoon Men

During the curling season Tuesday afternoon is a convenient time to get a game in for any men members of the Granite Club. Most of the group are regular's, however we welcome any men Club member to join in for a game, periodically or for the season.

We will assist putting your name tag on the active Name Board for you to pull and chose one of the four jitney style team positions for an afternoon of curling.

The Tuesday Men extend a yummy thank you to the Tuesday Ladies for inviting our group for Pot Luck luncheons a few times during the year.... just prior to one of our regular scheduled game.

Up to mid season we have enjoyed filling 5 sheets; Some with either full teams or having a few sheets playing with 3 per team, so we do have room for you!

Ron Robertson started our season with a senior's invitational bonspiel at our Club and our members have many opportunities to enter a team in out of town Tier 55 Bonspiels (age qualification is 55 and +++) all season long. The guys have approved a league donation of \$500 towards the purchase of a new defibrillator.

Prior to the Christmas break there is a "Turkey Shoot Raffle" with a variety of prizes.

Coming up Gary Eagleson is organizing our own high caliber "Skins Game". A "Skills Competition" which adds to our fun is being organized by Ron Robertson.

But I will have to admit, our main interest over the season is to just come and have a great afternoon of curling.

We invite you to join us on a regular basis, or join us when you can.

Paul Johnston

Wednesday Night Ladies Curling

Our curling season began with our annual fashion show on Oct 5th, 2011. Each Wednesday, our group of ladies has been enjoying fun-filled, competitive curling. The first draw was won by Mary Robertson, Maureen Coleman, Kyla Hayward & Alanna Aarssen.

The 2nd draw will begin Jan 4th, 2012 for which we are looking for a few more ladies or high school students to curl. If you are interested, please phone Brenda Taylor at 354-1212.

Brenda Taylor

Thursday Afternoon Mixed Curling

Here we are almost half way through another curling season. Thursday afternoons have been doing just fine and having lots of fun!

We usually use only 4 ices, so if you know anyone who would like to join us, ask them to come to the club Thursday afternoon about 12:15 -12:30, as we get started at 12:45.

Delbert Lorenz

Men's Thursday Night Flight Curling

Our Thursday Flight is going well so far this year! We are up in numbers this year with 26 teams playing. We are now into our Second Round for this season.

Congratulations to the winners of our First Round:

- ***A Flight – Team Ben Curtis***
- ***B Flight – Team Dan O'Neill***
- ***C Flight – Team Jerry Ferster***
- ***D Flight – Team Brian Sims***

This year we had added a Draft night, where we mix up the players and skips pick their new teams for 1 night of fun playing. The Draft night of play will be on January 19. The draft was a success and now everyone is looking forward to getting to know the new players on their team. It should show to be a fun night of curling. Curlers should check on the board at the club to see who their new skip is for this night.

We're looking forward to some more good curling over the remainder of the season.

Greg Payne
pppowerwash@live.com

Friday Night Curling

Pay as you play is back on Friday nights. Eight weeks into the season we have had an extremely good turnout of experienced and new curlers. Members curl for free and this is a great opportunity for you to bring your friends to the club so that they can pay \$10 and try out the game! Lessons are available to new curlers and teams are made up Friday evening shortly before game time. Curling starts at 7 p.m. but get there early if you want a lesson.

Sign up sheets are posted every week and spots are limited so make sure you sign up before Friday. Come out for some social curling and bring a friend to introduce them to the game!

If you are looking for a Christmas gift idea, I have "pay as you play cards" for Friday nights, 6 plays for \$50. What a great stocking stuffer!

Two dates to keep in mind:

- ***Friday December 16 is our Friday night pot luck Christmas party.***
- ***Friday March 30 2012 is the date of the Friday year end bonspiel.***

My best wishes to everyone for a very Merry Christmas & a Happy and prosperous 2012!

See you on the ice!

Paul Bowman

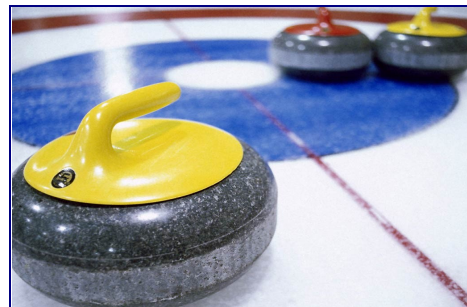
Junior Curling Program

The Sunday Junior Curling group now has 50 members registered. All curlers participated in a review of safety, etiquette, good sportsmanship and technique, and are now working in groups learning the game through fun drills and games. We would like to welcome our new assistant coach, Don Taylor, and would like to thank our Junior Coaches; Meghan, Emily, Ben, Tye, Matt, Cameron, and Aiden. Thanks also to Ron Robertson for his assistance this fall. We recently held our 'Christmas Curl', where curlers dress in seasonal attire, play fun games & help out those less fortunate by donating a non-perishable to our local food bank. The coaching staff is developing players for the upcoming OCA Bantam Level Competitions. The OCA Skills Award Program will challenge curlers in the New Year. Some of the kids have participated in bonspiels, and junior curlers have volunteered during the Sunday Brunches. Thanks to our parent volunteers & our coaching staff, keep up the good work!! Wishing everyone a safe & happy holiday!!

*****All Curlers & Spectators Must Clean Their Shoes At the Front Entrance of the Club*****

Junior Coaching Staff:

*Ken Campbell
Craig Weldon
Don Taylor
Ken Poole*



FUNDRAISING

November was a very successful month for fund raising. On November 13th we held our first brunch of the year with over 200 attending and we cleared over \$600. Special thanks go out to Bob Allen and his hard working volunteer group who continue to make this the best brunch in Chatham. The next 2 brunches are set for January 29th and February 26th....make sure you mark your calendars with these dates.

On November 26th we held our Gala Auction and thanks to Rachel Faust and all her committee it was an overwhelming success. Greg Hetherington did another great job as auctioneer and we cleared over \$20,000 which will be put towards a new dehumidifier and chiller which will need to be replaced in the near future. Also, thanks to all who donated items, attended and made this so successful with their generous bidding.

The toonie draw is continuing every week and quite often there is a carryover so remember to get your toonie in before 9 pm on Thursday. You can also pay ahead to cover the whole year so just see John in the office and he will let you know how many weeks are remaining for this year.

Reg Johnson

House & Property Report

Season's Greetings,

The curling season is now almost half over. I hope all have enjoyed it so far. The club has made some improvements over the past few months. Thanks to a successful fundraiser there are more improvements to be made in the future.

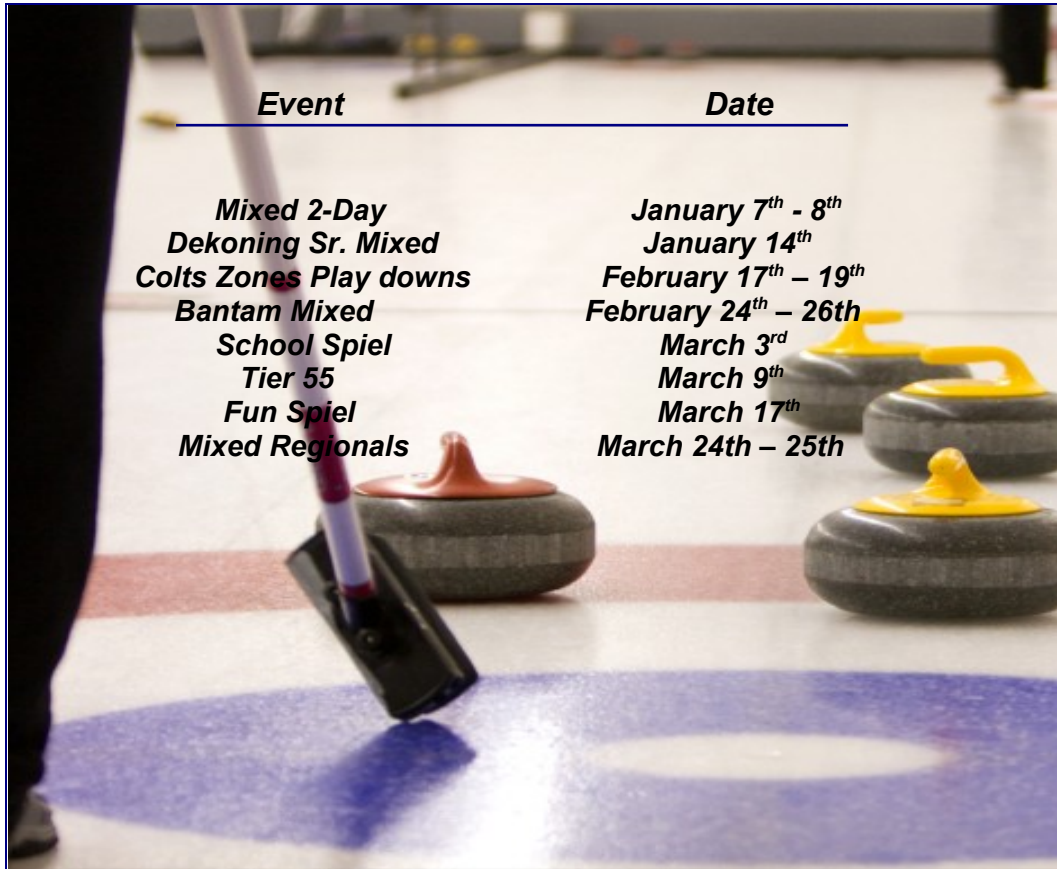
At the beginning of the season the walkway from the back of the legion to the back of the curling club was replaced. Huge thanks goes to Willy Vanheste and his company W.V. Concrete for donating the labor to pour the walkway. Dresden Read-Mix donated the cement. I would also like to thank the volunteers who came out to remove the old walkway: Bill Patterson, Rand MacIntosh, Ed DeSchutter, Melanie DeSchutter, Perry Smyth, CJ Hartford, Addam Lansens, Greg Payne, Grace Patterson, and Heyink Construction.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the ice, building, and property please direct them to me.

Mark Patterson
markwpatterson@sympatico.ca

BONSPIELS

Below is a list of the remaining club-sponsored bonspiels for the 2011 - 2012 season. The conveners are usually looking for some assistance if any members would like to volunteer or help out.



<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Mixed 2-Day</i>	<i>January 7th - 8th</i>
<i>Dekoning Sr. Mixed</i>	<i>January 14th</i>
<i>Colts Zones Play downs</i>	<i>February 17th - 19th</i>
<i>Bantam Mixed</i>	<i>February 24th - 26th</i>
<i>School Spiel</i>	<i>March 3rd</i>
<i>Tier 55</i>	<i>March 9th</i>
<i>Fun Spiel</i>	<i>March 17th</i>
<i>Mixed Regionals</i>	<i>March 24th - 25th</i>

Curling

A sport for all ages, A sport for life!!!

“It Rocks!!!!”



Happy Holidays!



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