

WELCOME TO THE 2017-18 CURLING SEASON

Hello Fellow Curlers,

It is hard to believe that we are into the last few days of August. Time certainly flies. I trust that you have appreciated my occasional photos of the construction progress of Phase II. Many thanks goes to all those members on the building committee and the fund raising committee that have put in countless hours bringing this from a concept to a reality. Also I wish many thanks to all those who have contributed financially.

Plans are being worked out to host an open house and then a grand opening for a date in October. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

I would like to thank Member Harry Willemse for his service on the Board of Directors for the past three years, and for his ongoing work in the house committee. I would also like to thank Member Juliette Pearson for stepping forward to join the Board. I am sure her contribution will be a positive asset to our club.

The curling season is rapidly approaching and as usual we have asked that each member helps in some way to volunteer at least eight hours of your time this season to help keep costs down. This can be achieved in various ways. Those of you with Smart Serve are needed for bar duties of course, but, those of us that choose not to have Smart Serve can act as Bar Captains and organize a bar team's times at the bar. There is a spot on the form if you wish to take the Smart Serve course. This has worked well in the past few years and I am sure it will work well again this year. If that isn't your cup of tea, perhaps helping convene in one of our many bonspiels might suit you better. This entails such things as recruiting teams and players, assisting on the day of the event by helping in the kitchen, or calculating the scoring, or even snapping pictures of the participants. The opportunities to volunteer are endless. There is also a need to help with youth curling, be it the BBQ's they have at Foodland and the Forest Farmers' Market or on Sunday helping with the training. I would also like to encourage you to consider taking on a spot in the Board of Directors. This task might seem mundane, but it is an important aspect of any successful organization and from my experience, it is an education in itself, and very rewarding to see our continued success and growth. Please give these different tasks some consideration. To be sure you are well fitted for at least one or two of these jobs that in the end help keep the costs as low as possible.

Electrical power continues to be the major expense, but, we have members of the house committee working long and hard to find avenues to reduce these costs.

The first event of the season is the annual Pork Chop BBQ planned for Friday, 8 September at Kimball Hall. Tickets are available from Board members, the Forest Remax office, Woods and Pearsons and Sheri Flater's office. The cost is \$17.00 and the meal is amazing. This is another way of volunteering as you probably have seen other messages concerning this event. It has contributed greatly to where this club is today, with the expanded barrier free facility that will only be a drawing card for people interested in moving to this community and hopefully joining the club.

On that note, Board Member Gerald Cates is working on displays at the Pork Chop BBQ and the Forest Fair. He is also planning some of our very successful "Bring a Buddy" events that did generate some membership growth last year. He is also tapping into Curl ON, (new for OCA) for displays and hand outs. This is a way to get a bang for our buck as part of your registration fees go to membership in Curl ON. Contact Gerald if you would be willing to help at the Fair.

With a couple of minor adjustments we have endeavoured to hold the line on the fee structure.

There is so much to talk about, but, I don't wish to bore you. Please return your membership form and toonie form by 7 October, 2017. Also included is a list of "Learn to Curl" dates under "Latest News".

Good Curling in 2017-18,

Ward