



## THE ROYAL MONTREAL CURLING CLUB

# News...from the Hack!

April 2018

### The Jackson Three

All three Ladies' teams from Royal Montreal were winners in this year's Jackson Competition. The games were played at Mt. Bruno, St Lambert and TMR on Thursday, March 22nd. This is a first (to win all our games) for our club! Pictured below: Pat Ackman, Mary Whittemore, Marilyn Gillies, Jane Allan, Tracy Johnston, Bev Hutchison, Barbara MacLeod-Rey, Simone Roy Nancy Buzzell, Brede Merrigan, Rose Marie Martin, and Addie Hare. Myrna Southam, an honorary member, joined us for lunch at L' Académie on Crescent Street, for a celebratory lunch.



### Last day to curl: April 26

We will be starting the process of closing down the ice early on April 27th, so the last day of ice availability for this season will be April 26th. We hope you enjoy it as much as possible before then.

*Foot fair, draw to a hair.  
Your stone being well directed.  
You'll hit your aim and win your game.  
If you miss, be not dejected.*

## Irish pub night blamed for Ladies' loss

A two-rink entry lost by one point to St Lambert in the Birks competition, a Ladies Curling Association event, on March 15. Players suspected the previous night's revelries might have contributed.



The Ladies would like to take this opportunity to thank our brilliant chef, Jean Denis, and Sophie for the excellent meals provided each Mon. and Thurs. following mixed curling. (Do we curl so we can have lunch or do we have lunch because we have curled?) **The "Closing Lunch" for the Monday and Thursday Mornings Mixed League will be held on MONDAY APRIL 16th.**

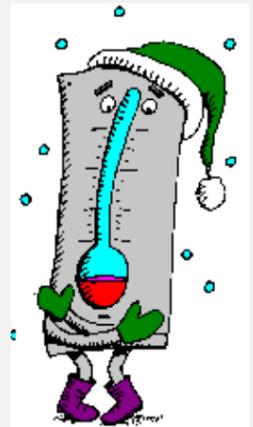
## Guess which member....

*...has been a huge fan of Napoleon Bonaparte since he was a kid. "I am on the board of the Souvenir Napoléonien in France and my hobby is Napoleonic and French Revolutionary history. I even built a guillotine, which I put on my lawn during Hallowe'en."*

*Find out on page 8, and make a note to give his house a pass on Hallowe'en.*

## Furnace on the fritz

Our ice furnace has failed again. Given the time of the year with the really cold weather behind us and the relatively high costs to bring in the repair company, we won't be trying to fix it before next season. So, bundle up and brush hard!



## April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chicken League (Blacklock) closing dinner



Who won the league? How much fun did we have? What is the answer to the great Question of Life, the Universe and Everything? We don't know! But we do know that chicken is on the menu and no doubt the chef will have some tasty treat for the herbivores. Come one, come all to celebrate Chicken League! Hosted by Head Cock, Chris Foote.



### Wednesday guest speaker luncheons

Date	Speaker/Subject
April 4	Paul Desmarais III, Artificial Intelligence
April 11	Marc Garneau, MP for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce



Jenny Jasper, Administrative Assistant,  
Michael Stearns, Club President, at Pub Night

## President's message:

Dear Members,

As our season draws to a close, most leagues are beginning their play-offs and I wish all teams the best. Please attend your closing league dinners and the club final dinner, it's your chance to cap off the season with friends before trading brooms for rackets and clubs...

If you have noticed new faces in the club but don't have a name, introduce yourself! We have several new members who have joined on our 'Olympic Special offer' and we want to build their satisfaction of the club, on and off the ice, before the ice goes out April 27th.

Many thanks to Greg Brown for organizing a fantastic St-Patrick's Pub Night. Great music, food and dancing (should probably keep the microphone away from the President...).

Shot of the week: Our own Suzanne Pitre expertly managed a quadruple take-out at Spoons last Saturday. The stones parted like flower petals in the morning sun...well done Suzanne!

Good curling to all.

*Michael Stearns*

## Message du president:

Chers membres,

Alors que notre saison touche à sa fin, la plupart des ligues commencent leurs séries éliminatoires et je souhaite le meilleur à toutes les équipes. Assistez à vos dîners de clôture et au dîner final du club, c'est votre chance de clôturer la saison avec des amis avant d'échanger des balais pour des raquettes de tennis et des bâton de golf ...

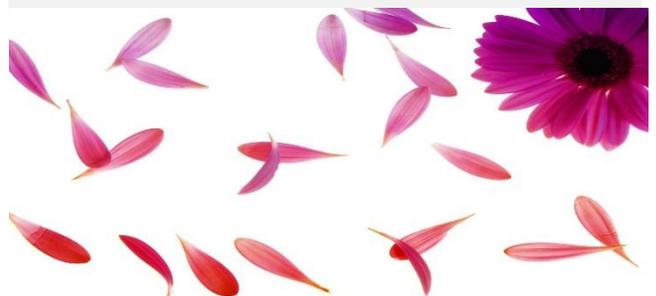
Si vous avez remarqué de nouveaux visages dans le club mais que vous n'avez pas de nom, présentez-vous! Nous avons plusieurs nouveaux membres qui se sont joints avec notre «offre spéciale olympique» et nous voulons bâtir leur appréciation du club, sur et hors glace, avant que la glace ne disparaisse le 27 avril.

Un grand merci à Greg Brown d'avoir organisé une fantastique soirée de pub pour la Saint-Patrick. Belle musique, délicieux repas et de la danse (on devrait probablement garder le microphone loin du Président ...).

Coup de la semaine: Notre propre Suzanne Pitre a réussi un quadruple 'take-out' à Spoons samedi dernier. Les pierres se séparaient comme des pétales de fleurs au soleil du matin ... Bravo Suzanne!

Bon curling à tous.

*Michael Stearns*



## Board meeting recap – March 15

Members of the board met March 15 to consider options for the preparation of a business plan, to be presented to the membership at the June AGM. The board decided to appoint Tony Kalhok, member, to lead the preparation and implementation of a three-to-five year operating plan.

A formal, financial status report will be presented to members at the AGM which will cover the 2017/18 results and a best estimate forecast for 2018/19. It was determined that the upcoming season, in addition to member curling, will focus on maximizing unused ice time for rentals and reducing costs in all areas.

In addition to rentals, there needs to be a push for other sources of revenue, such as corporate advertising in the ice shed. The board resolved to pursue all sources of advertising revenue with opportunities to be reviewed by the board, as required.

With the anticipated increase in rentals next season, it was noted that the club may require more coaching “volunteers” from the membership to supplement the work of the three certified coaches that the club currently uses. The RMCC’s contract with Curlzone (Martin Cavanaugh) is also under review to determine scope and responsibilities for next season.



## 172nd Thistle Friendly – Monday April 9



The Thistle Friendly competition originates back in 1846, three years after the founding of The Thistle Curling Club (1843). Although Thistle no longer has its own building, the members have kept the charter and it still exists as a curling entity, competing in various regional bonspiels, including The RMCC Centenary Cup.

This year’s competition with select RMCC curlers will take place Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be one draw at 6pm followed by dinner.

## Kurling for Kids – April 7



RMCC's goal this year is \$23,000, and everybody at the club can help us reach that, even if you are not curling:

1. Sell some raffle tickets – get a book of 25 tickets from Sebastian (bar) or Jenny (RMCC office). Tickets are \$5 each – and there are 20 great prizes to be won – including two tickets anywhere Westjet flies plus \$1000 for accommodations. And the winning is real – last year our own Sarah Leask won the grand prize, and travelled to Hawaii in January!
2. Buy tickets from someone else at the club, or someone on a team. You can buy them in person or buy them online (from a team participant).
3. Sponsor someone at the club who is playing on a team – it's easy to make a donation through their online K4K page – and you'll get a tax receipt for everything over \$20.

### -Neat team names:

Congratulations to the following teams that have signed up to play at the RMCC:

- ❖ **The Financial Rocks:** Brian Casey, Carmen Melfi, Frank Settino, Lynn Waterston
- ❖ **If you ain't Hutch, you ain't much:** Beverley Hutchison, Jaime Hutchison, Deanna Allen, Lily Hutchison, Maya Hutchison
- ❖ **Sandstones:** Evan Sinclair, Mitsuko Sakamoto, Nigel Sinclair, Sandy Chisholm
- ❖ **Chicken Run:** Guy Gagnon, Paul Adamson, Sara Johnson, Wendy Cude
- ❖ **Hack Attack:** Benoit Turcotte, Gabriel Rondeau, Sarah Leask, Simon-Bélanger-Gagnon
- ❖ **I swept with your wife:** Andrew Wood, Donald McLaren, Luc-André Girard, Tracy Johnstone
- ❖ **Rock Raisers:** Jean Béland, Keith Wilson, Marie Béland, Phil Stote
- ❖ **Hogliners:** Frits Beran, James Mathewson, Jessica Mathewson, Marc Gélinas
- ❖ **Broom Service:** Brian Patterson, Dory Reimer, Matthew Patterson, Ronald Gallant
- ❖ **The Sheet Disturbers:** Addie Petronko, Betty O'Connor, Lorri Faughnan, Patricia Ackman
- ❖ **The Chicks:** Claudia Melka, Patricia Forbes, Suzanne Pitre, Toni Nazair
- ❖ **Khonsonant Khurlrs:** Caroline Tabah, John Hladky, Shawn Mativetsky, Wojciech Galuszka



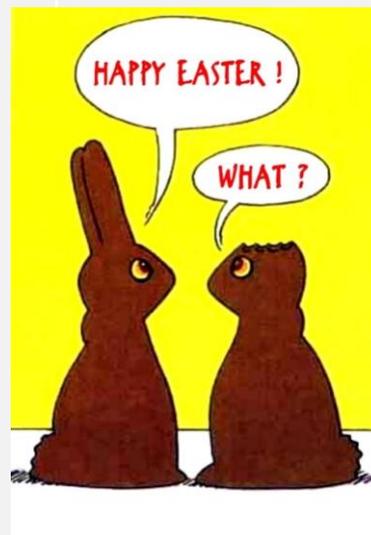
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- ❖ Last mini bonspiel of the season.
- ❖ Come watch what will be the best event ever!
- ❖ Good seats still available.
- ❖ Incredible shot-making!
- ❖ Action packed!
- ❖ Awesome team dynamics!!

<p><b>A1</b> Suzanne Pitre Carl Daviau Marie Béland Dory Reimer</p> <p><b>A2</b> John Neary Nick Backman Suzanne Coté Hadwen White</p> <p><b>A3</b> Ian Swain Sarah Leask John Montgomery Yingjie Qian Ron Gallant</p> <p><b>A4</b> Chris Foote J. P. Picard Stéphane Frignon Renée Lavigne</p>	<p><b>B1</b> David Tait Michael Stearns Andy Tucker Tracy Johnstone</p> <p><b>B2</b> John Hladky Addie Petronko Louis Bédard Ralph Faraggi</p> <p><b>B3</b> Jaime Hutchison Luc-André Girard Anatole Manniste Betty O'Connor</p> <p><b>B4</b> Benoit Turcotte Deanna Allen Jim Mathewson John Gallop</p>	<p><b>C1</b> Josh Levy Steve Backman Glen Nobes Anna Faraggi</p> <p><b>C2</b> Tim Lapin Glenn Rourke Sara Johnson Bradley Thompson</p> <p><b>C3</b> Charles Baudinet John Morris Matt Bean Wojciech Galuszka</p> <p><b>C4</b> Chris Kovalchuk Giovina Rogers Esther Wearing Guy Gagnon</p>	<p><b>Spares</b> Paul Adamson Wendy Cude Cheryl Falconer Shawn Mativetski</p>
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Time	Sheet	Thurs April 12	Mon April 16	Tues April 17
18:00	1	A1 vs A2	C1 vs C3	C2 vs C3
	2	A3 vs A4	C4 vs C2	B2 vs B3
	3	B1 vs B2	B4 vs B2	A1 vs A4
20:15	1	B3 vs B4	B1 vs B3	C4 vs C1
	2	C1 vs C2	A1 vs A3	B1 vs B4
	3	C3 vs C4	A2 vs A4	A2 vs A3

*Closing  
Dinner &  
Awards  
Night*

*Friday,  
April 20,  
2018*

*Drinks at 6pm  
Dinner at 7pm  
Dancing to follow  
Price: \$50*

*Theme:  
Celebrate the  
night in  
Black & White  
(casual chic)*

*Awards will be  
given out between  
main course and  
dessert so our curlers  
can be truly  
recognized.*

*RSVP  
at the office  
or via the sign-up  
sheet on the  
bulletin board*

## Ice Committee Report

Alas, the season's end approaches. By all (well almost all) accounts, despite the odd idiosyncrasy that developed occasionally, our ice was top-notch this year as attested to not only by Members but also by visiting teams.

We need to continue this into next year and will be working hard to ensure it happens. Meanwhile we shall shortly solicit member opinions on ice-related matters by way of a short survey. All input is welcomed and remember - to be heard you must provide feedback. Enjoy the last weeks of curling.

Glenn Rourke, Chair, Ice Committee

## Jacques Cartier Friendly

On March 24, 2018, the annual friendly competition against the Jacques Cartier curling club was played in Quebec. Since its beginning, in 1963, those matches are played on a yearly basis, alternatively in Montreal and Quebec, as a 12-ends where the brooms are staked after completion of 6 ends. The competition involved three teams for each club and the total points decides the winner. Starting in 2013, the total scoring was closed after 50 years. Before the 2018 match, each team had accumulated 167 points. This year the RMCC's three teams (skipped by Steph Perron, Tim Lapin and Ian Swain) scored 23 points while the Jacques Cartier's teams (skipped by Pascal Chouinard, Mathieu Paquet and Derek White) had 38 points.

## Member profiles

The *Hack* asked these folks to complete the following phrases:



**Stéphane Frignon**  
Member 2013



**Mark Billings**  
Member 2006



**Brede Merrigan**  
Member 2007

**I joined the RMCC because:**

*I had a curling course in CEGEP, loved it and wanted to keep playing after that.*

*the Outremont Curling Club closed down in 2005 and I needed a new home. RMCC seemed logical since I knew some people from playing in the Centenary Tournament.*

*I joined the RMCC at the recommendation of Betty O' Connor and Marilyn Gillies, both enthusiastic curlers.*

**When asked what I do for a living, I reply:**

*Currently, accounting (financial analyst) for IT company.*

*I finance mining projects around the world. These properties contain mostly gold and silver, but there are also some unusual things like scandium.*

*Retired since 2007 from nursing management.*

**In the summer, you will find me:**

*On a tennis court or on a terrace somewhere downtown.*

*in the swimming pool at the Y, on the bike path, or on a nice terrace enjoying a fine glass of wine.*

*On the golf course or walking on Mount Royal.*

**A passion and a pet peeve:**

*Passion: Sports in general and travelling.  
Peeve : Waiting on people who arrive late.*

*Passion: Napoleon Bonaparte.  
Peeve: untidiness.  
Dunno why but messiness bothers me.*

*Passion: family, classical music, jazz and good wine.  
Peeve: cold tea and corked wine.*

## Kettle Moraine Curling Club pays us a visit

Samedi, le 3 mars dernier nous avons eu de la belle visite au RMCC. En effet, des membres de l'équipe féminine du **Kettle Moraine Curling Club, Hartland, Wisconsin** sont venues visiter le Club avant de poursuivre leur route vers Montebello. Pat Forbes et Marie Béland ont rejoint Suzanne Pitre pour accueillir ces curleuses américaines. Elles ont vivement apprécié leur visite et elles ont été impressionnées par notre riche histoire et par la beauté du club. Nous nous sommes laissées avec la ferme intention de se revoir sur une glace de curling.



Marie Béland, Carol Stevenson, Pat Forbes, Suzanne Pitre et Toni Nazair (absente).

Submitted by Suzanne Pitre



From left to right: Pat Van Till, Bonnie Dixon (Past Presidents of the United States Women's Curling Association (USWCA)), Chris Holding, Mary Rasmussen, Millie Buege, Suzanne Pitre, Kathy Hyslop, Carol Stevenson (USWCA Past President).

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Saturday, March 3rd we had a nice visit to the RMCC. Indeed, members of the women's team from the **Kettle Moraine Curling Club in Hartland, Wisconsin** came to visit the RMCC before continuing on to Montebello. Pat Forbes and Marie Béland joined Suzanne Pitre to host these American curlers. They greatly appreciated their visit and were impressed by our rich history and the beauty of the club. We left with the firm intention to meet again on ice !

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## Irish pub night photo collage



## Curling and good manners – like peas and carrots

A few weeks ago, I witnessed a verbal tussle on the ice following what appeared to me to be a minor indiscretion. I thought about starting a “Miss Manners” column to answer readers’ questions about rules and etiquette. My plan was to launch the column with a fabricated question in the hopes that I might get one or two “real” ones for the next newsletter. However, in my research, I stumbled upon a 2010 blog post on the Curling Canada web site, by Jean Mills, that explains our “mannerly” sport better than I ever could. Have at ‘er, Jean:



*“I remember it clearly: during one of the first games I ever curled, my skip gave me the evil eye as I slid down the side of the sheet talking to one of my teammates. I looked up and caught his piercing gaze and the motion of his gloved hand, something like a traffic cop ordering everyone to stop. So I stopped, feeling guilty but not quite sure what I was guilty of. The opposing sweepers went by, intent on their rock, and my skip took the opportunity to come out of the house and explain. When the other team is throwing, he told me, I should be standing still and quiet between the hoglines. “It’s probably in the rule book somewhere,” he said. “But it’s just curling etiquette.”*

*Curling etiquette. That might have been the first time I heard the term that describes the blend of rules and unwritten agreements that govern players’ actions on (and occasionally off) the ice, rules which emphasize the best of the game: sportsmanship, courtesy and respect for your opponent.*



*The game starts and ends with handshakes.*

*Oh sure, we all want to win. But we’re also drawn to our curling clubs week after week for more than just those two hours spent on the ice. We come for the people, the socializing, the exercise – the culture of our game. And that culture includes curling etiquette.*

*A curling game starts and ends with handshakes. That may sound like a simple thing, but think of those heart-breaking losses or, on the other side, heart-lifting victories on the national and world stage. The most gracious winners – and losers – are the first to put out their hands to their opponents. Only after that ritual sign of respect can the celebration really begin.*

*That same ritual governs the action at curling clubs across the country. We shake hands before and after the game, no matter whether it’s a friendly jitney, a playoff-deciding league match, or a weekend bonspiel. For all curlers, it’s “Good curling!” or “Bon curling!” and a firm handshake to start and end the action.*

**Continued next page**

## *Curling and good manners – like peas and carrots*

The rule book might dictate where you can stand when the other team is throwing and who's allowed in the house when the score is being decided, but it's etiquette that shapes the game.

Standing still when the other team is throwing and allowing the vices to tally up the score without interference from a gung-ho front end shows the players' respect for each other and their roles.

The Canadian Curling Association's Curlers' Code of Ethics says, in part, "I will play the game with a spirit of good sportsmanship." We don't need referees to keep us in line; it's part of the game to referee ourselves on the ice. We do a darn good job of it, too.

And although it might be tempting to let the adrenalin flow in a tight game – yes, even if it's just the Friday Night Social Mixed League – the expectation is that we will refrain from throwing our arms in the air and cheering

wildly when the opposing skip misses that crucial last rock draw to the four foot. It's not just common courtesy – it's simply curling etiquette.

"Sportsmanlike behaviour should be demonstrated both on and off the ice," the CCA's rules for Fair Play continue. "This includes modesty in victory and composure in defeat." Okay, so if you win the Brier, Scotties, Worlds or Olympic gold medal, and your "modesty" slips a little, we might cut you some slack on this one!

I believe that when my skip told me to stand still and be quiet all those years ago, he was doing me a favour. He was teaching me not just the rules, but also the traditions of the game: sportsmanship, courtesy and respect for one's opponent.

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## **Only one more newsletter this year**

The last newsletter of the season will be May 2018, then the Hack will be on hiatus until September. All copy for the May newsletter will be due April 25, 2018. Thanks for all your contributions!