Edition #11 MANOTICK CURLING CLUB November 2026

IN THE HOUSE

NEWSLETTER



MCC Members Nancy Fowler and Roslyn Ross

BACK ON THE ICE, BACK WITH FRIENDS!

Another curling season is underway, bringing familiar faces, great friendships and plenty of reasons to smile!

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Hello Curling Friends! 🥌

November is here, and the curling season is well underway! It's wonderful to see the club buzzing with activity, familiar faces reconnecting and plenty of laughter both on and off the ice.

I'm especially excited to introduce a new feature of *In the House* called **The People Behind the Rocks**, where we'll shine a spotlight on the wonderful people who help make MCC such a special place. We're kicking things off with Lindsay Allen, whose 43 years of dedication to our ice and our club deserve some serious recognition!

We're also celebrating Team Paddle's provincial championship experience and a remarkable eight-ender! And Rocky has apparently decided he's a curling historian, so be sure to test your knowledge in his new Fact or Fiction? challenge.

As always, I'd love to hear from you! Have a funny curling story, a favourite memory or a photo worth sharing? Send it my way. Your stories are what make this newsletter special.

Happy curling, everyone!
Lana 😊

Message from your Chair

NOVEMBER 2026



Tony Frost, Chair
Manotick Curling Club

Dear members,

As we enjoy another great curling season, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the many volunteers who make our club such a wonderful place to be - on and off the ice!

Every club relies on people who are willing to give their time and talents to make things happen. Whether it's preparing the ice (read the great article here on club stalwart Lindsay Allen), organizing leagues and bonspiels, managing and/or serving behind the bar, helping in the kitchen, maintaining our facilities, serving on the Board or lending a hand whenever needed, every contribution makes a difference!

While much of this work happens behind the scenes, please know that it is impactful and sincerely appreciated. Without it (and you), our club simply wouldn't be the same.

Volunteering is about more than getting a job done. It's about taking pride in our club, building friendships, creating a welcoming environment and ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the sport we all love. I would encourage every member to consider getting involved, even in a small way. You don't need to make a major commitment to make a meaningful contribution. Sometimes a helping hand, a few hours of your time or simply offering to assist makes all the difference.

On behalf of the club, thank you to all our volunteers. Your generosity and dedication are truly appreciated. You are an important part of what makes our club such a special place.

Cheers,

Tony



Manotick Members on CBC Radio

Hear Jamie and Graham Sinclair discuss the use of corn brooms.

LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW

CLUB NEWSLETTER · EVENT RECAP

OPENING SPIEL 2026

Rock League · Oct 23–24 · Manotick Curling Club · Maple United vs Shield

★ CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAMPIONS ★



A EVENT CHAMPIONS

Team Légère

Shield Curling Club

Pictured: **Edwina Légère · Mary Byford · Michele Taylor · Nicholas Fisette (Spare)**

Not pictured: **Astra Groskaufmanis (Spare)**



B EVENT CHAMPIONS

Team Robert

Shield Curling Club

Left to right: **Duncan McRobert · Laura Johnson · Hannah Robert · Dave Hannah**

Not pictured: **Valerie Newton (Spare)**



C EVENT CHAMPIONS

Team Ross

Maple United

Left to right: **Ross Ulan · Nicole Bordeleau · Darcy Ross · Rod Taylor**

The Opening Spiel (October 23–24) brought twelve teams, two clubs and one burning question: Maple United or Shield? Fuelled by Friday wings and Saturday cinnamon buns, curlers swept, slid and occasionally sat down unexpectedly on the ice. Between draws, everyone traded brooms for putters for some on-ice mini golf, with curling rocks as the hazards, proving that a golf ball curls about as well as our granite does. Shield claimed bragging rights as Super Team Champs, winning the club battle 18–6. Maple United has asked for a recount, a rematch and possibly more cinnamon buns. Congratulations to our Final champions: Team Légère (A Event), Team Robert (B Event) and Team Ross (C Event). Special thanks to Sarah McRobert, Glen Ashworth, our bartenders, and our ice makers, whose hard work made the weekend such a success. See you next spiel!

Shield vs Maple

18 - 6

🏆 **Shield: Super Team Champs**

SPECIAL THANKS

- **Sarah McRobert**
- **Glen Ashworth**
- Our **bartenders**
- Our **ice makers**









Full results and standings: manotick-spiel.netlify.app/info

The People Behind the Rocks:

Meet Lindsay Allen – Keeping MCC on Ice Since 1983!





Some people make their mark on a curling club with a spectacular shot.
Others make it possible for everyone else to throw one.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In the fall of 1983, Manotick Curling Club found itself in a difficult position. Its ice maker, Bruce Lindsay, had given notice that he would be leaving, and the club wasn't in a financial position to offer more money to hire a replacement.

Lindsay, already serving on MCC's executive as Bar Director, stepped in to take on the ice-making responsibilities as well.

What began as a way to help the club through a difficult season became something extraordinary.

Forty-three years later, he's still making ice!

THE ART OF MAKING ICE

There's more to preparing curling ice than most of us realize.

Lindsay explains that the goal is always to keep the ice clean, keen and with a reasonable amount of curl. Achieving that balance requires a regular maintenance routine and a dedicated crew working behind the scenes.

And Lindsay has one small request for members: Please keep warm body parts off the ice!

Resting a knee on the ice while watching a rock travel down the sheet can leave a mark that needs to be repaired.

IT TAKES A TEAM

But ask Lindsay about those remarkable years, and he's quick to recognize the people who've helped him along the way.

His current crew includes Peter Royle, who has been helping since 2014 and is now 83 years young; John Zahab, who joined in 2023; Tarik Abu Karea, who has been involved since 2014; and Daniel Nuthers, who joined in 2019.

These dedicated individuals begin their work early each morning, ensuring the ice is ready for members arriving for the first draw.

Lindsay credits his team with making his job easier and takes great pride in the care they bring to MCC.

The People Behind the Rocks:
THE PEOPLE AND THE MEMORIES

A LEGACY OF HELPING HANDS

Lindsay's appreciation extends to the many people who have worked alongside him over the decades.

He remembers Jo-Anne Stork, who began helping in 1983 and continued for more than 30 years; Jamie Stork and Rob Milne, who worked through high school and university; and Kent Yuyitung and Joy Ficko, who contributed from 2007 to 2014.

He also expresses his gratitude to current and past executives for their kindness and understanding, and to the countless volunteers who give so generously of their time.

He's continually amazed by the dedication people bring to making what he affectionately calls "our little club" so special.

A FEW STORIES FROM THE ICE...

Of course, more than four decades at MCC have produced some memorable moments!

Lindsay recalls that, in the late hours following a bonspiel, members would sometimes ride curling rocks while being pushed down the ice, competing to see who could finish closest to the button.

Great fun for the participants, perhaps — but Lindsay was the one repairing all those toe marks the following morning!



Keep your warm bits off the ice! Lindsay has enough to do without fixing your personal melting spot!



Peter Royle

THE BEST PART OF 43 YEARS

When asked whether he'd do anything differently if he could start again, Lindsay's answer was simple:

"I would repeat and enjoy."

For him, there's no better feeling than walking into MCC and hearing members laughing and enjoying themselves.

He does miss the days when he was curling regularly and could stay for a couple of drinks after a game. Back then, he knew every member and most of their families.

Those connections have stayed with him. Sue and Lindsay still enjoy their 4 p.m. cocktail hour — and fellow MCC members are always welcome to join them!

MORE THAN JUST ICE

Lindsay's story is about much more than maintaining curling ice. It's about friendship, generosity, shared memories and the people who make MCC a community.

Perhaps the most revealing thing about Lindsay is that, when invited to share his own story, he spent so much of it thanking everyone around him.

Thank you, Lindsay, for 43 remarkable years — and thank you to everyone who has helped keep MCC on ice!

Jamie's Pro Tips

CURLING QUESTIONS, ANSWERED BY A NATIONAL CHAMPION



TIP #1

The No-Tick Rule – What's Actually Allowed?

The no-tick rule can be a little confusing, especially when there's a lot of rocks in play!

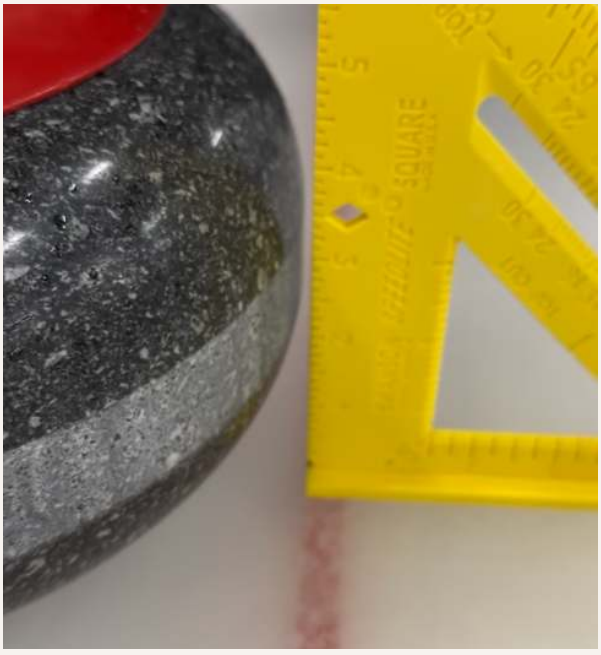
During the five-rock free guard zone period, an opponent's guard touching the centre line cannot be moved off that line or into the rings.

But here's something interesting: you CAN tap that guard, as long as it stays touching the centre line and remains in the free guard zone.

What if your rock hits another rock, which then knocks the centre-line guard off the line? That's still a violation! It doesn't matter whether the movement was direct or indirect.

If a violation occurs, the non-offending team can choose to restore the rocks to their original positions or leave them where they ended up if that benefits them more. Since the non-offending team has a choice… you can't stop your rock mid shot if you know it's going to knock a guard off the line. You have to let every shot play out.

And remember, the no-tick restriction only applies to your opponent's stones. You're free to move your own centre-line guards!



TIP #2

Is That Guard Actually on the Centre Line?

Here's a little trick that could save you from an awkward scenario.

Before attempting a come around draw, confirm with the opposing skip whether their guard is actually touching the centre line. If you're both unsure, grab a speed square!

Place the bottom edge of the square along the edge of the centre line. If the vertical edge touches the rock, that rock is considered to be touching the centre line.

A quick check before throwing can prevent a disagreement afterward.

Hope that helps!

ROCKY'S FACT OR FICTION?

TWO TRUTHS. ONE TALL TALE. ONE RACCOON WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED.



Rocky has been rummaging through curling's past and uncovered three rather surprising claims. But one isn't quite what it seems!

Can you spot the imposter?

A.
Early Canadian curlers sometimes used iron curling stones shaped like tea kettles, rather than granite.

B.
When curlers first began deliberately putting a turn on their stones, some players considered the technique unfair and wanted it banned.

C.
Curling made its Olympic debut in 1932, but it took until 2006 for those original medals to be officially recognized.

Which one is FICTION? *No Googling, no consulting your skip, and absolutely no bribing Rocky.*
Find the answer on the next page!

A Winning Strategy!



A big thank you to **Jamie Sinclair** and **Craig Savill** for hosting a special strategy clinic for our **Button Club** fundraising supporters! It was a wonderful opportunity to sharpen our curling knowledge, pick up some valuable tips and enjoy time on the ice.

We're grateful to our instructors for sharing their expertise and to our Button Club members for their generous support of MCC's renovation fundraiser!







A PROUD SUPPORTER OF MANOTICK CURLING CLUB

A big thank-you to **ClubEG Golf** for its continued support of MCC this winter!

Based in Ottawa, **ClubEG** offers access to over 60 golf courses and connects golfers with exclusive member rates, exciting tournaments, memorable golf trips and opportunities to enjoy the game throughout the year.

With curling and golf making such a perfect seasonal match, why not explore ClubEG membership for the 2027 golf season?

Visit: **clubeg.golf**
Email: info@clubeg.golf
Call: 613-274-7393



THE REVEAL: C IS FICTION!

Curling actually debuted at the 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix. Its original medal status was clarified by the IOC in 2006.

A is true! Iron curling stones shaped like tea kettles were used in early Canadian curling, including the Ottawa Valley.

B is true! According to Curling Canada, in Scotland during the late 1700s, curlers from Fenwick discovered that twisting the handle during delivery could make a stone curl around an opponent's guard.

This caused quite an uproar! Some curlers considered the technique unfair and actually wanted it outlawed. Eventually, the practice became accepted, paving the way for the in-turn and out-turn we know today.

Why C is Fiction: Curling debuted at the 1924 Winter Olympics, not 1932. The original results received official recognition in 2006.





A Little Pin, A Big Thank You!

MCC Builders Pins
Now available at the Bar!

MISSING MCC EMAILS OR NEWSLETTERS?



Check your Junk or Spam folder. If you spot an MCC email hiding there, mark it as "**Not Junk**" so you don't miss the latest club news!

Hurry Hard! Turkey Spiel!

VOLUNTEER COOKS WANTED!



9 turkeys. One big feast. We need your help!

The Turkey Spiel is almost here, and so is the best part: the turkey dinner! We're looking for volunteers to help get everything cooked and on the table.

9 TURKEYS | POTATOES | CARROTS | STUFFING

Volunteer to cook on Saturday, Nov 28:
Email **events@manotickcurling.com** or add your name to the cooking sign-up sheet at the club.

TEAMS & SCHEDULES COMING SOON!
They'll be sent out soon and posted at the club.



♫ LIVE MUSIC: THE ROCKPHILES
Saturday, Nov 28 at 8:30 pm

CALL OUT • NEW YEAR'S EVE

Are you great at event planning?

WANTED: AN ORGANIZER FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE, DEC 31!

One big evening on **Thursday, Dec 31**: some curling, some eats and lotsa fun! Lead the party and we'll help you find volunteers.

Interested? Reach out to **Dave Hannah** at **events@manotickcurling.com**

TEAM PADDLE TAKES ON THE PROVINCIALS!



Manotick Curling Club was proudly represented by Team Paddle, consisting of Lisa Paddle, Karen Anderson, Jenny Biemans and Monique Chapman, at the **2026 Runback Men's and Women's Curling Club Championship** in Welland, Ontario.

The team finished with a 2–3 record, but those numbers hardly tell the whole story! Their three losses were closely contested games that could easily have gone either way, making for some exciting curling throughout the championship.

One particularly impressive achievement was recording the lowest **Last Stone Draw (LSD) score in their pool,** a reflection of the team's precision and consistency on the ice.



Beyond the competition, the championship provided a wonderful opportunity to represent MCC, compete against talented teams from across Ontario and enjoy the friendships and camaraderie that make curling such a special sport.

And the excitement didn't stop there! On November 3, Team Paddle achieved something truly special: a rare eight-ender! Despite having more than 120 years of combined curling experience, it was a first for three of the four players. Now that's a moment worth celebrating!

Team Paddle extends a heartfelt thank-you to their sponsor, **Sterling Mutuals**, and to **Manotick Curling Club** for its encouragement and support. Special thanks also go to **Karen Johnston**, who spared for the team during their journey to the provincials.

Congratulations to **Lisa, Karen, Jenny and Monique** on representing MCC so proudly on the provincial stage and adding an unforgettable eight-ender to their curling memories!



EVERY ROCK HAS A STORY

And we'd love to hear yours!



Some of the best stories at MCC happen long after the last rock has been thrown.

The unforgettable shots. The bonspiels that didn't quite go according to plan. The friendships that began on the ice. The hilarious moments that still get brought up years later.

We know you've got stories. Now we want to hear them!

We're inviting members to share their favourite curling memories, funny mishaps, memorable moments and photographs — old or new — for a chance to be featured in In the House.

Not sure what to share? Here are a few ideas:

Your funniest moment on the ice (bonus points if you can laugh about it now!)



- A favourite bonspiel memory or photograph
- How you met a lifelong friend through curling
- A memorable shot — spectacular or spectacularly bad!
- A little piece of MCC history that newer members might not know

No writing skills required! A few sentences, a photo with a caption, or even a quick email telling us what happened is plenty. We'll help with the rest.

YOUR CLUB.
YOUR MEMORIES.
YOUR STORIES.

Send your contributions to communications@manotickcurling.com

Please include the names of anyone pictured and roughly when the photo was taken. Make sure those featured are comfortable with their photo being published.



Pro-Shop

Hours of Operation

Tuesday	12:00 - 1:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 - 10:00 am
Thursday	7:00 - 9:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 - 9:00 am 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Around the Rings

Bonspiels hosted by our neighbouring curling clubs







